

## ENGAGED LEARNING 101 – A GUIDE TO YOUR RIDER GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

*All Rider University students have an Engaged Learning Graduation Requirement*

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

### **A. Points Requirement**

- All freshmen status students including freshmen transfer students need to earn six (6) points.
- Transfer students with 31 or more accepted credits (entering Rider with sophomore, junior or senior status) need to earn three (3) points.

### **B. Category Requirement**

- All freshmen status students including freshmen transfer students need to earn points in at least two (2) different Engaged Learning categories.
- Transfer students with 31 or more accepted credits (entering Rider with sophomore, junior or senior status) need to earn points in one category, however, the points may be divided across multiple categories if desired.

### **What are the Engaged Learning Categories?**

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

1. Arts, Media or Creativity (AMC)
2. Civic or Community Engagement (CCE)
3. Leadership or Mentoring (LM)
4. Study Abroad or Cultural Exploration (SACE)
5. Guided Research or Scholarship (GRS)
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, by participating in approved experiences, or by performing volunteer community service.

**I. Course 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 are pre-approved to earn points:

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

In addition, the online Course Roster contains a column, Course Attr(tribute), which identifies courses that earn points and which category they are in. Note, some courses earn points for a specific section that contains EL material, not for all sections, so be sure to check the Course Roster when planning your future class schedule:

<https://ecr.rider.edu/main.php?term=202110>

Soon after the end of each semester points equal to the number of course credits earned (up to a maximum of 3 per course) will be added automatically to your Engaged Learning transcript and will be visible in DegreeWorks.

**II. 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 Rider website:

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

Experience hours can accrue across semesters or academic years until you have reached at least 20 or more hours in one experience. For service of less than 20 hours in one experience see **Community Service** below.

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 the experience form here:

<https://www.rider.edu/engaged-learning/program/student-forms-information>

Your 250+ word written reflection is the focus for approving your experience submission. The reviewer wants to know your impressions from the experience. 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 you in your career and beyond. There are no right or wrong responses. Read a few well-written sample reflections submitted by your peers here:

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

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. Periodically throughout each semester a report of all approved experience 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, found in each category. If you are performing service hours, submit them as Community Service (see Community Service below.)

### **New Student Engagement Experience (NSEE)- A Fun and Easy Way to Earn Your First Point!!**

This experience is for all first-year freshmen and first-year transfer students to complete. Attend six (6) different on-campus and/or virtual events. Events must span three or more themes (see them on the website.) Submit all six (6) events in one experience form in BroncNation: CCE: New Student Engagement Experience. Your Student Navigation Office coach will review your submission. Once approved you will earn one point. For detailed information see the website:

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

### **III. Community Service**

Volunteer with one or more different organizations to earn points for Community Service. Keep track of service hours you work and record them in BroncNation. You must work 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/engaged-learning/program/co-curricular-experiences>

Hours you submit in BroncNation will periodically be approved. Once you have reached 20+ approved hours in BroncNation the Office of Service and Civic Engagement will contact you to attend a "Zoom" reflection session, where you will discuss your experience in a group setting. After you attend the reflection session a report of attendees is sent to the Engaged Learning Coordinator who will report points earned to the Registrar. Then, the points you earned will appear in DegreeWorks and on your Engaged Learning Transcript.

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

1. If a Freshmen or first-year transfer student, get to know your Student Navigation Office (SNO) coach. They will assist you with the NSEE and can help with many other questions you have about Rider, and more.
2. Don't wait until the end of a semester to submit experiences or service hours. Submit them in BroncNation when you have accrued at least 20 hours. Experience reviewers are faculty or staff and are very busy too, especially at the end of the semester. Your late submission may not be reviewed until after the semester ends.
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, or other commitments.
4. During course selection, discuss your Engaged Learning progress and goals with your Academic Advisor.
5. Talk with the Engaged Learning Coordinator ([engagedlearning@rider.edu](mailto:engagedlearning@rider.edu).) She can help you to create a plan to earn the points you need and answer any questions you may have about the program.