



The University of Georgia

*Odum School of Ecology*

February 27, 2015

**To:** Experiential Learning Committee

**Subject:** Experiential Learning Plan for the Odum School of Ecology

Dear Committee:

I am writing to inform you of our deliberations on the proposed university-wide experiential learning requirement.

Our OSE curriculum committee met on February 2, 2015, to discuss this proposed requirement, and to develop a plan for how we would implement it here. There was universal support within the committee for the proposal, which I also support.

The committee felt that the requirement would be readily implemented by our school, since our degree program already contains a significant skills requirement. As such, the committee developed a list of classes our students can take to satisfy this requirement, and identified the people who would be responsible for ensuring this requirement is satisfied (Certification Officers).

I am attaching our plan for implementing the experiential learning requirement.

Sincerely,

John Gittleman,  
Dean, Odum School of Ecology

**Odum School of Ecology**  
**Plan for implementing the Experiential Learning Criteria**

**Feb 2, 2015**

The OSE Undergraduate committee met on January 27 2015 to discuss the implementation of the new university-wide experiential learning initiative proposed for fall 2016. The OSE representative on the university committee (Andy Davis, who also is a member of the OSE undergraduate committee) described the concept and criteria for fulfilling the requirement. The committee reviewed all courses that OSE majors currently take, to identify classes that would fulfill the requirement. The list below was created – the committee decided that each of these classes contains a significant emphasis on learning real-world skills, which was a key component to the experiential learning criteria. The committee deemed that if a student took any of these classes, he/she would fulfill the experiential learning requirement.

From the committee’s evaluation of current majors, it was estimated that 90% of students already take one or more of these classes, so the committee felt that this initiative could be readily adopted by the Odum School. Moreover, the committee also felt that allowing students to count selected experiences outside of the classroom, provided they were faculty-sponsored, would also count.

The committee also designated two OSE members who would serve as Certification Officers – Carol Hoffman and Misha Boyd. These individuals would be responsible for advising students on this university requirement, and for evaluating if they have fulfilled it.

**List of ECOL Classes that fulfill Experiential Learning**

ECOL 3050L	Apprenticeship in Ecology
ECOL 3100	Tropical Field Ecology – Costa Rica
ECOL 3510	Ecology Laboratory
ECOL 4261	Museum of Natural History Internship
ECOL 4330	Tropical Marine Invertebrates – Florida Keys
ECOL 4570	Comparative Biodiversity and Land Conservation Policy – Costa Rica
ECOL 4940	Internship in Ecology
ECOL 4960	Research
FANR 3800-3800L	Spatial Analysis of Natural Resources and Laboratory
GEOG 4350-4350L	Remote Sensing of Environment
GEOG 4370-4370L	Geographic Information Science