

LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Preparing for your LBC Experience

Learning Beyond the Classroom (LBC) is a General Education Requirement that provides students with the opportunity to apply the theories and concepts they learn in the classroom to authentic life situations. The LBC is integrated into your discipline and field of study through a reflection paper connecting your learning outside of the classroom to learning from relevant course. Find an experience that enriches your work in the classroom. You and your Sponsor should discuss your planned experience and decide how it connects to your Western New England education.

Common LBC Experiences

- Accounting Lecture Series
- Assistant coaching
- Camp counseling
- Community service projects
- Conferences
- Course-based projects
- First Year Seminar Assistants
- Internships
- January Workshops
- Life Skills Mentors
- Peer Advisors
- Research Assistants
- Resident Advisors
- Resident Hall Association
- ROTC
- Springfield School Volunteers
- Study Abroad
- Summer jobs
- The Big E
- The Polling Institute
- Travelling
- Tutoring and Mentoring
- WNE Police student patrol

Examples of Class Connections to Experiences

- In Communication 100, we learned about how to become an effective communicator especially by observing and practicing public speaking. Through presenting a poster at this conference, I will be learning how to explain technical research for a broader audience and communicate with students, researchers, and faculty members about my topic.
- In Criminal Justice 101, we learned about policing techniques and about rules and regulations. The Big E will offer me an opportunity to shadow police officers and learn how police translate laws and crowd control techniques into a community policing setting.
- I will be working with a small graphics design company on alternate campaign and marketing strategies. I will be applying lessons from Business 260, where we learned the essentials of guerilla marketing, a low cost/high impact tool for entrepreneurs and small business owners.
- In Psychology 326, Abnormal Psychology, we learned about different disorders such as anxiety, depression and autism and how they affect everyday life. I will be expanding my knowledge of behavioral therapy approaches to autism, Obsessive Compulsive Disorders, and other topics in abnormal psychology through workshops at the Berkshire Association for Behavioral Analysis conference.
- In my experience as student manager, I have to practice concepts from Management 101, including scheduling employees, evaluating performance standards, and taking a leadership role. The experience will give me practical insight into Man 204, Organizational Behavior, including organizational cultures and aligning employee efforts to ensure high efficiency. Finally, my Human Resource Management course equips me to addressing and solving conflict in the workplace.

COMPLETING YOUR LBC

1 Application

- The Learning Beyond the Classroom application must be completed and signed by your site supervisor, faculty/staff sponsor, and the LBC office before you begin your experience.
- Connect your proposed LBC experience to what has been introduced to you in the classroom. Describe how this experience is relevant to learning introduced in a course you have taken or are currently taking and how it will enhance your academic and personal development.
- Determine with your Sponsor the specific date when the reflection paper should be submitted, based on the scheduled completion of the experience.

2 Approval

- Applications must be signed by your site supervisor, faculty/staff sponsor, and the LBC office to be approved. You must have at least 15 experience hours remaining or adequate documentation of hours completed previously.
- Make sure you answer all of the questions, fill in an anticipated completion date, and obtain all of the required signatures. Incomplete applications are returned before being reviewed.

3 Experience

- Once your application is approved, you're ready to begin your experience.
- The core of Learning Beyond the Classroom is a 15 hour or more experience that connects theory to practice. It is an opportunity to put theory into practice in an experience of your choosing relating directly to courses you have or are currently taking.

4 Reflection

- After you complete your LBC experience, you must write a one thousand word (*minimum*) reflection paper. The LBC reflection paper is an opportunity to show your faculty/staff sponsor how your LBC experience relates to your coursework and the College's Educational Elements. Remember to:
 - Describe your learning experience and articulate several significant insights emerging from your experiences. Integrate your reflections on what you learned.
 - Clearly identify course content and connect it to your LBC experience.
- Once your paper is completed, send it electronically to your faculty/staff sponsor. If it is acceptable, the sponsor will notify the Office of Learning Beyond the Classroom and forward the paper to be saved in the archive. Otherwise, the sponsor will return you the paper for revisions.
- After the paper has been accepted by the sponsor and an electronic copy is on file in the Office of Learning Beyond the Classroom, the experience will be posted to your transcript.

For more information, please stop by the Office of Learning Beyond the Classroom on the 2nd Floor of the Campus Center, call 413-782-1687, email to lbcoffice@wne.edu, or check out our website at www1.wne.edu/lbc.