

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Approved Course Listing for
the College of Social Science

As of August 2026



College of Social Science
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

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Experiential Learning Options

The requirement may be met by completing a 3 or 4-credit experiential learning course, approved by the College of Social Science Committee on Curriculum and Academic Policy or its designee. A list of approved courses will be maintained by the College of Social Science. The College of Social Science considers the application of the knowledge, theories, and skills learned in the classroom to real-world situations to be a cornerstone of undergraduate education. The experiential learning requirement of the College is designed to ensure that each undergraduate major has the opportunity to enhance problem-solving and integrative reasoning skills through practice outside of the traditional classroom learning environment. Study abroad, study away, internships, service learning, honors theses, and undergraduate research will count toward the requirement.

Questions about the requirement please contact:

- College of Social Science Office of Experiential Learning – 221 Berkey Hall, 517-432-4541
- College of Social Science Academic Advisors

Internship

(Minimum 3-credit course)

Internships meet the experiential learning requirement provided students complete an approved internship course as part of the experience.

For more information: <https://socialscience.msu.edu/academics/undergraduate/experiential-learning>

Service Learning & Civic Engagement

(Minimum 3-credit course)

Service learning is the process by which students engage in community-based projects while simultaneously being challenged in the classroom to prepare them to be agents of social change during their academic study and afterwards.

For more information: <https://socialscience.msu.edu/academics/undergraduate/experiential-learning/service-community>

Study Away

(Minimum 3-credit course)

Study Away Programs include courses and internships at locations within the United States. A Study Away (offered by the College of Social Science, another MSU College, or another university, if approved for transfer credit by MSU) meets the experiential learning requirement, subject to the following conditions: **students must complete the program and pass at least one of the program's 3-credit courses.**

For more information: <https://socialscience.msu.edu/academics/undergraduate/experiential-learning>

Study Abroad

(Minimum 3-credit course)

Study Abroad Programs (offered by the College of Social Science, another MSU College, or another university, if approved for transfer credit by MSU) meet the experiential learning requirement, subject to the following conditions: **students must complete the program and pass at least one of the program's 3-credit courses.**

For more information: <https://socialscience.msu.edu/academics/undergraduate/experiential-learning>

Honors Thesis

(Minimum 3-credit course)

Approved honors thesis courses that meet a student's major requirements (including for final grade) for thesis for the Honors College fulfills the experiential learning requirement.

For more information: <https://socialscience.msu.edu/academics/undergraduate/experiential-learning/research>

Department Courses

(Minimum 3-credit course)

These are courses offered by schools/departments that are approved to fulfill the experiential learning requirement. Ordinarily, these are upper-level courses for which previous course work has prepared students to carry out high-level, independent research.

For courses to be approved, all of the following must apply:

- at least 50% of students' effort is directed toward and final grade is based on self-directed research outside the traditional classroom or in a lab.
- students' effort must result in a significant final project.
- the experiential work must enable students to engage in independent application of the knowledge, theories, and skills learned in the classroom to real-world situations.

For-Credit Research Experiences with a Faculty Member

(Minimum 3-credit course)

Undergraduate research experiences with MSU faculty members that take place as part of a course or independent study meet the experiential learning requirement. These courses

- help the students develop advanced research skills.
- involve a faculty member as a mentor.
- have a set of defined learning goals.
- give students the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of the learning goals in a final product. Normally, that product takes the form of a presentation at UURAF or in a professional setting and/or is a substantial final paper produced by or co-authored with the student.

Normally, these courses require at least 135 hours of work over a semester (an average of 9 hours of work per week).

Courses Approved to Meet the Experiential Learning Requirement

Advertising – ADV

ADV 493	Advertising Internship	Supervised experience in a professional environment.
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Arts and Letters – AL

AL 493A	Arts and Letters Internship	Supervised preprofessional field experience in the arts and humanities.
AL 493B	Arts and Letters International Internship	Supervised preprofessional international field experience in the arts and humanities.

