

Augsburg Experience Work-Connections Option

The Augsburg Experience is a general education graduation requirement that must be completed by all undergraduate students, typically during their Junior or Senior Year.

Overall Augsburg Experience Criteria (approved by the Augsburg Faculty April 10, 2002)

- An Augsburg Experience links on-campus learning to the constituency goals, mission, needs or ideas of off-campus people, organizations and/or communities, through community partners and/or professional activities and/or travel.
- The Augsburg Experience integrates experiential learning with academic learning. It demonstrates enhanced learning and reflects research and best practices of experiential education.

Work Connections Description:

- The Work-Connections is a non-credit option for the **Augsburg Experience** utilizing student's employment.
- Project should be a minimum of 80 hours at the work site
- Required reflection paper will focus on self-assessment, understanding of the workplace, application of course knowledge, and an awareness of societal issues that may affect the workplace (4-6 pages double spaced).

Learning Goals for the Work-Connection Augsburg Experience:

- Students will make connections between course concepts (general education and the major) and their work or significant volunteer/community experience.
- Students will gain a broader understanding of the organizations in which they work.
- Students will analyze their talents, skills, and abilities and the contributions they make to their organizations.
- Students will become aware of societal issues and the effects on the workplace.

As you begin this reflection process, consider the various connections you can make between concepts from your general education/liberal arts and major courses to your work-based or volunteer experience.

Upon satisfactory completion of all assignments, your work-based experience will be documented as fulfilling the Augsburg Experience graduation requirement. If you have any questions about the process, please contact:

Cindy Peterson
Strommen Center for Meaningful Work
612-330-1754
petersoc@augsborg.edu

Reflection Paper for Work-Connections – Augsburg Experience:

Name:

Augsburg ID number:

Major:

Email:

Title or short job description

Name of the organization/employer:

1. Introduction:

Begin your reflection paper by summarizing your project proposal and learning objectives

2. Understanding Your Organization

Write a reflection briefly describing your organization (history, purpose, mission and goals, culture, clients/customers/members, organization structure, employee or members development and contributions to the community and society). How has your Augsburg education provided you with new or different insights into your work or volunteer organization of helped you understand your organization from a new or different perspective? How would you evaluate this organization as a “good community and/or corporate citizen”?

3. Value of Experience and Your Contributions to the Workplace and the Community

Through the lens of this experience, write a personal reflection that describes a bit about you as a professional, community member, and learner. Things you might include:

- Description of your personality traits, strengths, skills, talents, abilities and how these characteristics have impacted your professional and personal interests and goals
- How your overall education at Augsburg has impacted your understanding of yourself
- What contributions you have made to your work organization and your work team and/or contributions you made to your community
- Who are the work colleagues or mentors who have influenced you, and how
- What projects and/or leadership did you engage in or would you like to engage in
- How you are integrating vocation into your work and life goals
- What future goals and dreams have been strengthened or changed by this experience

4. Making Connections Between Major Course Concepts, General Education and Your Work or Volunteer/Community Experience

Write a reflection that describes how you applied thoughts, ideas, concepts, knowledge, and skills from some of your courses and/or overall education at Augsburg to your Augsburg Experience and how this particular experience has informed and enhanced your education at Augsburg. Describe new skills developed as part of this process.

5. Becoming Aware of Societal Issues and the Effects on the Workplace

Pick one topic and briefly explain your views and recommendations related to a societal issue that has impacted your work/personal life and/or your work place or the organization where you volunteer. Topics could include things such as: diversity in the workplace/organization, ethics, managing rapid change, competition, media in society, spirituality in the workplace, career and vocation, work transitioning, work-life balance, or other topics of your choice. How has your Augsburg education impacted your understanding and/or perspective?

6. Conclusion

As a conclusion, summarize how this experience has led you to meet your learning objectives for the project.

Send completed paper to: petersoc@augsborg.edu, or drop off at the Strommen Center for Meaningful Work (Christensen Center, Suite 100).