

Center for Experiential Learning

Situated in the heart of Chicago, Loyola University Chicago provides students with a wealth of opportunity for “hands-on” learning. From community-based organizations located in nearby neighborhoods to non-profit organizations across the Chicago area, from government agencies and businesses downtown to organizations worldwide, Loyola students have ample opportunity to get actual experience in a real-world setting. The Center for Experiential Learning provides resources for students seeking such learning opportunities, and connects them to community agencies and professional organizations.

Loyola continues the Jesuit Catholic legacy of St. Ignatius Loyola, who believed that it is imperative to act upon what is learned—to use our values in service to humanity. By engaging students in the community, the Center not only actively promotes our Ignatian tradition but also extends the mission of our Core Curriculum, which strives to build the knowledge, skills, and values that students need for lifelong success and to make a difference as “persons for others.”



KEY PROGRAMS

The Center for Experiential Learning serves students, faculty, staff, and community partners of Loyola as a resource for experiential learning opportunities and partnerships in four key areas:

- Academic Internship Program
- Service-Learning Program
- Community-Based Federal Work-Study Program
- Loyola Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (LUROP)

We offer information, resources, and support for the development of academic internship opportunities, service-learning courses, and undergraduate research experiences. Such academic experiences extend the learning outside the walls of the classroom and shape the academic, civic, personal, social, ethical, and career development of students. We align our work with the University mission and vision, seeking “to expand knowledge in the service of humanity” and broaden learning through extraordinary experiences and critical reflection on those experiences.



ACADEMIC INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Internship experiences that earn academic credit not only provide students with valuable experience in a professional field connected to academic learning objectives, but also distinguish students with “real world” experience in the community. The staff of the Center for Experiential Learning helps students through the internship search process and connects them to organizations relevant to their course internship requirements. In collaboration with faculty, the Center’s staff helps identify relevant internship opportunities, foster relationships with employer partner organizations, and provide internship course support, as well as other services as needed. The Center reaches out to employing organizations to ensure that their partnership with Loyola meets their needs.

Many academic internship courses are offered throughout the University, including:

- CMUN 396** Communications Internship (public relations, advertising, journalism)
- CRMJ 390** Criminal Justice Field Internship
- HIST 398** History Internship
- INTS 370** International Studies Internship
- PLSC 370** Political Science Internship (law-based, Chicago and Washington, D.C. programs)
- PSYC 392** Applied Psychology Internship
- SOC 380** Sociology Internship
- SPAN 395** Internship in Spanish
- SPRT 350** Sport Management Internship
- UNIV 390** Internship Seminar in Organizational Change and Community Leadership

The Center for Experiential Learning’s UNIV 390 seminar allows students to engage in an internship experience (minimum of 100 hours) while discussing organizational leadership theory in the community. This course also fulfills Loyola’s “Values Across the Curriculum” requirement in the area of Promoting Civic Engagement or Leadership.

Loyola students have served in internship positions at a number of different organizations across Chicago and across the nation. Past internship sites include:

ABC Radio Chicago
Arena Football League, LLC
Argonne National Laboratory
Audubon – Chicago Region
Baxter International
Campaign for Better Health Care in Illinois

Chicago Bears
Chicago Botanic Garden
Chicago Christian Industrial League
Chicago Conservation Corps (C3)
Chicago Cubs
Chicago Environmental Network
Chicago History Museum
Chicago Sky/WNBA
Chicago Tribune
Chicago White Sox
Chicago Wilderness
Chicago Zoological Society/Brookfield Zoo
Children’s Memorial Hospital
City of Chicago Mayor’s Office
Clear Channel Chicago
Cook County Sheriff’s Office
Empower Public Relations
ESPN
Heartland Human Care Services
Illinois Attorney General’s Office
Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Illinois Office of Secretary of State
Illinois State Representatives’ Offices
Illinois State Senators’ Offices
Les Aspin Center (Washington, D.C.)
Loyola University Medical Center
Loyola University Museum of Art
Make a Wish Foundation
McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum
Motorola Foundation
St. Francis Hospital of Evanston
Target Corporation
The Field Museum
The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum
U.S. Attorney’s Office
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.)
U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Senate
WBEZ Radio
WGN Radio
WLIT Radio
WTTWTV (PBS) Channel 11
WXRT Radio

For a complete list of internship courses and internship sites, visit LUC.edu/experiential.

SERVICE-LEARNING PROGRAM

Service-learning is commonly defined as a course-based, credit-earning educational experience in which students participate in an organized service activity that meets community-defined needs. Students reflect on the service activity in order to increase their understanding of course content, to appreciate the discipline, to engage social justice issues, and to enhance their sense of civic responsibility. Structured reflection activities in the course provide meaningful opportunities for students to connect their learning in the community with their learning in the classroom.

