

ENGAGED LEARNING BASICS – A GUIDE TO YOUR RIDER GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

All Rider University undergraduate students must complete an Engaged Learning Graduation Requirement

There are two parts to the Engaged Learning 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 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 categories:

Arts, Media and Creativity (AMC / ELP 600)	Internship, Co-op or Fieldwork (ICF / ELP 500)
Civic and Community Engagement (CCE / ELP 400)	Leadership and Mentoring (LM / ELP 100)
Guided Research or Scholarship (GRS / ELP 300)	Study Abroad or Cultural Exploration (SACE / ELP 200)

You will find a description of the categories on the Engaged Learning Program webpage:

<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 co-curricular experiences or volunteer community service.

I. Courses The 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 will automatically earn points when passed:

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

The online Course Section Search tool contains a column, Attribute, which identifies courses that earn EL 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, after grades are recorded, Engaged Learning points are earned for courses you passed and 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 co-curricular experiences, both on campus and off, on the ELP webpage:

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

You are not limited to participation in only the experiences listed on the website. Experience hours can be accrued across semesters or academic years to reach 20 hours, the minimum number of hours needed to earn 1 point. Once you reach 20+ hours in one experience, complete and complete the [Engaged Learning Experience Form](#) and post a reflection on Canvas. You can find instructions on this webpage:

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

Questions? Contact Sandra Ober, Engaged Learning Coordinator, at engagedlearning@rider.edu

For complete information about the Engaged Learning Program visit: <https://www.rider.edu/engaged-learning/>

In Canvas, a 250+ word written reflection is required and is the basis for approving your experience submission. Your reflection must respond to the four questions found in the rubric on the Reflections webpage and on Canvas. Review the guidelines for writing a reflection and read sample reflections submitted by your peers here:

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

If you do not answer the four rubric questions sufficiently the reviewer will provide you with instruction on how to change or improve your reflection. Quickly update your reflection in Canvas for another review until it is approved. If your experience is continually denied you may appeal it with your academic dean's office. 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.

New Student Engagement Experience (NSEE) All Freshmen and first-year transfer students are eligible for and should earn this point. Attend six (6) different Rider campus events spanning three or more themes (find them on the website.) Complete the [Engaged Learning Experience Form](#) and post your reflection on Canvas. Once approved you will earn one point in Civic and Community Engagement (CCE.) This point is easy to earn and can be very valuable as graduation approaches, completing the second category requirement for most 4-year students. For detailed information about the NSEE see the webpage:

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

III. Community Service Volunteer your time with one or more organizations to earn points for Community Service. Service must fit the guidelines found on the website. You must have a supervisor or mentor on site who provides you with instruction and feedback throughout the service experience. Keep track of your service dates and hours served. Complete the [Engaged Learning Experience Form](#) and post your reflection on Canvas. You must volunteer at least 20 hours with one or more organizations to be eligible to earn one (1) point. More hours of service will earn more points (See II. Experiences above.) For more information about Service Hours see the webpage:

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

TIPS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR EASY SUCCESS WITH ENGAGED LEARNING:

1. Freshmen and first-year transfer students should attend 6 campus events to earn 1 point for NSEE. Seniors may find that all of their EL points earned are in one category, and the NSEE point earned in CCE could complete your requirement easily.
2. **Division I Athletes** have special requirements to meet. See the website 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, off-campus 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. During course selection, know how many points you have earned and plan to earn, and discuss your Engaged Learning progress and goals with your Academic Advisor.
5. Don't wait until the end of a semester to submit a reflection for co-curricular experiences. Ideally, your EL graduation requirement will be completed before your last semester as a Senior or in your last semester you will finish an experience or pass a course that will earn points to complete your graduation requirement.
6. You must have enough points earned or in progress (through coursework or experiences you are still performing) to complete your Engaged Learning graduation requirement prior to being cleared for graduation. Points for classes in progress must receive a passing grade to be earned and applied to the ELP graduation requirement.

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