



October 2015

Dear First-Year Students,

As you no doubt know by now, your class (the Class of 2019) is the third at Elizabethtown to be required to complete two Signature Learning Experiences (SLEs) in order to graduate. The purpose of the requirement is to make sure that all students are involved in 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, Projects or Developmental Portfolios
- Community-Based Learning
- Cross-Cultural Experience or Exchange (includes semester-long study abroad)
- Internships, Field Experiences or Practica
- 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. You can, of course, complete more than two SLEs.

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 important thing now is to work with your faculty advisor in planning how you will meet the SLE requirement during your college career. All of the faculty know about the requirement and 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. Some supervised research opportunities may only be available by invitation of a department or instructor. 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 webpage identified as “Signature Learning Experiences”.

<http://www.etown.edu/offices/registration-records/sle-list.aspx>

Are there any SLE opportunities this Winter Term or Summer Session for FY, Sophomore or Transfer Students required to complete SLEs?

- Visit the Registration and Records Winter Term and Summer Session webpages to review course offerings for both sessions.

Where can I find information on SLE offerings for the upcoming semester?

- The “Course Listings by Semester” navigation on the Registration and Records website includes an “advanced option” for selecting “Signature Learning” categories.
- 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 under The Core Program and Signature Learning Experiences

Is there an SLE check sheet?

- SLEs were incorporated onto the CORE check sheet as another general education requirement for degree completion.
- This form has been updated with the newly approved SLE definitions and it can be found at

<http://www.etown.edu/offices/registration-records/core.aspx>

Thanks for your consideration and I wish you a successful finish to your first semester at Elizabethtown.



E. Fletcher McClellan, Ph.D.
Dean of Faculty and Professor of Political Science
Elizabethtown College