I. Description of B.A.A.S. Professional Experience Component
Revised by the Senate (SAPC) 2014-01-22

The Professional Experience component of the UW Colleges Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences (B.A.A.S.) degree program includes 15 credit hours for the BAAS liberal arts pathway and 6-15 credit hours for the BAAS applied pathway of experiential learning integrated with academic instruction, and university-level knowledge of a subject acquired outside of a traditional classroom equivalent to an approved UW Colleges B.A.A.S. degree course. The three elements of the professional experience component are internships, service-learning and prior experiential learning in a workplace, workshop/seminar, volunteer organization or a non-profit agency.

II. Guidelines for Professional Experience Courses
Revised by the Senate (FPSC) 2013-04-26

A. Internships

The internship component of the UW Colleges B.A.A.S. degree seeks to further develop the student’s professional skills in an intellectually rigorous manner to merit academic credit. These internships combine classroom-based education with career-related skill development. The internship is arranged with a local business, agency, non-profit or other type of organization. Over an entire academic term, the student’s work is jointly supervised by the instructor offering the course and the employer or community counterpart from the organization.

B. Service-Learning

The central feature of the service-learning component of the UW Colleges B.A.A.S. degree is service to others combined with reflection upon the role of service in community and individual life. Service-learning projects are integrated into a specific course with variable models for the nature of the integration (e.g., throughout the semester or at particular points in the semester). Students have an opportunity to gain direct experience with issues they are studying in the course and engage in efforts to analyze and solve work- or community-related problems in the context of an instructor-supervised project. Projects are often collaborative in nature. Service-learning projects could include volunteer work within public or private schools, community service programs, or agencies focusing on issues such as education, the environment, legal aid, etc.
immigrant support, child care, domestic abuse, veteran support, and other socially oriented services.

C. Prior Experiential Learning

This component provides UW Colleges B.A.A.S. degree-completion students an opportunity to earn up to six credits toward the B.A.A.S. degree for prior experiential learning equivalent to university-level learning. Any UW Colleges B.A.A.S. degree-seeking student will have the option to present a portfolio of university-level knowledge of a subject acquired outside a traditional classroom to a UW Colleges department for evaluation for credit. Evaluation for credit is based on the learning derived from the experience rather than the experience itself. (See IP #141.02.)