



Be a Leader and a Designer in the World

Overview

Learners in this program engage with their communities through innovative accelerated online Experiential Learning Modules (ELMs). ELMs are rich, integrated outcomes-based experiences that allow learners to move forward with increasing depth through practice, repetition, and demonstration of the abilities in varied 21st century contexts.

Each ELM takes a developmental, multi-disciplinary, community-based approach to developing the knowledge and skills required to demonstrate the program's learning outcomes. Each ELM prompts civic engagement and moves the learner away from their computer into their community.

A Sample of Beginning-Level ELMs

Learning at the Beginning Level allows you to expand your awareness of a broad range of issues from a personal and professional perspective. Beginning Level ELMs are all 4 credits.

ACCEL 201: Community-Based Learning

In this ELM, learners explore the core concepts of the program – you as an actor in the world, the various communities you inhabit, and the issues that are alive in these communities. You explore fundamental ideas about identity, analyze and engage the values and realities of various communities, and identify and address questions and challenges that exist in the spaces you experience. This ELM marks the beginning of a new academic journey but invites you to bring all of the experiences of your life so far.

ACCEL 202: Investigating Mindfulness

The goal of learning for this ELM is two-fold. It is designed to teach dimensions of the field of mindfulness through examination of the research in mindfulness and neuroscience. And it is meant to expose learners to mindfulness practices in light of the scientific research to provide access to well developed and long-used techniques that may be of value for living a life as well as helping individuals to address personal issues such as anxiety and depression.

ACCEL 211: Psychology of Prejudice

Learners will become familiar with principles of social cognition that lend themselves to prejudiced attitudes. They will consider prejudice from the perspective of both the biased individual and the target of the biased judgments. They will examine the effects of both individual and systematic efforts to reduce prejudice and examine social structures in their lives from the perspective of prejudice reduction.

ACCEL 220: Literary Analysis & Justice

Students explore the criminal justice system using literary and historical frameworks to analyze novels, contemporary articles on incarceration and research on the death penalty within different communities. This learning gives them the opportunity to reflect on leadership and civic engagement in the context of their own personal and professional development.

ACCEL 221: Everyday Things and Science

In this ELM, we explore what a structure-property framework is and how it helps us understand the world around us. This learning deepens our understanding of and changes our relationships to objects in our everyday life. Additionally, this course informs our decisions and actions as consumers and citizens.

ACCEL 231: Art of the Mystery

Crime fiction is one of the most popular literary genres in the world (the romance genre gets the win). Even those of us who consider ourselves to be compassionate and peace loving, enjoy reading a good mystery novel. Why is that? In ELM, you'll investigate the genre in terms of its aesthetic, historical, and cultural dimensions to discover why many are drawn to a genre that engages the dark side of human nature.

ACCEL 240: Who Owns the Past?

The learner develops an understanding of the creation and purpose of historical monuments and memorials, and engages in reflective practice of their values, what shapes point of view. Learners apply historical context to interpret the values of others, past and present, exploring how values influence choice and perspective in order to defend their views on historic monuments and memorials — past, present *and* future.

ACCEL 241: Health Humanities

Learners will analyze articles, videos, poems, short stories, TED Talks, and novels to develop an understanding of Health Humanities and its existing and potential impact on the ideas, practices, and experiences of health, illness, health care, care receiving, and caregiving. Learners reflect on their own values and beliefs on these topics, and consider how to improve the health and health care of their communities.

ACCEL 250: Religious Pluralism

America is the most religiously diverse country in the world. We are a nation that prides itself on religious freedom and religious tolerance, yet we have and do experience violence and discrimination against religious communities. Religion reaches into all aspects of our society, yet most people do not know much about religions other than their own. The learner reflects on their own spiritual journey as well as engages with unfamiliar religious traditions. In addition, the learner explores how people can and do come together across religious divides to cooperate for the common good.

ACCEL 251: Search for Meaning

What is philosophy and why is it worth studying? The ELM explores philosophical questions: What does it mean to be human? What is the role of self awareness? What is memory? What is knowledge? How can we recognize what we don't know? In the process, learners reflect on the coherence and implications of our reasoning about them.

A Sample of Intermediate-Level ELMs

Learning at the Intermediate Level includes working in an organization (as an employee or volunteer). While working in their selected organization, learners register for 2-credit labs linked to experiential learning modules to structure their application of and reflection on learning in those modules.

ACCEL 301: Investigating Community Issues

In ELM301, the learner examines concepts relating to food as a way to investigate community issues. Some of the themes of the ELM are the meaning of food; the notion that examination of food is a path to identity, culture, and history; the ways in which food related issues reveal issues of race, class, and gender; the significance of national issues around the meat industry; local and global issues around food; and how personal values and moral choices impact our food knowledge and choices.

ACCEL 310: Project Management (4 credits)

This ELM introduces learners to project management and gives them the opportunity to apply the principles and concepts to accomplish important tasks and goals related to today's project orientated organizations. As a result, a new kind of organization is emerging to deal with the accelerating growth in the number of multiple, simultaneously ongoing, and often interrelated projects in organizations.

ACCEL 330: Professional Communication (4 credits)

Learners develop the abilities they need to professionally communicate in and about particular contexts, including proficiency in using appropriate modes for different settings. Learning experiences include exploring an audience-centered model of communication in the context of business writing and professional speaking, identifying and analyzing information needed to create a professional presentation, and analyzing the relationship between mediums and messages.

ACCEL 340: Diversity & Equity (4 credits)

Learners explore identity as an embodied experience and a socially constructed phenomenon. Using critical theory, learners will analyze how identity is constituted through various social and cultural norms. Specifically, learners will analyze identity by exploring how aspects of race, gender, sexuality, class, and immigrant status impact how one navigates and exists in the world.

ACCEL 350: Mindful & Moral Leadership (4 credits)

This ELM introduces learners to leadership models and helps the learner determine models of leadership appropriate to their personality, needs and goals. In the process, learners explore the role of valuing as a dimension of moral decision making and begin to articulate the moral principles that inform their leadership styles.

A Sample of Advanced-Level ELMs

Learning at the Advanced Level includes imagining and implementing an intensive Leadership Initiative. While working on their initiative, learners register for 2-credit labs linked to ELMs that help the implementation of their initiative and evaluate its outcomes.

ACCEL 401: Investigating Your Future

In this ELM, the learner explores concepts and frameworks from a variety of disciplines that help them think about their gifts, skills, and interests, as well as how to more fully manifest them in the world. This ELM prepares the learner for the work of the Advanced Level.

ACCEL 430: Rhetorical Advocacy

This advanced-level ELM helps the learner develop their understanding of what it means to be a rhetorical advocate in various situations. In ELM 430-A, using disciplinary frameworks, the learner will understand the meaning of rhetoric, agency, and rhetorical advocacy/ leadership. Using this understanding as a foundation, the learner will identify what it means to be a rhetorical leader in specific contexts.

ACCEL 460: From Printout to Publication

This ELM takes learners through the process of conceptualizing, writing, critiquing, and editing content whether the goal is to publish a newsletter, blog, book, digital magazine, or website. Along with writing a polished creative piece, learners practice the concepts and skills of close-reading and reviewing professional texts, revising to address a particular audience, and creating a pitch deck for submission to editors. The learner will also explore publishing as a profession.