



Universidad de las Américas Puebla, MEXICO Quality Enhancement Plan

EXPERIENTI@L UDLAP

Focus: To strengthen the ability of undergraduate students to link theory with practice-demonstrated through identifying and solving real life problems- and provide them with awareness of their abilities, making them reflect on the impact their proposed solution can have on the environment and on themselves.

The project directly links to the mission statement of our institution: “*To participate in societal development by educating professionals who are critical, creative, innovative, trained at the highest technical level, and who accomplish pertinent research with a social conscience that demands an equal distribution of the benefits of globalization*” in the sense that it seeks to identify and improve those disciplinary activities that impact the student’s ability and attitude of putting their knowledge into action and being able to propose pertinent solutions, while being conscious of their impact on the global social environment.

Goal: UDLAP undergraduate students are able to link theory with practice by first understanding and then solving a real problem inherent to their discipline, proposing a solution and being aware of the impact and changes this solution may bring about.

Process: Students will be evaluated through a rubric twice: around their 5th and 8th semester (at their most mature point). In both cases they will be confronted with a situation or problem and asked to submit a proposal to solve it, correctly applying the knowledge acquired throughout their disciplinary courses and other experiential activities.

Two Student Learning Outcomes to be measured: 1) Solution Development: Students demonstrate their ability to connect theory (disciplinary knowledge) with practice, by proposing one or more feasible solutions to authentic/real situations. 2) Self-Appraisal: Students will demonstrate awareness of their abilities through a clear and effective description of the impact their proposal can have on the environment and on themselves.

Following a detailed analysis of the results, each academic department will define the actions to be taken in the re-design and/or delivery methods of certain courses of the curriculum to improve the Experienci@l goals. These actions may include revising study cases, assignments, or other activities that have an impact on the student’s ability to put theory to practice in order to identify and solve problems typical of their discipline.

In addition, “Experienci@l UDLAP” will be reviewed and assessed in the second and fourth year to determine if the plan itself is meeting the intended goals. If changes to the plan are needed to better achieve the outcomes, the assessment data and findings will drive those changes.

Contact Information: Dr. Ingrid Kirschning, Dean for Global Education, ingrid.kirschning@udlap.mx