Experiential Learning in Context
John Dewey, Jean Piaget, David Kolb
  o Learning through doing = direct experience + reflecting + learning
  o Increased engagement; integrative learning
  o High impact teaching practice; intercultural skills
  o Responsible citizenship; ethical reasoning
  o Related to such efforts as: adventure education, active/action learning, appreciative inquiry, problem-based learning, and Service-Learning

Experiential Learning (XL) in the GEP
From Step 4:
Students benefit from opportunities to learn by reflecting on experiences beyond their typical classroom activities and by applying the knowledge and skills they gain from traditional courses in new settings.
To fulfill this requirement, students will:
  o Complete an approved experiential learning project.
  o Reflect on the experiential learning project in order to gain further understanding of their university education, and an enhanced sense of one’s personal responsibility as a member of a larger community.

Experiential Learning (XL) in the GEP
From Step 5:
Experiential Learning will provide students with meaningful learning experiences and activities that go beyond traditional classroom settings.
The Experiential Learning requirement may be completed through one of two different options:
  o a structured, recurring credit-bearing course or learning experience, or
  o a student-initiated experiential learning activity (ELA) that could be either credit-bearing or non-credit-bearing.

XL Option (a)
A structured, recurring credit-bearing course or learning experience, and can include (but is not limited to):
  o service-learning courses
  o internships
  o externships
  o practicum experiences
  o field experiences
  o student teaching
  o credit-bearing study-abroad experiences
*Students transferring to UWSP can request to have a previous experiential learning course satisfy the requirement

XL Option (b)
A student-initiated experiential learning activity (ELA) that could be either credit-bearing or non-credit-bearing, and can include (but is not limited to):
  o credit-bearing independent studies
  o undergraduate research opportunities
  o creative performances
  o community service projects
  o student leadership experiences
  o professional development through paid or unpaid work experiences or internships
*Students must complete the ELA while enrolled at UWSP
What Is Service-Learning?

The National Center for Service-Learning (1979) defines service-learning through 3 key pieces:

1. Activity that is focused on meeting a human need in the community where that need has to do with the well-being of individuals and/or of the environment in which they live.
2. Key academic and/or civic objectives to be achieved through combining service with learning have been identified prior to the activity.
3. Opportunities for students to reflect on their experience and its connection to specific academic/civic objectives are incorporated into the activity.

Or …

✓ Service-learning combines service objectives with learning objectives with the intent that the activity changes both the recipient and the provider of the service.
✓ This is accomplished by combining service tasks with structured opportunities that link the task to self-reflection, self-discovery, and the acquisition and comprehension of values, skills, and knowledge content.

Service-Learning is not that same as:

- “Glorified” volunteering
- Internships
- Compensated activities (i.e., being paid)
- Logging a set number of community service hours in order to graduate
- Any task that is not linked to course content and that fails to include reflection activities
- Any task that is one-sided (i.e., benefiting only students or only the community)

Who can offer service-learning at UWSP?

Under the current GDR system: only faculty

Under the new GEP system:

XL Option (a): faculty

XL Option (b): an ELA mentor
  - includes any UWSP faculty or academic staff member (instructional or non-instructional)

Forms of Service-Learning at UWSP

Examples from what faculty have done within the GDR program:
  - Tim Krause
  - Jeana Magyar-Moe

Examples of what can be done under the new GEP:
  - All of the above and even more...

Future XL-related activities at UWSP

Service-Learning Steering Committee:
  - members needed, alignment as advisory committee under the new General Education Committee

Supported opportunities:
  - Faculty Associates Program
  - Curricular Redesign Workshops
  - Reading Circles
  - Faculty Learning Communities
  - WiCC & VISTA opportunities
  - Grant writing/submission
Resources & Further Information

Association for Experiential Education
  www.aee.org

St. Olaf College: Center for Experiential Learning
  www.stolaf.edu/services/cel/

National Service-Learning Clearinghouse
  www.servicelearning.org

National Service-Learning Partnership
  www.service-learningpartnership.org

American Association of Colleges & Universities
  www.aacu.org

American Association of State Colleges & Universities
  www.aascu.org

Michigan Journal of Community Service Learning
  http://ginsberg.umich.edu/mjcl/

University of Minnesota: Community Service-Learning Center
  www.servicelearning.umn.edu

UW Madison: Teaching and Learning Excellence
  https://tle.wisc.edu/

UW Madison: Center for Public Service
  http://www.morgridge.wisc.edu/

UW Milwaukee: Institute for Service Learning
  www4.uwm.edu/isl/

UW Superior: Center for Academic Service-Learning:
  www.uwsuper.edu/casl/

UW Oshkosh: Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning
  www.uwosh.edu/grants/cetl

UW La Crosse: Center for Advancing Teaching & Learning
  www.uwlax.edu/catl/

UW Parkside: Center for Community Partnerships
  www.uwp.edu/departments/community.partnerships/

UW Parkside: Teaching and Learning Center
  www.uwp.edu/departments/teaching.center/

UW Eau Claire: Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning
  www.uwec.edu/CETL/

UW Eau Claire: Center for Service-Learning
  www.uwec.edu/sl/

UW Green Bay: Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning
  www.uwgb.edu/catl/

UW Stevens Point: Center for Academic Excellence and Student Engagement (CAESE)
  http://www.uwsp.edu/Caese/Pages/default.aspx

UW Stevens Point: CAESE page on Experiential Learning and Service-Learning:
  http://www.uwsp.edu/Caese/Pages/experiential-learning.aspx