University Council

April 15, 2020

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2019-2020

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Undergraduate Student Representative – Melissa Hevener
Graduate Student Representative – Jordan Henley

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the Experiential Learning Subcommittee for a Waiver of the Experiential Learning Requirement due to Impacts Resulting from COVID-19 will be a discussion item for the April 17, 2020, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

John Maerz, Chair
University Curriculum Committee

cc: Provost S. Jack Hu
   Dr. Rahul Shrivastav

WAIVER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING REQUIREMENT DUE TO IMPACTS RESULTING FROM COVID-19

ELR WAIVER POLICY OVERVIEW:
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the cancellation of experiential learning opportunities, students graduating in spring 2020, summer 2020, fall 2020, and spring 2021 may apply for a waiver of the Experiential Learning graduation requirement.

RATIONALE:
The University of Georgia recognizes the value of integrated student experiences outside the traditional classroom environment. This belief forms the basis for the University's Experiential Learning Requirement (ELR) to have all undergraduates engaged in high quality experiential learning. A significant number of experiential learning opportunities are offered during summer semester, including study abroad, field study, internships, practicums, and service-learning. In addition, experiences such as faculty-supervised research depend on access to campus facilities or field research facilities. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many approved experiential learning courses and activities have been cancelled and more are being cancelled daily as the pandemic evolves. Therefore, it will not be possible or may impose a substantial burden for some students to complete the requirement prior to their intended graduation date, particularly for students intending to graduate in spring 2020, summer 2020, fall 2020, and spring 2021 who were enrolled in experiential learning opportunities that would satisfy the ELR but were cancelled. Some students may now be required to include courses in fall 2020 or spring 2021 that they would have taken in study abroad or field study during the 2020 Maymester or summer sessions. This added course load may limit a student's opportunity to engage in alternative experiential learning activities or courses.

In the event that an approved Experiential Learning activity or course is not available because of impacts resulting from COVID-19, the EL Waiver enables students to request consideration for a waiver of the ELR.

WAIVER ELIGIBILITY:
The student must satisfy both eligibility requirements to be considered for a waiver of the experiential learning requirement:
1. The student has an anticipated graduation date of spring 2020, summer 2020, fall 2020, or spring 2021.
2. The student planned to enroll or was enrolled in an approved EL course or activity in spring 2020 or Maymester/summer 2020 that was disrupted or canceled due to COVID-19.

WAIVER APPROVAL PROCESS OVERVIEW:
All waiver requests of the ELR must proceed through the following approval process:
- Step 1: Students determine if other EL approved courses or activities are available.
  - Students will discuss options with their advisors.
  - The Office of Academic Advising Services will communicate with advisors across campus who will collaborate with students to identify school/college approved EL activities and courses.
  - The Office of Experiential Learning (OEL) shall provide support services as requested.
- Step 2: Students submit an EL waiver request if there are no other appropriate EL activities/courses available.
  - Students will complete an online request form.
  - In the online form, students will confirm they meet the eligibility criteria.
  - This form will be sent to OEL for review and tracking.
- Step 3: OEL Request Compilation and Submission to College

- o OEL will compile all requests and submit only completed Waiver requests to the Experiential Learning Certification Officer (ELCO) of the student's school/college for consideration.
  - o The OEL will continuously manage the distribution, communication, and tracking of all Waivers.
- Step 4: Waiver Request Decision Provided by School/College
  - o The ELCO will review the Waiver request and will issue a formal decision of approval or denial to the OEL.
- Step 5: OEL Communication of Decision to Student and to Registrar's Office
  - o Upon receiving the decision from the ELCO, the OEL will communicate that decision to the student and the Registrar's Office.
  - o Note: The student and their advisor will select a course substitution when for-credit EL programs are required to meet the 120 total credit hours for graduation. This waiver does NOT reduce the number of credit hours required to graduate.

ADDENDUM: FILLABLE FORM DATA FIELDS (on Qualtrics or similar)

Primary Data Fields

- Student Name
- 810 ID #
- Email
- College
- Major
- Anticipated Graduation Date
- Additional programs student is pursuing
- Originally Planned EL-approved course/activity
- Reason(s) for ELR Waiver Consideration (select all that apply)
  - o My graduation date would be delayed.
  - o My selected Course/Activity/Program will not be offered again prior to my graduation.
  - o Remaining course requirements to complete my major will not permit space for an additional approved EL Course/Activity.
  - o Other <Free Form Entry Required>

Administrative Data Fields

- OEL & Academic Advising Notes/Documents
- ELCO Approval/Rejection & Date
- Decision Notification to Student Date
- Date sent to Registrar
- Date entered by Registrar