

## DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

### EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING REQUIREMENT

**All Geography majors must fulfill an experiential learning component to supplement their classroom instruction at the University of Richmond.** Examples include an approved semester of study abroad, an internship or volunteer position equaling approximately 100 hours of service, a summer field course (e.g., master naturalist), or another educational and hands-on initiative agreed upon by the student and faculty supervisor. Ideally, this experiential learning involves significant outdoor or cross-cultural experience and is not a laboratory, classroom, or office-based activity.

I will complete (select one of the following):

- \_\_\_\_\_ approved internship/service learning \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ approved study abroad \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ approved fieldwork or field course \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ other (with approval) \_\_\_\_\_

Regardless of the design of the experiential learning activity, we expect:

- (1) Learning objectives will be identified with a faculty mentor before starting the experiential component and revisited at the conclusion.
- (2) If the proposed activity will largely take place indoors than an outdoors or field experience highlighting attention to human-environment (nature-society) interactions will complement other educational components. For example, if a student primarily works conducting GIS analysis, then efforts will be made to include groundtruthing of data, fieldwork, fieldtrips, etc.
- (3) Students will prepare a 5-minute slide presentation to share their experiences with Geography faculty, staff, and students at an annual event highlighting experiential learning activities. In order to tie experiential education to the rest of the curriculum in the major, these presentations should address one or more core geographic concepts such as space, place, scale, landscape, etc.
- (4) Students will prepare a 1-page written synopsis of activities and accomplishments (with at least one on-site photograph or video) for the department website. This should address one or more geographic concepts related to the curriculum. Submit by e-mail to Nancy Propst (nancy.propst@richmond.edu) and department chair. You will receive credit once submitted.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Year in School: \_\_\_\_\_

A. Description of Experiential Learning Activity

B. Learning Expectations:

C. Schedule of Activities (e.g., number of weeks, time expected per task, etc.): 100 Hours on geography to be distributed across the following time table.

The above experiential learning component has been mutually agreed upon by the student and the faculty supervisor. They will stay in communication during the schedule outlined above to discuss the experience and to assess the achievement of learning objectives.

When both parties are in agreement with this contract, they will sign below.

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Academic Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_