

University of Pikeville Quality Enhancement Plan

Moving UP with Experiential Learning

Executive Summary

Moving UP with Experiential Learning is a program designed to enhance and increase enriching educational experiences at the University of Pikeville in an intentional, organized, funded, tracked, and assessed manner. Experiential learning activities align with and enhance the University of Pikeville's mission and commitment to education. The undergraduate curriculum rests on a broad liberal arts foundation that emphasizes communicative and quantitative skills; independent thinking; tolerance of diverse points of view; cultural, historical, and ethical awareness; and preparation for leadership, civic responsibility, and lifelong learning. Encouraging more experiential learning opportunities out of the classroom supports the institutional goals of (a) emphasizing the value of intellectual development through the promotion of independent and creative thinking; and (b) developing social responsibility and leadership potential through a comprehensive co-curricular program.

The goal of the program is to improve student learning in the specific areas of cultural enrichment and problem solving skills. Cultural enrichment is defined as students' engagement with ideas, beliefs, knowledge, art, literature, and geography other than their own. Problem solving refers to the students' ability to assess a given situation and successfully meet its demands. Examples of these types of experiences include field work/field trips, attendance at professional conferences, study away and internships, study abroad, and other out-of-classroom experiences.

To encourage a larger percentage of students to participate in experiential opportunities, UPike has designed a budget that will fund faculty and professional staff involvement that centers on experiences outside of the classroom as well as provide monetary grants to promote student participation. The University will increase the budgeted funds for travel to increase the share of students who participate in the various experiential learning activities from less than half to almost two-thirds of the undergraduate, degree-seeking body.

The Experiential Learning Director and Committee, comprised of one elected member from each division at the university will (a) communicate with faculty and staff regarding experiential learning issues; (b) receive, review, and recommend application forms for funding; (c) offer professional development workshops on campus; (d) recommend action to pertinent committees and other institutional units; and (e) produce an annual report for the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. The Experiential Learning Director will be responsible for the administrative duties associated with running the program.

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