

Experiential Learning and Extension

As defined at OSU: Experiential learning augments traditional classroom settings and activities by creating the opportunity to activate higher thinking processes, integrate and apply knowledge, deepen reflection, and further engagement with faculty and communities both regionally and abroad.

There are many scholarly documented benefits from experiential learning

- Increased retention, lower time to graduation (*especially impactful for underserved students*)
- Contributes to Cognitive, moral & psychosocial growth
- Growth in interpersonal skills, confidence, self-efficacy, moral reasoning & social responsibility
- Increased communication and collaborative skills
- Increase in understanding of diversity

Data from OSU Office of Institutional Research underscores the importance of experiential learning as it relates to **six-year graduation rates**

Period	Overall 6-Yr Grad Rate	Only 1 Type of Experiential Learning			Multiple Experiential Learning		
		Count	Grad	6-Yr Grad Rate	Count	Grad	6-Yr Grad Rate
2004	60%	725	509	70%	47	39	83%
2005	61.5%	1328	1067	80%	151	128	85%
2006	60%	1909	1606	84%	251	234	93%
2007	61%	2339	1942	83%	329	298	91%

Experiential Learning = Undergraduate research, service learning, internships, study abroad

*Data reflects only experiential learning recorded on student transcripts as **a credit-bearing activity**; more students participate in experiential learning annually without credit than are reflected in these data.*

Five recognized categories of Experiential Learning:

1. Global experiences – study abroad, short-term national & international faculty led internships
2. Research – on-campus labs, BES, student designed research projects
3. Leadership – clubs, leadership academy, minor & organizational leadership
4. **Community engagement – volunteering, service learning**
5. **Internships – job shadowing, co-ops, internships**

Extension has capacity to host students in various programs around the state. Think about 2018. What programs do you plan to work in where students can participate to help engage with your communities? The benefits far outweigh the risks of not participating.

Note: Three, 2017 summer PROMISE interns who were new to extension were amazed at the diversity and depth of Extension work. One of their recommendations was to *broaden scope of internship possibilities with Extension, for students to make connections for postgraduate study and employment within Oregon – and to do this in partnerships with different on-campus colleges*