

CENTER *for* EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

The Center for Experiential Learning (CEL) assists Carlow students to realize a more just, merciful, and sustainable world through various opportunities that bridge academic learning with practical experiences. The CEL is committed to strengthening efforts to encourage experiential learning by making opportunities accessible to a diverse community of learners and scholars. Students are able to participate in various virtual or on-ground experiences.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AT CARLOW: THE “CELTIC EXPERIENCE”

The Celtic Experience is a university-wide initiative to incorporate experiential learning as a distinctive feature of a Carlow education. Experiential learning is delivered through the Center for Experiential Learning in collaboration with, and support from, various centers, institutes, and programs across the University. The Celtic Experience helps students to develop civic awareness through experiences in civic engagement, community-based education and service-learning, international education, and student research.

The Celtic Experience contributes to the University’s commitment to “unleash imagination” by providing avenues for students to develop their academic, personal, and professional identities through participation in new ways of learning—on and off campus—that build upon the values of a liberal arts education, while connecting students to opportunities to integrate discipline-based skills with hands-on problem-solving.

There are five pathways that comprise the Celtic Experience:

- + Civic Engagement and Public Service
- + Community-Based Education (including service-learning)
- + International Education
- + Professional Experiences
- + Student Research

Civic Engagement and Public Service:

The Civic Engagement and Public Service pathway was designed to express a range of possible activities by which students can contribute to the common good. These activities intersect and overlap, demonstrating the interdependent nature inherent in working toward the common good. There is no one single path. It is anticipated students may move in and out of various engagements over the course of their time at Carlow. Students interested in civic engagement or public service should connect with Sandi DiMola, JD, at sdimola@carlow.edu.

Community-Based Education:

Community-based education and service-learning provide ways for students to apply what they have learned in the classroom to help address problems and promote opportunities in the community. In community-based education, students work with a faculty member and a community partner. In service-learning courses, students work as a class with the community partner and reflect on their experience within the course. Students interested in community-based education or service-learning should connect with their academic advisor or with Kate O’Brien in the Office of Mercy Service at kaobrien@carlow.edu.

International Education:

International education encompasses study abroad, study away, and foreign language study. Carlow students can study abroad for an entire academic year, one semester, several weeks, or over spring break. Study away involves

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engaging with international communities and issues within the region. Students have completed study away experiences through work with organizations such as Global Pittsburgh, the World Affairs Council, and with the refugee resettlement services of Jewish Family and Community Services (JFCS) and Catholic Charities. Opportunities for foreign language study are provided through cross-registration at local universities. Students interested in foreign language study or study away should connect with Sandi DiMola, JD, at sdimola@carlow.edu.

Professional Experiences:

Internships and professional work experiences integrate career-related experience into your education through participation in planned, supervised work. All students are encouraged to work with the Office of Career Development early in their Carlow education. Students interested in an internship should connect with the Office of Career Development at careercenter@carlow.edu.

Student Research:

Student research includes creative, scientific, and social science projects that develop through coursework or through participation in a project or internship. Many students present their research at the annual University Scholars' Day. Students interested in learning more about research opportunities should connect with their academic advisor.

WHY SHOULD A STUDENT PARTICIPATE IN EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING?

The experiential learning pathways will help you to encounter differences, clarify values, participate in democratic practices, and work within and across public, private, and independent sectors. Your participation in a specific pathway may result from your passion for a specific cause, expertise in a particular discipline, curiosity about a yet-to-be-explored social issue, or connection with a specific community. The CEL, together with other University offices, is committed to providing you with the tools for effective and ethical applied learning that will help you to:

- + Be a more successful student who earns higher grades and graduates.
- + Transform classroom knowledge into knowledge-in-use.
- + Be better prepared to succeed in the workplace, in graduate or professional studies, and in your community.
- + Graduate as a career-ready, ethical leader.

Professional Experiences:

A partnership with Paradigm Global Innovations led to an internship involving the design of recruitment videos for an e-sports team. Students Sam Beer and Joshua Faust joined Carlow alumna Tori Hirsh in the creation of 2D and 3D assets to be used in the video, as well as offering input toward the video's development.



Undergraduate Research:

Lauren Gaona '21 worked on the development and validation of a system of equations to model the immune response to respiratory viral infections such as COVID-19. Her work helped to study what mechanisms within the immune system are primarily responsible for the very different reactions people could have to this virus.



To learn more about experiential learning opportunities, contact:

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