



In alignment with our school's mission and Catholic Identity, and under the direction of President David A. Armstrong, J.D., St. Thomas University (STU) has embraced experiential learning to provide students with opportunities to improve essential career skills that they can identify and communicate to others. The purpose of our Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is to improve student learning outcomes related to experiential learning at STU. This will be fulfilled by ensuring the students partake in at least one Experiential Learning Requirement Event before graduation, then administering a standard assessment for each Experiential Learning Event.

Experiential Learning Events at STU can take several forms. These include internships/practicum, study abroad, work study, experiential learning-certified coursework, research or academic competition, and other approved events that are supervised by faculty, demonstrate relevant connection to a student's field of study, and require a minimum of approximately 50 hours of practical experience.

At the completion of an approved experiential learning event, students will be able to:

1. Identify specific essential career skills they developed during the event.
2. Reflect upon how the essential career skills they developed can be applied in future academic and professional environments.
3. Communicate the essential career skills they have developed to others through clear and concise written and verbal means.

Essential career skills can include a variety of discipline-specific skills sought by employers related to (a) problem solving, (b) interpersonal skills, (c) technical skills, and (d) communication skills. Student learning outcomes will be measured using a Standard Experiential Learning Assessment, which includes a Reflective Essay and an Elevator Pitch Video. Completion of an experiential learning event and corresponding Assessment is recorded on a student's transcript, providing documentation of completion and informing data to correlate experiential learning outcomes with other measures of student success, such as retention, GPA, and post-graduate job acquisition.

This initiative includes tracking data related to the Student Learning Outcomes above and to measure three overarching institutional goals that support the student learning outcomes. The institutional goals are to:

1. Have 100% of undergraduate students take part in approved experiential learning coursework or Experiential Learning Events prior to graduation.
2. Develop students' ability to identify, apply, and communicate essential career skills gained through experiential learning.
3. Increase the number of students who complete an Experiential Learning Event before the start of their senior year.

Under the guidance of the President and Provost, a faculty-led QEP Committee, the Director of Experiential Learning, and the Office of Career Services will oversee the implementation, evaluation, and administration of this QEP over the next five years.

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