The Center for Experiential Learning serves as a resource for faculty, students, and community partners for the service-learning experience. The staff of the Center for Experiential Learning helps students connect with community-based organizations relevant to their service-learning course requirements. As a resource to faculty, the staff helps identify relevant community-based organizations, foster relationships with those organizations, and provide service-learning course development and support, as well as other support services as needed. The Center provides outreach to community-based organizations to ensure that partnerships with Loyola meet community needs.

Many service-learning courses are offered throughout the University, including:

CIEP 206	Children's Literature
CMAN 380	Community Health
CMUN 315	Advanced Reporting
ENGL 393	Teaching Literacy to Adults
GNUR 111	Nursing as Service
HSM 110	Health Care in America
HSM 230	Health Care of Vulnerable Populations
MATH 147	Math for Teachers
MGMT 335	Microenterprise Consulting
PHIL 186	Education and Ethics
PLIS 101-102	Self, Society, and Civic Responsibility
PSYC 372	Psychology and Law
PSYC 390	Human Services
SOCL 122	U.S. Race and Ethnic Relations
SOCL 335	Urban Semester Seminar
SPAN 390	Culture and Civilization
THEO 180	Human Rights in Latin America
THEO 192	Moral Problems: Urban Issues
UNIV 290	Seminar in Community-Based Service and Leadership

The Center for Experiential Learning's UNIV 290 seminar allows students to engage in a service-learning experience (minimum of 40 hours) while discussing leadership theory, civic engagement, and community development theory. This course also fulfills Loyola's "Values Across the Curriculum" requirement in the area of Promoting Civic Engagement or Leadership.

Some sections of UNIV 102 (the Loyola Seminar) and UCWR 110 (the College Writing Seminar) also employ service-learning, as do Loyola's Solutions to Environmental Problems (STEP) courses.

Loyola students have served at a variety of different community-based organizations. A sample of service-learning sites includes:

AIDS Foundation of Chicago
Asian Human Services, Inc.
Between Friends
Centro Romero
Chicago Department of Aging
Chicago House and Social Services Agency
Chicago Housing Authority Senior Communities
Chicago Public Schools
Children's Memorial Hospital
Children's Research Triangle
Council for Jewish Elderly
Edgewater Chamber of Commerce
Edgewater Community Council
Erie Neighborhood House
Howard Area Community Center
Howard Brown Health Center
Ida Crown Jewish Academy
Illinois Arts Alliance
Immanuel Lutheran Church
Indo-American Center
Korean American Community Services
Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly
Loyola Community Literacy Center
McGaw YMCA
Muslim Women Resource Center
The Night Ministry
Passages Charter School
Rogers Park Community Council
South-East Asia Center
Swedish Covenant Hospital
Vietnamese Association of Illinois
Youth Organizations Umbrella, Inc.

For a complete list of service-learning courses, please visit LUC.edu/experiential.

For a more comprehensive list of community partner organizations, please visit LUC.edu/takeaction.

COMMUNITY-BASED FEDERAL WORK-STUDY PROGRAM

Through its “Experience More” Community-Based Federal Work-Study program, Loyola has established relationships with several community service organizations which provide experiential learning opportunities for students as part of the Federal Work-Study program. If students are awarded Federal Work-Study in their financial aid package, they have the option of working off-campus at a community-based organization. Students gain valuable experience working at community service sites while earning money for their education.

As a part of the “Experience More” program, students have the opportunity to engage in the following types of work experiences with our community partners:

- Tutoring and mentoring students at neighborhood schools
- Providing support for performances at local theater companies
- Leading projects and initiatives for chambers of commerce throughout the city
- Connecting with the elderly population to provide social opportunities and services
- Supervising recreational activities or coaching youth athletics at community centers

For more information about the Community-Based Federal Work-Study program, visit LUC.edu/experiential/federal.shtml.

LUROP

The Loyola Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (LUROP) promotes one-on-one research collaboration between undergraduate students and faculty researchers. Participating in LUROP allows undergraduate students to take advantage of experiential learning opportunities that are typically reserved for graduate students at other institutions. The faculty at Loyola strive to provide undergraduate students with high-quality, comprehensive experiences in conducting primary research. Through the many different opportunities offered by LUROP, students work directly with faculty on their research, acquiring skills such as literature searches, hypothesis testing, research design, data collection, statistical analysis, data interpretation, and presentation of results. Many undergraduates produce work of such high quality that it results in co-authored professional publications in prestigious peer-reviewed journals. Numerous students have also presented their research with faculty mentors at national or international meetings of professional academic societies.

Loyola students participate in undergraduate research opportunities in order to:

- Learn to conduct research through direct participation in faculty research projects.
- Build relationships with faculty mentors in their field of study.
- Learn how research skills may be applied to solve real world problems.
- Acquire knowledge and skills that prepare them for graduate school.
- Strengthen resumes and increase graduate school and career opportunities.
- Gain advanced knowledge in a particular field of interest.
- Publish and/or present findings at academic conferences.

For more information about LUROP, visit LUC.edu/lurop.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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To access this and other undergraduate program brochures—and any updated information—please visit LUC.edu/undergrad/academics.