Enhancing Experiential Learning Opportunities

Recording the Resulting Transformative Learning for Student Employability

Sharon Harrison, Director, Experiential Learning
Sharra Hynes, Executive Director, Experiential Learning
Mark Walvoord, Assistant Director, Student Transformative Learning

Record
Overview

- About UCO
- Student Transformative Learning Record
  - Overview
  - Our Central 6 Tenets
- Experiential Learning Office
- The Link to Employability
- STLR: Tracking & Technology
  - D2L Dashboard
  - ePortfolio
- Participant Reflection and Application
- Conclusion
About UCO

• Located in Edmond, Oklahoma (northern suburb of Oklahoma City)
• Metropolitan designation
• Oklahoma’s oldest institution of higher education
About UCO

- PUI / Master’s – Large
- 15,000 UG / 2,000 GR
- Primarily nontraditional (10% live on campus)
- Most international UGs in OK

- 450 FT faculty/~670 FTE faculty
- Teaching load: 12 hrs/semester (4x4 load)
- 5 colleges, 1 grad college, 1 institute
**Mission:** The University of Central Oklahoma exists to help students learn by providing transformative education experiences to students so that they may become productive, creative, ethical, and engaged citizens and leaders serving our global community. UCO contributes to the intellectual, cultural, economic and social advancement of the communities and individuals it serves.

**Four Strategic Themes:**
1) *Transformative Learning*
2) *Student Success*
3) *Value*
4) *Place*

*UCO’s Center for Transformative Learning (2010)*
Transformative Learning @ UCO:

- Develops beyond disciplinary skills and
- Expands students’ perspectives of their relationship with self, others, community and environment.
Why TL? Challenges From Employers

U.S. college graduates lack:

- Coachability
- Emotional Intelligence (EI)
- Leadership Skills & Initiative
- Temperament (self regulation of emotions in workplace)
- Competence in Discipline
Why TL? The Case We Must Make

- College = knowledge of discipline + gen ed + co-curricular skills (this produces TL).
- Skills promoted through TL increase a graduate’s workforce readiness.
- TL promotes engagement leading to higher persistence and completion.
UCO tracks transformative learning across our “Central Six Tenets”

closely align with George Kuh’s High-Impact Educational Practices (2008)

Discipline Knowledge
Global & Cultural Competencies
Health & Wellness
Leadership
Research, Creative & Scholarly Activities
Service Learning & Civic Engagement
How do we track transformative learning
• For all students
• Across all tenets
• For curricular and co-curricular activities?
Overview

- About UCO
- Student Transformative Learning Record
  - Overview
  - Our Central 6 Tenets
- Experiential Learning Office
- The Link to Employability
- STLR: Tracking & Technology
  - D2L Dashboard
  - ePortfolio
- Participant Reflection and Application
- Conclusion
Experiential Learning at UCO takes the following forms and helps catalyze transformation:

UCO Experiential Learning

Applies classroom knowledge to practical situations

Provides avenues to transformative learning

through...

Global Experiences

In Class Activities

Internships

Student Research

Volunteer and Service Learning

Clinical Experiences
The connection to employability
Overview

- About UCO
- Student Transformative Learning Record
  - Overview
  - Our Central 6 Tenets
- Experiential Learning Office
- The Link to Employability
- STLR: Tracking & Technology
  - D2L Dashboard
  - ePortfolio
- Participant Reflection and Application
- Conclusion
The student’s academic transcript tracks Discipline Knowledge; STLR tracks the rest.
PHASE 1: DEVELOPMENT
1. Select an Assignment or Event

PHASE 2: IMPLEMENTATION
2. Match to a Tenet

PHASE 3: ASSESSMENT
3. Develop Criteria for TL Levels
Assessment in STLR

STLR Rubric is based on AAC&U VALUE Rubrics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Central Six Tenet</th>
<th>AAC&amp;U Value Rubric</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Research, Creative, and Scholarly Activity | • Creative thinking  
• Critical thinking  
• Problem solving |
| Leadership | • Ethical reasoning  
• Teamwork |
| Global and Cultural Competencies | • Global Learning  
• Intercultural knowledge and competence |
| Service Learning and Civic Engagement | • Civic knowledge and engagement—local and global |
| Health & Wellness | • Created by campus committee be a VALUE-like rubric |
**PHASE 1: DEVELOPMENT**

1. Select an Assignment or Event
2. Match to a Tenet
3. Develop Criteria for TL Levels

**PHASE 2: IMPLEMENTATION**

4. Setup Dropbox and/or Event Swipe
5. Communicate to Students Purpose & Criteria
6. Collect Assignments/Reflections/Swipes

**PHASE 3: ASSESSMENT**

7. Assess Student Achievement Using STLR Rubric
8. Remind Student to Push to ePortfolio
Global and Cultural Competencies seek to prepare students to communicate effectively in a complex world, to function in multiple and diverse environments, and to adapt to the continuously changing global society through an attitude of awareness, consciousness, and respect.

**GC - Exposure**

Achieved 4

Achieve 4 more activities to meet STLR requirements.

**GC - Integration**

Achieved 1

Achieve 5 more activities to meet STLR requirements.

**GC - Transformation**

Achieved 0

Achieve 1 more activities to meet STLR requirements.
I am a UCO senior graduating in May 2018. I am majoring in Chemistry with a minor in Biology. Besides my major, one of my passions is to volunteer and give back to the community, which means to make other people’s lives better.

There was an event soon after involving volunteers to clean up a local community garden space. I didn’t know many people on campus so I joined the club and went to the volunteer day. There I met a few students who were also interested in the event. We decided to go out to eat lunch afterwards and share stories about the event. One of the students I met became one of my best friends.

Problem-solving and problem-solving skills are some of the best things I learned. Dr. Bening, one of my professors, was also an excellent teacher. He had a pretty cool class and I felt like I could actually understand in college since that is what I was looking for.

STLR Tenets

Class Projects

Lead Effects on Health & the Public

National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations
Now it’s you turn!

• Describe an experience you’ve had in the last 90 days that was transformative
• Which UCO Tenet(s) would it match?
• What “artifact” would you have assessed to push to an ePortfolio?
Conclusions

• Experiential Learning provides opportunities for transformation
• STLR captures learning from both curricular and co-curricular activities.
• STLR should allow employers to recognize graduates who have developed beyond discipline skills
• STLR should demonstrate that a college education is more than a collection of content knowledge.
More on Transformative Learning (TL) at UCO:

www.uco.edu/tl

More on the Student Transformative Learning Record (STLR):

www.uco.edu/stlr
References


References (cont.)


Questions?

Experiential Learning:
Sharra Hynes, shynes1@uco.edu
Sharon Harrison, sharrison2@uco.edu

STLR:
Mark Walvoord, stlr@uco.edu

Thanks!