Anthropology – ANP

ANP 412	Method and Practice in Digital Heritage	The application of digital methods and computational approaches to heritage questions, data, materials, collections.
ANP 429	Ethnographic Field Methods	Field research in cultural anthropology. Research design, participant observation, relationship of techniques to methods, and ethics.
ANP 441	Osteology and Forensic Anthropology	Human bone and skeletal biology and analysis. Methods of forensic anthropology. Analysis of skeletal remains, forensic pathology, and forensic archaeology.
ANP 463	Laboratory Methods in Archaeology	Preparation and preservation of archaeological data. Conservation, cleaning, cataloguing, and classification. Analysis of lithics, ceramics, faunal and floral remains, metals, and glass.
ANP 464	Field Methods in Archaeology	Field research. Survey, excavation, mapping, data recording, and field laboratory procedures.

ANP 465	Field Methods in Digital Heritage	Applied experience in the tools and techniques required to creatively apply digital technology to heritage materials and questions.
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ANP 476	Internship in Anthropology	Internship in anthropology.
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Agriculture and Natural Resources – ANR

ANR 491	Natural Resources, Conservation, and Environmental Sustainability in Michigan	Approval for Glassen Scholars section only. Not open to freshmen or sophomores.
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Animal Science – ANS

ANS 493	Professional Internship in Animal Science	Supervised professional experience in the animal industry.
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Chicano/Latino Studies – CLS

CLS 493	Internship in Chicano/Latino Studies	Application of course work in Chicano/Latino studies through work experience in public, private, or nonprofit agency or organization in the U.S. whose goals and activities address Chicano/Latino issues.
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Computational Mathematics, Science and Engineering – CMSE

CMSE 495	Data Science Capstone	The data science capstone course is intended to provide students with an opportunity to put together what they have learned across multiple courses to develop a final project that demonstrates their ability to work in a team on real-world problems.
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Computer Science & Engineering – CSE

CSE 482	Big Data Analysis	Principles and techniques for large-scale data analysis and applications.
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Community Sustainability – CSUS

CSUS 418	Community Sustainability Study Abroad	Study and travel experience emphasizing contemporary problems in sustainability in world, national, and local communities.
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Criminal Justice – CJ

CJ 493	Undergraduate Research in Criminal Justice	Faculty-guided undergraduate research in criminal justice.
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CJ 494	Criminal Justice Practicum	Observation, participation, and study in selected criminal justice agencies.
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Economics – EC

EC 332	Monetary Policy Analysis for Fed Challenge	U.S. economy through the lens of the U.S. Central Bank. Federal Reserve and monetary policy. Practice presentations in preparation for the Chicago Fed Challenge.
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EC 422	Advanced Data Analysis in Economics	Capstone course for economics majors. Reading and discussion concerning selected economics topics. Preparation and presentation of student research project.
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EC 499	Senior Seminar for Economics Majors (W)	Capstone course for economics majors. Reading and discussion concerning selected economics topics. Preparation and presentation of student research project.
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Geography – GEO

GEO 286	Undergraduate Research in Geography	Supervised research on a topic or topics determined by the instructor. Applications of geographic tools and theory.
GEO 480	Senior Seminar	History, philosophy, and methodology of the geographic discipline as it has evolved within academic and social contexts.
GEO 495	Field Study	Supervised field study in geography.
GEO 498	Internship in Geography	Individual experience in geography in an approved organization.

History – HST

HST 475	History of the Book	History of the book from medieval manuscripts to modern forms. Publishing, illustration, censorship and print culture.
HST 480	Seminar in American History (W)	Exploration of particular topics in cultural, intellectual, or political history, seventeenth century to the present.
HST 481	Seminar in Ancient History (W)	A specific problem or theme in the history of Greece and Rome.
HST 482	Seminar in Medieval History (W)	A specific problem or theme in medieval social, cultural, intellectual, legal, and political history, 500-1300.
HST 483	Seminar in Modern European History (W)	A specific problem or theme in European social, political, cultural, or economic history since 1300.
HST 484	Seminar in African History (W)	Issues in African social, political, cultural, and environmental history.

