



APPLIED LEARNING DEFINITIONS

MEASURE: Applied Learning (general)

Applied learning refers to a hands-on, real world approach to teaching and learning where students learn by doing. Although the setting and context may differ for each applied learning opportunity, these traditionally include planning, training, monitoring, reflection, and evaluation, and can be credit bearing or not, at home or abroad.

DESCRIPTION: Learning process that fosters deep understanding and engagement, stemming from the 'learning by doing' theory.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Hands-on experience providing real-world knowledge through community or campus based opportunities that establish lasting partnerships, critical networks and contacts, and career opportunities for students which increase student success rates, understanding and commitment to civic involvement, peer leadership skills, and self-efficacy.

KEY TERMS / DATA POINTS:

- **SUNY Discovers:** includes research, which has often been thought of as occurring apart from and outside of research subjects, entrepreneurship, newly conceived of as an area for honoring the talent of our students, and field study, which is so critical to a deep understanding of subject matter
 - Undergraduate Research
 - Entrepreneurship
- **SUNY Serves:** encompasses service-learning, community-service, and volunteerism, creating opportunities for students to get their hands dirty and develop their civic engagement by working with local communities as well as reflecting on their experiences and training on what it means to work reciprocally with community partners
 - Volunteerism
 - Community Service
 - Service learning.
- **SUNY Works:** includes internships and co-operative education programs where students get the hands-on experience so requisite to landing a career
 - Co-op
 - Formal Internships
 - Independent Internships
 - Work Study

COMMENTS:

1. Other forms of experiential education can include Discipline-specific Clinical Preparation, STEM labs, Economic Development, Graduate Research, Community-Engaged Research, etc. But the list doesn't end there.
 - Many institutions include: Field Study, Faculty Guided Research, Undergraduate Research, Industry-Based Research, Community Based Research, Community Engaged Research, Practica, Community Service, Civic Engagement, Artistic and Cultural experiences, Study Abroad, Work Study, Thesis/Capstone Projects and Classes, Scholarly Communities, Internships, Externships, Entrepreneurship, Discipline-Specific Curriculum with Experiential Component, Clinical

Preparation, Workforce Development, Career Development, Experiential Lab Components, Formal Internships, Independent Internships, Public-Private/Economic Development partnerships around research, Faculty-Guided Independent Study, etc.

2. Each campus may have a stronger focus in one area than another, but note that SUNY is interested in taking into account all of the work they do on their campuses.

SIRIS DATA DICTIONARY DEFINITIONS OF APPLIED LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Cooperative Education: A formally recognized academic program integrating classroom learning and productive paid work experiences in a field related to a student's academic and career goals. Co-op provides students with progressive learning experiences integrating theory and practice and serves as a partnership among students, educational institutions, and employers. This type of education is directly tied to a career and is always paid.

Formal Internship - paid: Academic programs integrating classroom learning and productive work experience in a field related to a student's academic and career goals. Formal internships provide students with learning experiences integrating theory and practice. As an academic program, it serves as a partnership among students, education institutions, and employers. Includes remuneration.

Formal Internship - unpaid: Academic programs integrating classroom learning and productive work experience in a field related to a student's academic and career goals. Formal internships provide students with learning experiences integrating theory and practice. As an academic program, it serves as a partnership among students, education institutions, and employers. Does not include remuneration.

Independent Internship - paid: An independent internship is a form of Applied Learning or experiential education that integrates knowledge and theory learned in the classroom with practical application and skills development in a professional setting. Independent internships give students the opportunity to gain valuable applied experience and make connections in professional fields they are considering for career paths, give employers the opportunity to guide, and evaluate talent. Includes remuneration

Independent Internship - unpaid: An independent internship is a form of Applied Learning or experiential education that integrates knowledge and theory learned in the classroom with practical application and skills development in a professional setting. Independent internships give students the opportunity to gain valuable applied experience and make connections in professional fields they are considering for career paths, give employers the opportunity to guide, and evaluate talent. Does not include remuneration.

Service-Learning: A credit-bearing teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience and strengthen communities.

Community Service: Volunteerism and community service performed by students for community benefit. This service is not necessarily tied to learning outcomes or a particular program of study. This may include structured projects (days of service), smaller group projects, fund-raising events, or individual volunteerism, which is acknowledged by the campus.

Research/Field Study: Mentored, self-directed work that enables students to make an original, intellectual, or creative contribution to the discipline by exploring an issue of interest to them and communicating the results to others. The projects have inquiry, design, investigation, discovery and application.

Civic Engagement: A teaching and learning focus on educating students as citizens. Classes or programs include meaningful civic education and activities for social good. Classes and projects have components of reflection and engagement.

Entrepreneurship: Students in an entrepreneurship program develop a broad-based entrepreneurial skill relevant to any organization – start-up, established, and for and not-for-profit – in an industry. Entrepreneurship involves consistently thinking and acting in ways designed to uncover new opportunities that are then applied to provide value.