



A Guide to Experiential Learning at BYU

What is Experiential Learning (ExL)?

- A process of *learning through experience and reflection* which *occurs outside the formal classroom*.¹
- At BYU, four foundational principles inform learning outcomes which elevate unstructured experiences to inspiring, experiential learning: *Intention, Integration, Reflection, and Inspiration*.

What is Inspiring Learning?

- “The term ‘inspiring learning’ describes a kind of learning: learning that inspires [and]...leads to inspiration or revelation.² This happens both in the classroom **and** in learning opportunities outside the classroom.

When creating an inspiring, experiential learning opportunity, use the BYU Experiential Learning framework as a guide.

BYU Experiential Learning Framework	
Intention	Integration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What are the key learning outcomes for this experience? Or what is the problem to be solved? ○ Who is the primary mentor for the student (you, another colleague)? ○ How will you guide students to seek and/or recognize inspiration in this experience? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Which of the key features of high impact practices³ listed below will be utilized to foster and apply discipline learning? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quality mentoring in the experience. 2. Frequent, timely, and constructive feedback. 3. Application of learning in a real-world setting. 4. Public demonstration of competence. 5. Investment of a significant amount of effort over time. 6. Engagement with faculty, peers and/or others about substantive matters. 7. Engagement with people and circumstances that differ from what is familiar.
Reflection	Inspiration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ When or how often will students have time to reflect about their learning in this experience? ○ How will you support student reflection on the inspiring or spiritual impact of their experiences? 	<p>Inspiring learning is more than broadening one’s horizons or lifting one’s spirits...”we mean ‘inspiring’ in a thick and theologically ambitious sense” where “learning leads to revelation.”⁴</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How can you and your students exercise faith to actively engage the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in this experience?

¹ Kolb, D. A. (1984). *Experiential learning: Experience as the source of learning and development*. New Jersey: Prentice-Hall.

² Worthen, K.J. (2016). *Inspiring learning*. BYU University Conference. <https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/kevin-j-worthen/inspiring-learning>

³ Kuh, G. D. (2012). *High-impact educational practices: What they are, who has access to them, and why they matter*. *Peer Review*, 14(3), 29-30.

⁴ Collings, J. (2023). *Gifts of light*. BYU University Conference. <https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/justin-collings/gifts-of-light/?M=V>

Faculty/Staff ExL Planning Guide

Create the Experience

- Check with department if there is available experiential learning funding.
- Prayerfully consider the experience you want to create for your students.
- Design the opportunity:
 1. Identify the primary mentor for the students (you, another colleague).
 2. Employ the BYU Experiential Learning Framework.
 - Intention: establish learning outcomes
 - Integration: select key features of high impact practices
 - Reflection: provide formative opportunities to reflect on learning
 - Inspiration: support recognition of inspiration
 3. Student participants will receive a university program evaluation at the end of each semester, even for experiences which may span multiple semesters. Think about structuring what kinds of learning may occur in segments of the experience.
 - Fall
 - Winter
 - Spring/Summer

Facilitate the Experience

- Select student participants.
- Provide a description of the experience and a list of student participants to your department or college Experiential Learning manager.
- Communicate expectations to students at the beginning of the experience. Establish a cadence schedule for check-ins.
- Check in with student participants periodically during the experience.

Close the Experience

- Help students identify their learning by reflecting on changes in their knowledge, skills, or abilities. Help students see where they were, what they experienced, and where they are now.
- Help students recognize the inspiration they received which enlightened their understanding and/or inspired their personal growth.
- Remind students to complete the university Student Program Evaluation. Students will be sent three reminders at the end of the semester with a link to the evaluation.
- Review the Student Program Evaluations received.

Where to turn for support?

- Your department and/or college colleagues.
- Careers & Experiential Learning.** We provide campus-wide support for experiential learning through:
 - Reporting of experiences (Experiential Learning Management System), including the collection and disbursement of student program evaluations.
 - Execution of legal agreements, MOUs for experiences with outside individuals or organizations.
 - Clearances and registration of domestic internships for academic credit.
 - Student nominations for an annual faculty/staff Experiential Learning award (1 per college).
 - **Website: experience.byu.edu**
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