Experiential learning is a process of learning through experience and reflection\(^1\) and occurs outside the formal classroom.\(^2\) At BYU, experiential learning is characterized by four foundational principles:

1. **Inspiration**: “experiential learning can...both inspire students to deeper learning and be the type of learning that leads to inspiration.”\(^3\) Learners are invited to actively engage in the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.\(^4\)

2. **Intention**: “we can work to make the opportunities have even more impact by being more... intentional about what happens in those activities.”\(^5\) The experience has clear learning outcomes defined.

3. **Integration**: we “can make the experience considerably more meaningful by ensuring that certain kinds of activities occur.”\(^6\) High impact practices are utilized as avenues to foster and apply learning.

4. **Reflection**: we can ensure “there is adequate opportunity for reflection.”\(^7\) Learners consider what they have learned, ascertain meaning, and how their learning can be used in the future.

**Key Features**

Key features\(^8\) operationalize the foundational principles of experiential learning at BYU:

**Inspiration**
- a. The opportunity led to inspiration or revelation.

**Intention**
- b. Clear learning outcomes were set.

**Integration**
- c. Mentoring with frequent, timely, and constructive feedback.
- d. Opportunity to apply learning in a real-world setting.
- e. Opportunity for a public demonstration of competence.
- f. Investment of a significant amount of concentrated effort over time.
- g. Opportunity to interact with faculty and peers about substantive matters.
- h. Opportunity to engage with people and circumstances that differed from what is familiar.

**Reflection**
- i. Periodic, structured opportunities to reflect and integrate learning.

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\(^3\) Ibid.

\(^4\) Moroni 10:5

\(^5\) Worthen, K.J. (2016).

\(^6\) Ibid.

\(^7\) Ibid.

BYU recognizes six broad categories of high impact practices in experiential learning.

1. **Culminating Learning Experience**: students increase and/or demonstrate mastery of knowledge, skills, and dispositions.
   - Professionalizing experience
   - Capstone/Project-based learning
   - Competition (competing)
   - Conference/Symposium/Workshop
   - Creative activity (performing)
   - Festival (performing)
   - Portfolio
   - Public performance (i.e. final show)
   - Recital
   - Senior project or thesis

2. **Field Study/Field Work**: A faculty-led, academic study or work opportunity in a real-world setting.

3. **Internship**: Structured learning that takes place in a professional setting.
   - Clinical
   - Off-campus internship
   - On-campus internship
   - International internship
   - Practicum
   - Student Teaching

4. **Research**: Faculty directed study of a subject which seeks to discover new information or reach new understanding; or application of a discipline to develop new practices, processes, policies, resources, or tools.
   - Conference (presenting)
   - Mentored practice or product
   - Mentored research
   - Publishing

5. **Study Abroad**: A faculty-led, academic study experience students are exposed to different cultures, people, and environments.

6. **Campus Engagement**: A co-curricular, campus-based experience:
   - BYUSA
   - Club leadership
   - Service Learning
   - Student employment
   - Teaching assistantships