HST 485	Seminar in Asian History (W)	Intensive study of a specific problem or theme in the social, political, economic, or cultural history of Asia.
HST 486	Seminar in Latin American History (W)	A specific problem or theme in the social, cultural, economic, and political history of Latin America.
HST 487	Seminar in Comparative History (W)	Analysis of themes or problems from different cultures and countries.
HST 488	Seminar in International Relations (W)	A specific problem or theme in the history of international relations.
HST 489	Seminar in Digital History (W)	A specific problem or theme in history approached through digital research to create digital work product.
HST 493	History Internship	Domestic and international history and history education placements with educational institutions, museums, libraries, archives, historic sites, digital history programs, public agencies, legal firms and departments, non-profit agencies, and private businesses.
HST 499H	Senior Honors Thesis	Individual research projects, supervised by a faculty member.

Human Development and Family Studies – HDFS

HDFS 406	Practicum III: Capstone Experience (W)	Guided learning experiences in a professional agency, use of theories and practices related to lesson planning and implementation, assessment, classroom environments.
HDFS 424	Student Teaching in an Early Childhood Program	Supervised teaching practicum. Planning, implementing, and evaluating an ecological educational program for children and their families.

HDFS 493	Internship	Professional experience in a community organization.
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Human Resources and Labor Relations – HRLR

HRLR 493	Internship in Human Resources and Labor Relations	Faculty-guided internship in field related to human resources and labor relations.
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HRLR 494	Undergraduate Research in Human Resources and Labor Relations	Faculty-guided undergraduate research in disciplines encompassed in human resources and labor relations
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Integrative Biology – IBIO

IBIO 390	Practicum in Zoo/Aquarium Careers	Practical application of science, business and education methods through typical workdays with zoo professionals.
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Integrative Studies Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences – ISS

ISS 335A*	National Diversity and Change: United States (N)	Racial, ethnic, class, gender, and other forms of diversity in the United States. Systems of dominant-minority relations and forms of prejudice and discrimination. Scope of and responses to group inequalities. *Required service-learning component.
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Interdisciplinary Studies in Social Science – IDS

IDS 495	Interdisciplinary Research Methods	Interdisciplinary research questions and methods. Practical and ethical issues involved with primary, qualitative research methodologies.
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IDS 499	Capstone in Interdisciplinary Studies	Integration and application of interdisciplinary methods, models and theories in social science.
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Information Technology Management – ITM

ITM 444	Information Technology Project Management	Practical training and experiences in design, testing, and launch of new information technologies and systems.
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James Madison College – MC

MC 400/401	Field Experience-Internship	Practical internship experience with a public, private, or non-profit organization engaged in making, influencing, implementing, or analyzing policy relevant to college program.
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Journalism-JRN

JRN 493	Journalism Internship	Supervised field experience at a professional media organization. Media related issues.
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Kinesiology – KIN

KIN 492	Internship: Non-Physiologically Based	Professional internship in kinesiology under faculty supervision. Students are involved in community and corporate internships not including physiological testing of patients/clients.
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KIN 493	Internship: Physiologically Based	Professional internship in kinesiology under faculty supervision. Students are involved in clinical, rehabilitation, and corporate programs.
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Language, Learning and Teaching – LLT

LLT 496	Practicum in Adult English as a Second Language Teaching	Practical experience in adult ESL teaching. Classroom observations, tutoring, teaching demonstrations, lesson planning, and materials development.
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Management – MGT

MGT 493A

Sports Business: Internship

Supervised, professional work or internship experience in the field of sports business with intercollegiate athletics or professional sports associations, firms, leagues, organizations, teams or sports business and entertainment companies.

