
AUGSBURG Transforming Education

COLLEGE

The Augsburg Experience

The Augsburg Experience (AugEx) enables students to link the liberal arts, classroom knowledge and skills with the larger world and gain first-hand, community-based experience beyond the campus. This signature element is part of Augsburg's general education requirements and underscores the college's commitment to support student engagement in the community and the world as part of their overall Augsburg education, as expressed in the *Augsburg 2004 Vision* document.

The Augsburg Experience provides students with off-campus opportunities for:

- direct involvement with people, organizations, and issues
- first-hand discovery, integration and application of knowledge
- self-discovery through reflective and critical thinking
- exploration of vocation and life-long learning

All students must complete at least one approved AugEx as a requirement for graduation. The Augsburg Experience may be done as *part of the major or outside the major*. The opportunities may be scheduled during the academic year or summers. Augsburg Experiences may be for credit or not for credit.

The Augsburg Experience can be completed through at least one of five learning options typically done *in the Junior and Senior years*:

1. Internships, Cooperative Education (work-based experience related to the major), practicum, field work, clinical, student teaching, including domestic semester programs such as HECUA's MUST and City Arts
2. Extensive Service-Learning or Community-Based Learning Projects that may or may not be course related/embedded
3. Study Abroad programs
4. Faculty-student research with a community/professional application component
5. Approved special/individualized off-campus immersion experiences (domestic or international)

Ideally students will have multiple experiences across the variety of opportunities throughout their years at Augsburg. Each will strengthen their skills and reinforce their knowledge and understanding, equipping them for professional lives and service following graduation.

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CORE CURRICULUM

The core curriculum consists of coursework and experiences that reflect Augsburg's mission ("*. . . to nurture future leaders in service to the world by providing high quality educational opportunities, which are based in the liberal arts and shaped by the faith and values of the Christian Church, by the context of a vital metropolitan area, and by an intentionally diverse campus community.*"). Two components of the core curriculum are particularly connected to civic engagement:

Engaging Minneapolis

First-year day students are required to take this course as an experiential orientation to the community in which they will pursue their college careers. "Engaging Minneapolis" (EM) courses are specially designed courses that make intentional and substantial use of the resources of the Twin Cities as they orient first-year students to the community where they will be studying, living, and working during their college careers.

"Engaging Minneapolis" highlights the importance of Augsburg's urban location. This requirement is embedded in a Liberal Arts Foundation course or other general education requirement. A significant component of the course must engage students in the community and incorporate experiential learning.

Engaging Minneapolis courses should achieve the following goals:

- students should be made more aware of local resources related to the course topic or discipline, and ways in which their education is enriched by being in the Twin Cities metro area
- students should be made more aware of the range of issues in the Twin Cities metropolitan area and how those issues relate to the course topic
- students should have a greater appreciation of the diversity of the Twin Cities (however that diversity may be defined in the context of each course)
- faculty should integrate field experience into the course, and the students in turn should be able to integrate that field experience into their learning in the course

In order to achieve these goals, EM courses must meet the following criteria:

- Minimum of 10 hours off-campus experience (travel time included in the 10 hours)
- Off-campus experience must be clearly indicated in the course syllabus and integrated with classroom instruction.
- 20-25% of the class should deal with the off-campus experience (including indirect connections, such as explaining the metropolitan context or history of cities such as Minneapolis).

Some examples of "Engaging Minneapolis" courses include:

- Environmental and River Politics
- Lifetime Activity: Bicycling Minneapolis
- Introductory Organismal Biology