



Elizabethtown College

March 9, 2016

Hello First-Year Students:

At Elizabethtown College we are committed to incorporating real-world educational opportunities into our curriculum. The Signature Learning Experience graduation requirement guarantees that every student will be involved in at least two highly engaging, challenging educational activities that complement classroom learning and connect your academic experiences to the real world.

You can choose the two SLEs you want to complete from the five types of SLEs offered by the College:

- Capstone Courses or Developmental Portfolios
- Community-Based Learning
- Cross-Cultural Experiences (includes semester-long study abroad)
- Internships, Field Experiences or Practicums
- Supervised Research

Your two SLEs can come from one type, e.g., two internships, or a combination of types, such as one community-based learning experience and one capstone course.

Many of you will be able to complete the SLE requirement simply by fulfilling the requirements of your major. Some majors contain at least two SLEs. Others among you may need to choose one or two SLEs in addition to those offered in the major. You will be able to find SLEs in the Core Program, courses in other majors, courses in minors, and co-curricular programs. The SLE definitions and lists of approved SLEs in each category were approved by Faculty Assembly in spring 2013. This list has since grown and will continue to grow as academic departments and co-curricular programs propose new SLEs.

The important thing now is to work with your faculty advisor in planning how you will meet the SLE requirement during your college career. Many of you declared a major and will be working with a faculty advisor from the department in which the program is located. Others among you are still working with your first-year advisor. Regardless, all of the faculty can engage you in conversations that will help you decide which SLEs best meet your academic, career and personal goals. Academic department chairs, program directors, and professional staff in Academic Advising, Registration and Records, Student Life and other college offices can also be great resources to you.

There are many SLEs that will not be available to you until your junior or senior year. For some SLEs, you will need to fulfill certain pre-requisites such as meeting a GPA requirement or completing prior course work. In addition, it may be a challenge for you to schedule certain SLEs in addition to the courses you are taking and co-curricular experiences in which you are involved, so plan accordingly.

It needs to be said that you are ultimately responsible for making academic progress and ensuring that all the requirements for graduation are met. There are electronic resources to help you monitor your progress toward a degree. If you look at JayWeb, you will find that the current master schedule includes SLE designations for

qualified courses. Your graduation report/degree audit includes a Core & SLE Section that indicates to you and your faculty advisor whether the SLE requirement has been met. Any SLEs you have fulfilled should be indicated on the current graduation report.

Here are some answers to additional questions you may have about where you can find information about SLEs on the College website:

Where can I find the complete list of courses and experiences approved as SLEs?

- The complete list of courses and experiences can be found on the Registration and Records **CORE & SLEs** webpage identified as “Signature Learning Experiences”:
<http://www.etown.edu/offices/registration-records/core.aspx>

Where can I find information on SLE offerings for a semester that is open for registration?

- The “Course Listings by Semester” navigation on the Registration and Records website includes an ADVANCED SEARCH option. You can use the drop-down list to select a particular “Signature Learning” category and the webpage will list all currently available SLE offerings in that category:
<https://www.etown.edu/offices/registration-records/courselistings.aspx> .
- Within JayWeb, course offerings are identified as SLE offerings as part of the course description. For example, a course description will include “Signature Learning Experience: Community-Based Learning” for all courses approved as community-based learning.
- Approved SLE Definitions can be found in the 2015-16 Online Catalog by selecting the Core Program and Signature Learning Experiences navigation:
<http://catalog.etown.edu/>

Is there an SLE Planner?

- SLEs and the Core Program are categorized as general education requirements for degree completion. You can locate the “**Core and SLE Planner**” (previously Checksheet) on Registration and Records “Core and SLEs” webpage.
- This form is double-sided allowing students to track their progress on the front page with the reverse side of the page listing important information about both programs:
https://www.etown.edu/offices/registration-records/files/core_requirements/CORE_SLE_Planner.pdf

Thanks for your consideration and I wish you a successful completion of your first year at Elizabethtown.



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