

**ENGAGED LEARNING BASICS – A GUIDE TO YOUR RIDER GRADUATION REQUIREMENT**  
*All Rider University students must complete an Engaged Learning Graduation Requirement*

All undergraduate students must earn Engaged Learning points. There are two parts to the requirement:

| Points Requirement  | Category Requirement  |
|---|---|
| Freshmen status students including transfer students (0 to 30 earned credits) need to earn six (6) points.          | Freshmen status students including transfer students (0 to 30 earned credits) need to earn points in at least two different Engaged Learning categories.  |
| Transfer students with 31 or more accepted credits (sophomore, junior or senior status) need only three (3) points. | Transfer students with 31 or more accepted credits (sophomore, junior or senior status) need to earn points in one category, however, they may divide the points they earn across multiple categories if desired. |

**What are the Engaged Learning Categories?**

Courses and experiences that earn engaged learning points are divided between six main categories:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Arts, Media or Creativity (AMC)     | 4. Study Abroad or Cultural Exploration (SACE) |
| 2. Civic or Community Engagement (CCE) | 5. Guided Research or Scholarship (GRS)        |
| 3. Leadership or Mentoring (LM)        | 6. Internship, Co-Op or Fieldwork (ICF)        |

You can find a description of the categories on the Engaged Learning Program website:

<https://www.rider.edu/engaged-learning/program/categories>

**How Do I Earn Engaged Learning Points?**

Everyone earns points in the same way, by taking a course approved to earn points, or by participating in approved experiences or volunteer community service.

**I. Courses** Credits you earn equal EL points, up to a maximum of 3 points earned per course. For example, GLS 285 earns 3 credits and 3 points; EDU 451 can earn up to 6 credits but will earn no more than 3 points.

The Engaged Learning Program website contains a list of courses that will automatically earn points when completed:

<https://www.rider.edu/engaged-learning/program/approved-courses>

The online Course Section Search tool contains a column, Attribute, which identifies courses that earn ELP points with the category they are in. Some courses earn points only for a specific section that contains EL material, not for all sections, so be sure to check the Attribute column carefully when planning your future class schedule:

<https://reg-prod.ec.rider.edu/StudentRegistrationSsb/ssb/term/termSelection?mode=search>

Soon after the end of each semester Engaged Learning points earned when passing a course are added automatically to your Engaged Learning transcript and will be visible in DegreeWorks.

**II. Experiences** On and off-campus, experiences earn points based upon your hours of participation, as follows:

20 to 49 hours = 1 point      50 to 99 hours = 2 points      100 or more hours = 3 points

You can find a list of approved experiences, both on campus and off, on the website:

<https://www.rider.edu/engaged-learning/program/co-curricular-experiences>

Experience hours can be accrued across semesters or academic years to reach 20+ hours, the minimum needed to earn 1 point. Each experience has a corresponding form in BroncNation. Once you reach 20+ hours in one experience, complete and submit the form. You can find instructions on how to complete an experience form here:

<https://www.rider.edu/academics/engaged-learning/student-forms-instructions>

Questions? Contact Sandra Ober, Engaged Learning Coordinator, at [engagedlearning@rider.edu](mailto:engagedlearning@rider.edu)

A 250+ word written reflection is required and is the focus for approving your experience submission. Write about challenges and/or successes; what you learned about yourself, others, and the organization; how the experience relates to a course or courses you have taken; and how the experience may affect your career and beyond. Read the guidelines for writing a reflection and a few well-written sample reflections submitted by your peers here:

<https://www.rider.edu/academics/engaged-learning/reflections>

When reading your reflection, the reviewer has two options: approve it as submitted, or deny it, sending you suggestions on how to change or improve it. If denied, revise it as suggested and resubmit for another review. There is no limit on how many times you may resubmit an experience until it is approved. Periodically throughout each semester a report of earned points is sent to the Registrar. After the Registrar uploads the data, points will appear on your Engaged Learning Transcript and in DegreeWorks.

You are not limited to participation in only the experiences listed on the website. If an experience is not specifically listed you can use the "Other" option or ask the Engaged Learning Coordinator what form to use. If you are performing service hours, submit them as CCE: Volunteer Service (see III. Community Service below.)

**New Student Engagement Experience (NSEE)** This experience is available for all first-year freshmen and first-year transfer students to complete. Attend six (6) different Rider events spanning three or more themes (find them on the website.) Submit all six events in one experience form in BroncNation named CCE: New Student Engagement Experience. Once approved you will earn one point in Civic and Community Engagement. This point is easy to earn and can be very valuable as graduation approaches, providing the second category that is part of the requirement. For detailed information see the website:

<https://www.rider.edu/engaged-learning/program/new-student-engagement-experience>

**III. Community Service** Volunteer your time with one or more different organizations to earn points for Community Service. Service must fit the guidelines found on the webpage. You must have a supervisor or mentor on site who provides you with instruction and feedback throughout the service experience. Keep track of service hours you perform and submit them in BroncNation. You must volunteer at least 20 hours with one or more organizations to be eligible to earn one (1) point. Instructions for submitting Service Hours are found here:

<https://www.rider.edu/academics/engaged-learning/community-service>

### **TIPS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCCESS WITH ENGAGED LEARNING:**

1. Freshmen and first-year transfer students should attend campus events to earn 1 point for NSEE. Seniors may find that they earned all of the EL points in one category, and the NSEE point could complete your requirement easily.
2. **Division I Athletes** have special requirements to meet. See the webpage for complete information:  
<https://www.rider.edu/academics/engaged-learning/division-1-athletes>
3. Use your years at Rider wisely! Plan ahead for how you will earn points before you reach your Senior year, when you will become very busy with more intense coursework, internships, work, or other commitments. Some programs provide more opportunities to earn points through coursework than others. If you need assistance in planning how you will complete the requirement contact your academic advisor, associate dean, or the Engaged Learning Coordinator.
4. Don't wait until the end of a semester to submit experiences or service hours. Submit them in BroncNation as soon as you have accrued 20 – 100 hours, or when you have completed performing the experience.
5. During course selection, discuss your Engaged Learning progress and goals with your Academic Advisor.
6. You must have enough points in progress (through coursework or experiences you are performing) to complete your Engaged Learning graduation requirement prior to being cleared for graduation. Points for classes in progress must receive a passing grade in order for them to be earned and applied to the ELP graduation requirement.

Questions? Contact Sandra Ober, Engaged Learning Coordinator, at [engagedlearning@rider.edu](mailto:engagedlearning@rider.edu)