MGT 493B

Sports Business: Fieldwork Seminar

Leadership in day-to-day operations, decision making, strategic planning alongside industry leader in sports business. Hands-on projects in intercollegiate athletics, professional sports or applicable associations, firms or leagues. Rotational exposure to unit(s) and/or executive(s) within organization.

Museum Studies – MUSM

MUSM 496

Museum Studies Internship

A capstone course consisting of supervised professional experience in learning environments such as museums, zoos, botanical gardens, and historic homes.

Political Science – PLS

PLS 481H

Undergraduate Research Seminar

Advanced research seminar for students in the political science program.

PLS 490H

Honors Internship

Supervised participation in research or teaching.

PLS 491H

Senior Honors Thesis

Original research and writing under direction of a faculty member.

PLS 494

Field Experience in Political Science

Supervised field work in several areas of study. It may involve internships with non-profit organizations or public agencies, or participation in survey research, political campaigns, or petition drives.

Psychology – PSY

PSY 372	Psychological Innovations and Research II	Second course of a two-course sequence. Theoretical and technical background and direct involvement in a major psychological innovation or research project.
PSY 382	Internship in Psychology	Internship employing knowledge and skills acquired in psychology courses.
PSY 399	Psychology Service and Engagement	Preparation and participation in service that supports domestic or international community needs. Reflection and application of psychological theory and research.
PSY 490	Special Problems in Psychology	Students work under direction of a faculty member on an experimental, theoretical, or applied problem.
PSY 491	Participation in Psychological Project	Students participate in a psychological project under direction of a faculty member.
PSY 497H	Senior Honors Project	Capstone experience in psychology for honors student's project thesis.
PSY 499H	Senior Honors Thesis	Continuation of independent research with faculty supervision. Completion of senior honor thesis.

Sociology – SOC

SOC 480	Advanced Research Methods in Sociology	Advanced training in methodologies commonly used in specific sub-fields of sociology.
SOC 497	Individual Research	Supervised individual research in sociology.
SOC 498	Sociology Internship	Practical experience with a public, private, or nonprofit organization.

Social Science – SSC

SSC 199	Community Engagement: Act Locally, Think Globally	Methods and concepts from social and behavioral sciences applied to improve active community engagement. Field experiences.
SSC 399	Service Learning and Civic Engagement: Theory and Practice	Civic engagement practices and theories. Impact of non-profit organizations, practices of engaged citizenship. Volunteer placements at civic organizations.
SSC 493	Social Science Internship	Methods and concepts from social and behavioral sciences applied in career-related settings.
SSC 493A	Social Science International Internship	Supervised international field experience in social science.
SSC 494	Undergraduate Research in Social Science	Faculty-guided undergraduate research in the social sciences.

Social Work – SW

SW 494A	Social Work Field Education: Undergraduate Generalist Practice I	Professionally supervised generalist social work practice in approved community agencies and campus-based seminar. Integration and application of concepts in social work practice.
SW 494B	Social Work Field Education: Undergraduate Generalist Practice II	Continuation of professionally supervised generalist social work practice in approved community agencies and campus-based seminar. Integration and application of concepts in social work practice. Focus on writing skills for professional practice and career options.

Teacher Education – TE

TE 330*	Science Curriculum for Young Learners (PK-3)	Science curriculum standards for grades PK-3. Instructional materials and approaches for supporting science learning. *Approved for current or former Elementary Education students only
TE 494	Field Experience in Teacher Education	Supervised practical and/or observations in educational settings.

Urban and Regional Planning – URP

UP 494	Planning Practicum	Collection, analysis and synthesis of planning information for an established urban or regional area. Problem identification and alternative plan formulation.
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Undergraduate Studies – UGS

UGS 102	Freshman Seminar Abroad	Introduction to scholarship and inquiry in global and international contexts. Special interdisciplinary-based topics focused to develop intercultural abilities and deepen understanding of global problems. Field trips required.
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