A MODEL FOR A MULTIDISCIPLINARY
FACULTY-MENTORED RESEARCH-
INTERNSHIP HYBRID

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA’S QEP: INQUIRY-BASED EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

- College of Arts and Letters: 22%
- College of Natural and Health Sciences: 20%
- College of Business: 12%
- College of Social Sciences, Mathematics and Education: 46%

Diagram:
- Culminating Project (junior/senior yr)
- Discipline Skill Acquisition (major courses; inquiry projects)
- Introduction/Exposure to Modes of Inquiry (FYE, FY classes)
“Internships are included in the QEP because they represent an effective experiential education exercise, are a high impact practice, and create authentic applied opportunities for students.”
WHAT DO EMPLOYERS WANT FROM RECENT GRADUATES?*

- written and oral communication skills
- critical thinking
- teamwork
- the ability to apply knowledge in real-world settings

Employers seek candidates who have participated in an applied learning experience where students solve real-world problems while working with others from different backgrounds

*Source: Hart Research Associates. Falling Short? College Learning and Career Success
APPLIED LEARNING EXPERIENCE (ALEX)

Creative Opportunity or Question

Student team with different majors

Faculty mentors from each discipline
• Opportunities from Career Services
• Faculty who have community-engaged scholarship or existing relationships with employers
• The initial conversation:
  • “What is a question or creative opportunity at your organization that could benefit from a multidisciplinary perspective?”
  • Examine a list of UT majors and brainstorm potential projects
• OURI crafts an initial description of the project, sends to partner to review.
Lawrence Martucci Benefit, Corp. Applications are now being accepted for an ALEX internship for fall 2019. This multidisciplinary team of students will work with the Lawrence Martucci Benefit Corp., a nonprofit that is currently supporting the development of a vaccine for leukemia. The team would interview and review the research of the lead vaccine researcher, Dr. Cameron Tebbi. Dr. Tebbi was previously a professor of pediatrics and chief of the Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology in the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine, and director of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at Tampa General Hospital. The ALEX team will focus on creating materials that tell the story of Dr. Tebbi’s research and the Lawrence Martucci Benefit, Corp. to a general audience. These materials will be useful in fundraising to support the vaccine research as well as aiding in development of a business plan. This project will benefit from participation by students with the following expertise: advanced biology student(s) who possesses a thorough understanding of immunology, a graphic design or digital arts student(s) with interest in medical illustration, and marketing student(s) with an interest in supporting cancer research.
LOGISTICS

• Project description is used to recruit faculty mentors in respective fields.
  • Faculty are paid $500 stipend per semester
  • Faculty then set pre-requisite criteria, help advertise the opportunity.
• Students apply through Handshake.
  • 3.0 minimum GPA
  • Junior or Senior status
  • Application includes transcript, resume, and three essay questions:
Please describe your professional goals and how participation in the Applied Learning Experience will benefit you.

What appeals to you about the interdisciplinary, team-based nature of this program?

What do you anticipate will be your strengths and challenges working within this model?
LOGISTICS

- Faculty and OURI staff review applications (shared with employer if interested).
- Students register for BAC 490: Applied Learning Experience
  - 1-4 credit hours (40 hours in 14 week semester per credit hour or 2.85 hours per week)
  - Counts as general elective but can be substituted for internship credit in the major
- Students must write a learning contract with their mentor, present to the UT community at ALEX Showcase, other written assignments determined by mentor
BAC 490: APPLIED LEARNING EXPERIENCE

**Final project/ deliverable (35%).** The final product produced by your team will be evaluated both by your faculty mentor and the external organization's representative. Your mentor will consider how you have specifically contributed to the project.

**Written assignments (25%).** You will be required to write a proposal describing your anticipated involvement in the project and how you envision contributing to the final outcome. Then, at the conclusion of the internship, you will write a summary that reflects on how you met the general learning outcomes, described above, and any challenges encountered. You should also clearly identify in this document how your discipline-specific knowledge was applied to the final product.
**Presentation (25%).** You will be required to present your final outcome to the University community at the end of the semester. Your presentation skills will be evaluated at this time.

**Professionalism (15%).** You will be evaluated by your peers, faculty mentor, and the organizational representative regarding your demonstrated professionalism during the internship. Areas that will be evaluated include punctuality, demeanor, perseverance, cooperatively, listening skills, honesty, accountability, leadership, and responsiveness.
HISTORICAL DOCUMENTARY FOR HENRY PLANT MUSEUM

- Involved History, Theatre, and Film majors
- Faculty Committee of 3
- Documentary focuses on primary letters from Spanish-American War
CURRICULUM ENHANCEMENT FOR EDUCATIONAL STARTUP

- Involved Biology and Film majors
- Faculty Committee of 2
- Created video tutorials for teachers to support the company's product, the PlanetBox
“We had a great experience working with the UT students, faculty and staff on the ALEX project. Everyone did an outstanding job and we are proud to have played a part in the project. It is definitely a win/win experience for all involved.”

“Overall, a great experience. It was a significant project for everyone involved. It achieved the vast majority of what was conceptualized.”
“I feel that the ALEX internship gave me valuable new experience working with other students and working for professional clients. The ALEX internship forced me to surrender some creative freedom in order to deliver exactly what was asked. This environment prepared me to work with clients in the future.”
“It was great to be able to take my prior knowledge with the knowledge of others to problem solve independently when possible and work together. I felt it was very easy to collaborate with others through this program.”
“My relationship with my faculty mentor was also a very positive one. He listened to our problems when they occurred and never made us feel like we weren’t being heard. He cared about the issues we were having and wanted to fix them as best as he could. He was always very open with us and willing to help whenever we needed his assistance.”
2019 – 2020 PARTNERS

- Embarc Collective
- Tampa Bay
- Henry B. Plant Museum
- American Red Cross
- TechData
- IMPACT
- Lawrence A. Martucci Benefit Corp.
- Firestick
FUTURE PLANS

• Assessment of critical thinking, communication

• Charge a fee for companies to participate
  • Less for nonprofit below a certain size

• Getting students paid is ideal
  • Primary benefit is to the student (Glatt test) but they deliver excellent value

• Dedicated staff to support project development, recruitment, marketing, faculty development, etc.