

AEC 492/493, Learning Experience in Applied Ecology

Course Objective: To provide an academic framework within which students may learn through research related experiences or internships; to apply knowledge of applied ecology gained from academic course work to such learning experiences.

Credits: A maximum of 3 credit hours will be allowed per summer or semester of Learning Experience in Applied Ecology (AEC 492/493). Students will be permitted to earn a maximum of 6 credit hours in AEC 492/493 through any combination of learning experiences. Students completing their projects in the summer may register for AEC 492/493 the following fall.

As a guide, 3 credits of AEC 492/493 should involve ~135 hours of total time commitment (9 hours x 15 weeks).

Types of Experiences:

1. AEC 492/493 can be used for on-campus (AEC 493) or off-campus (AEC 492) learning experiences following approval from the student's advisor and the Applied Ecology Minor Coordinator.
2. Each experience must be a recent project within a year of when you sign up for the credit hours. For example, a second summer experience doing essentially the same thing as a previous summer would not qualify.
3. Each experience must provide specific research experience in one or more aspects of applied ecology. Of particular value are experiences that relate to potential career options.

Grading: S-U grades will be given. Grading will be based on the completeness and quality of the experience and a required presentation at the end of the semester, which will be evaluated by the Applied Ecology Minor Coordinator and AE faculty.

Responsibility of Student:

1. The student is responsible for turning in the completed and signed AEC 492/493 Memorandum of Agreement, signed by the student's advisor, to the Applied Ecology Minor Coordinator **prior to the experience**. The Minor Coordinator will assist the student with registration and filing of the completed application.
2. The student is responsible for arranging the research experience with the employer/supervisor, completing the Memorandum of Agreement, obtaining all signatures, submitting the Memorandum of Agreement to the Minor Coordinator's Office prior to the beginning of the experience, and presenting to the AE faculty by the due date. The Applied Ecology Minor Coordinator will be responsible for reporting the grade to Registration and Records.
3. The student is responsible for carrying out all tasks set forth by the employer/supervisor.

Responsibility of the Supervisor/Mentor:

1. Establish learning experience in Applied Ecology with the student according to these guidelines.
2. The mentor/advisor is responsible for advising the student on preparation of the final presentation
3. Review student's work and, if possible, attend the presentation before the final day of classes. Report to the AE Minor Coordinator (by email) a final grade suggestion for the student of S/U.

PROCEDURES FOR PARTICIPATION IN AEC 492/493

1. Determine the experience to be pursued. Consultation with your academic advisor or Applied Ecology Minor Coordinator is expected.
2. Obtain a copy of the Memorandum of Agreement. Complete this form and obtain the required signatures and the approval of the Minor Coordinator prior to the start of your training period.
3. Submit the completed Memorandum of Agreement to the Minor Coordinator's office prior to the experience. The Minor Coordinator will assist you with registration for the appropriate number of credits based on the number of hours involved.
4. Meet all requirements of the employer/supervisor during the experience period. Consult with your academic advisor as necessary.
5. Prepare and deliver the final presentation to the Minor Coordinator and AE faculty by the last week of class.
6. Have the project supervisor contact the Minor Coordinator with a suggested grade (S/U) **before the final day of classes**.
7. The Minor Coordinator will be responsible for submitting your grade (S or U) to Registration and Records.

GUIDELINES FOR THE FINAL PRESENTATION

You will give a Powerpoint presentation with the specific goals:

1. Presentation will follow a research talk format including title slide, introduction, hypothesis and predictions, methods, results, discussion, and acknowledgements.
 - a. In addition, at the end of the talk during the acknowledgement section the student is encouraged to answer the following question: What you have learned in the context of your course work (specifically) and the field of ecology more generally, providing specific examples
2. Included in the talk should be the broader context of this research and applications/implications of the major findings
3. The talk will not be longer than 10 minutes to allow time for questions

AEC 492/493 - LEARNING EXPERIENCE IN APPLIED ECOLOGY
Memorandum of Agreement

AEC 492/493 _____ Semester: _____

Student name _____

ID# _____ Major _____

Local Address _____

Phone (_____) _____ E-mail _____

Academic Advisor _____ Dept _____

Phone (_____) _____ E-mail _____

AEC 492/493 Employer/Supervisor Name: _____

Location or address:

Phone (_____) _____ E-mail _____

Experience Period: Beginning _____ Ending _____

Hours per Week _____ x Number of Weeks _____ = Total hours _____

Credit hours requested** _____ Credit hours granted** (leave blank) _____

** **Credit hours granted: 1 credit hour per 45 hours worked.**

Semester you will register for AEC 492/493 _____ (Semester) _____ (Year)

 I understand the final presentation is due **the last week of class** _____ (Student's initials)

What are the specific objectives and hypotheses of the project?

