

## ENGAGED LEARNING BASICS – A GUIDE TO YOUR RIDER GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

All Rider University students must complete an Engaged Learning Graduation Requirement

All undergraduate students must earn Engaged Learning points. There are two parts to the requirement:

Points Requirement	Category Requirement
Freshmen status students including freshman transfer students need to earn six (6) points.	Freshmen status students including transfer students with fewer than 31 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 only 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 points are divided between six main categories:

1. Arts, Media or Creativity (AMC)
2. Civic or Community Engagement (CCE)
3. Leadership or Mentoring (LM)
4. Study Abroad or Cultural Exploration (SACE)
5. Guided Research or Scholarship (GRS)
6. Internship, Co-Op or Fieldwork (ICF)

You can find a description of the categories on the Engaged Learning Program website:

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

### How Do I Earn Engaged Learning Points?

Everyone earns points in the same way: by passing a course approved to earn points, by participating in approved experiences, or by performing volunteer community service.

**I. Courses.** Credits you earn are equal to 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 completed:

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

In myRider, Course Section Search can be used to locate courses that earn EL points. Use the Advanced Search option Attribute field to search for all courses earn points. Be aware that for some courses not all sections (but only those that contain specific EL material) will earn points. Course must indicate ELP and a category name in the Attribute field or it will not earn any points.

<https://ecr.rider.edu/main.php?term=202320>

Soon after the end of each semester after grades are posted, Engaged Learning points earned for completing a course 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 approved experiences, both on campus and off, on the website:

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

Experience hours can be accrued across semesters or academic years to reach 20+ hours, the minimum needed to earn 1 point. Each experience has a corresponding form in BroncNation. Once you reach 20+ hours in one experience, complete and submit the form. You can find instructions on how to complete an experience form here:

<https://www.rider.edu/engaged-learning/program/student-forms-information>

Questions? Contact Sandra Ober, Engaged Learning Coordinator, at [engagelearning@rider.edu](mailto:engagelearning@rider.edu)

You are not limited to participation in only the experiences listed on the website. If an experience is not specifically listed you can use the "Other" option, found each category, or ask the Engaged Learning Coordinator what form to use. If you are performing volunteer service hours see IV. Community Service below.

A **250+ word written reflection is required** and is the focus for approving your experience submission. Write about challenges and/or successes; what you learned about yourself, others, and the organization; how the experience relates to a course or courses you have taken; and how the experience may affect you in your career and beyond. Read a few well-written sample reflections submitted by your peers here:

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

When reading a reflection, the Rider reviewer has two options: approve it as submitted, or deny it, sending you suggestions on how to change or improve it. If denied, revise it as suggested and resubmit for another review. There is no limit on how many times you may resubmit an experience until it is approved. 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.

**III. New Student Engagement Experience (NSEE).** This experience is for all first-year freshmen and first-year transfer students to complete. Attend six (6) different Rider events. The 6 events must span three or more themes (find them on the website.) Submit all six events in one experience form in BroncNation: CCE: New Student Engagement Experience. Your Student Navigation Office (SNO) coach, EOP, SSS or Milestone coach will review your submission. Once approved you will earn one point in Civic and Community Engagement. See the website for details:

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

**IV. Volunteer Community Service.** Volunteer your time with one or more organizations to earn points for Volunteer Community Service. Service must fit the guidelines found on the website. You will need to keep track of the service hours you perform and have at least 20 hours with one or more organizations to be eligible to earn one (1) point. A 250+ word written reflection is required in the form. Instructions for submitting Volunteer Service are found here:

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

Service hours you submit in BroncNation will periodically be reviewed. Throughout the semester a report of earned points is sent to the Registrar. The points you earned will appear in DegreeWorks and on your Engaged Learning Transcript.

#### **TIPS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCCESS WITH ENGAGED LEARNING:**

1. If you are a Freshmen or first-year transfer student, get to know your Student Navigation Office (SNO), EOP, SSS or Milestone coach. They will assist you with the NSEE and can help with other questions you have about Rider, Engaged Learning, and more.
2. **Division I Athletes** have special requirements to meet. See the webpage for complete information:  
<https://www.rider.edu/academics/engaged-learning/division-1-athletes>
3. During course selection, discuss your Engaged Learning progress and goals with your Academic Advisor.
4. 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, or other commitments.
5. Contact the Engaged Learning Coordinator with questions or problems and for ideas of how you can earn points to complete your requirement.
6. **Seniors:** don't wait until the end of a semester to submit experiences or service hours. All students are encouraged to submit them in BroncNation when you have accrued at least 20 hours. Experience reviewers are faculty or staff who are very busy too, especially at the end of each semester. Your late submission may not be reviewed until after the semester ends, which could delay your graduation clearance.