



BULLDOG *experience*

ENGAGE • REFLECT • CREATE

Spring 2023 QEP Town Hall

*“I hear and I forget; I see and I remember; I do and I understand.” –
Confucius, 450 BC*



MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY™

Office of Bulldog Experience

What is a “QEP”?

According to our accrediting body, SACSCOC, “the Quality Enhancement Plan is a document developed by the institution that

1. Includes a process identifying key issues emerging from institutional assessment;
2. Focuses on learning outcomes and/or the environment supporting student learning and accomplishing the mission of the institution;
3. Demonstrates institutional capability for the initiation, implementation, and completion of the QEP;
4. Includes broad-based involvement of institutional constituencies in the development and proposed implementation of the QEP;
5. Identifies goals and a plan to access their achievement.”



How was the topic selected?

(The process for identifying key issues...)

- Transformational Change Plan – May 2021
 - “Evolve/Enrich the Student Experience” identified as a goal that centers around experiential learning
- Student Success Task Forces & Town Halls –Spring 2021
- Experiential Learning Task Force – Initiated October 2021
- Survey of Faculty, Staff, Students, Employers & Alumni – April 2021 through April 2022
- Topic of next QEP is identified as Experiential Learning – Spring 2022
- QEP named “Bulldog Experience: Engage, Reflect, Create” – January 2023





What is *Bulldog Experience*?

An initiative that focuses on:

- Expanding the experiential learning activities offered at MSU;
- Increasing both faculty-created activities and co-curricular activities that **engage** students in experiential learning;
- Increasing the opportunities for students to engage in **reflection** in order to **create** new knowledge and apply it to their futures; and
- Providing students with an opportunity to certify their experiences as documented on a Comprehensive Learner Record, as well as earn Bulldog Recognition.



What is the goal of Bulldog Experience?

- **Engage** all MSU undergraduate students in experiential learning activities through both curricular and co-curricular opportunities.
- Upon completion of these activities, students will **reflect** on their experiences to demonstrate how their experiences transformed into new knowledge.



What is an experience?

- Any meaningful and beneficial activity or event that results from selected High-Impact Educational Practices (Kuh, 2008) completed by MSU students who are engaged in Experiential Learning

What is Experiential Learning at MSU?

“The process whereby knowledge is created through the transformation of experience – Knowledge results from the combination of grasping and transforming the experience (Kolb, 1984).”



Curricular Experiential Learning High-Impact Practices at MSU

- First-Year Seminars and Experiences
- Diversity/Global Learning (Study Abroad)
- Service and Community-Based Learning
- Internships (and Co-Ops)
- Undergraduate Research
- Capstone Courses and Projects (could include Simulations)



Co-Curricular Experiential Learning Activities at MSU



- Student Organizations, Greek Life, & Residential Life Leadership Opportunities
- Athletic Teams & Affiliated Groups (Spirit, Band)
- Service through the Maroon Volunteer Center (not course affiliated)
- Student Competitions
- Student Employment
- Other Experiences



The Engagement Continuum

Participatory Engagements

- "Learn by doing"
- Authentic engagement outside of lecture
- Opportunity to gain new skills and/or knowledge
- Any number of hours
- No formal deliverable produced
- e.g. Attending International Fair or Fine Arts Performances

Initial Engagements

- "Learn by Doing"
- Authentic engagement outside of lecture that allows for the application of previously acquired skills and knowledge
- Can be less than 30 hours
- Some interaction with peers and others different than themselves
- Given the opportunity to reflect and integrate existing knowledge
- **Initial Reflection:** Describe & Apply
- e.g. Volunteer at T. K. Martin Center, Community-Engage Learning Assignment for a Specific Course

Culminating Engagements

- "Learn by DOING"
- Authentic engagement outside of the lecture that allows for the application of previously acquired skills and knowledge
- At least 30 hours
- Interaction and collaboration with peers and others different than themselves
- Given the opportunity to reflect and integrate existing knowledge
- **Culminating Reflection:** Analyze & Synthesize
- e.g. Internship, Study Abroad



Facilitating Reflection

- Redesigned FYE Course – Reflection Module, Opportunity to “Practice” Reflecting, Submission of Initial Reflection, Introduction to Comprehensive Learner Record
- New EXL Course – Multiple Reflection Opportunities to Analyze and Synthesize Experiences across years; Comprehensive Learner Record; Final Culminating Reflection
- Submission of Reflections – a Platform available to all MSU Students will be used as a repository for all reflections related to EL Experiences





Benefits for Students

- Attainment of Career Competencies beyond the content knowledge of the major
- Better prepared for life after graduation
- Opportunity for creative application of what was learned in class
- Increased knowledge through reflection
- Graduate with a certified Comprehensive Learner Record and opportunity to earn Bulldog Recognition



Benefits for Faculty

- Demonstrate teaching effectiveness for **Annual Review** through inclusion of Select High-Impact Practices in courses
- Opportunity to gain information about how students apply what was taught
- More active, engaged and motivated students
- Opportunity to provide authentic experiences to students
- Support for Experiential Learning efforts through the Office of Bulldog Experience



Bulldog Experience Timeline



How can Faculty & Staff get involved?

- **Curricular Involvement**

- Add the *Bulldog Experience* Reflection to already existing Capstone Courses, Internships, Study Abroad Experiences, & Other Experiential Activities
- Add an Experiential Activity with the *Bulldog Experience* Reflection to your Course
- Add Participatory, Initial & Culminating Engagements to your Program
- Add a Capstone Course to your Program

- **Co-curricular Involvement**

- Add the *Bulldog Experience* Reflection to already existing Co-Curricula Activities
- Expand Opportunities for Engagement with the *Bulldog Experience* Reflection



**Please visit the Bulldog Experience Website
for More Information & Updates:
www.qep.msstate.edu**

Questions?

**We are here to support you! Please let us know if you
need assistance with modifying, expanding, or
creating new Experiential Learning engagements.**

Email: rrr102@msstate.edu

