ENTC 399 – High Impact Experience

WHY?
At Texas A&M University we are committed to making our Aggie engineers the most sought-after candidates in the workforce. This requires going beyond the core curriculum in engineering to provide you with skills and experiences which will enhance your engineering degree and thus make you more attractive to employers. Colleges and universities nationwide together with employers and entrepreneurs have studied and recognized a great need to broaden a students’ college experience to better prepare them for their professional lives – The ENGR High Impact Experience is our solution.

HOW?
All College of Engineering students in the Fall 2017 catalog and later must complete a high impact experience in order to graduate. Unlike a traditional course, this is a two-step process. First, you will complete an approved high impact experience on your own. Second, you will register for the 0 credit hour ENTC 399 and complete the requirements for that course. Once those two steps have been satisfactorily met, your degree audit will reflect completion of the required high impact experience. The timeline for ensuring this experience is completed in time to graduate includes:

- Identifying a high impact experience (options are listed below). **If you have questions about whether a high impact experience will count, ASK AN ETID ADVISOR before completing it!**
- Have your experience approved. **This must be completed before the start of the experience!** You can find the links to the forms at etid.tamu.edu under Academic Forms.
- Complete the high impact experience. The experience must be completed by the first semester of your ETID Capstone coursework.
- Register for ENTC 399 (0 credit hours). Your experience must be completed no later than two weeks before the end of the semester in which you register for ENTC 399, but can be completed sooner. While ENTC 399 is a 0 credit hour course, you MUST:
  - Complete a two page self-reflection for the course (see instructions for the reflection paper at the end of this document)
  - Turn in the two page self-reflection by the date assigned during the orientation
- If you have completed an approved High Impact Experience prior to joining the ETID department please visit with an ETID advisor on how to proceed.
- **Only once you have completed the high impact experience AND ENTC 399 with a passing grade, will you be able to graduate.**
Approved High Impact Experiences List

1. Study Abroad Courses and Experiences (pre-approved)
An international travel and study abroad course related to your major. The experience must be two weeks or more in duration and offered through ETID or the College of Engineering. Must be for Texas A&M University course credit of one or more hours.
Proof of completion: An unofficial transcript showing the study abroad course with a grade of C or better.

2. Internship or Co-Op Experience (Form with approval prior to experience is required)
A paid or unpaid internship with a company doing work that is related to your major. Must be ten weeks or more in duration, full-time effort, and taken either during the summer, fall or spring while you are a student in ETID. The internship must be preapproved by your program coordinator or faculty advisor via the attached form prior to the experience. Alternatively, a co-op experience where you register for an ENGR 385 course while working for the company will qualify.
Proof of completion: A signed letter from your immediate supervisor with a short description of the internship/co-op including start and end date. For internships, you must also include your signed internship pre-approval form.

3. Grand Challenge Scholars Program (pre-approved)
A 3-year program beginning in sophomore year. Students meet with a Grand Challenge Faculty Mentor to build a custom curriculum that meets the five GCSP components: Research, Interdisciplinary, Entrepreneurship, Global Perspective, and Service Learning. Students will engage in research and complete a thesis, as well as serving as GCSP Ambassadors. Students will present their research at the Annual Spring Symposium. Detailed information can be found at this link:
http://engineering.tamu.edu/programs/gcsp/program-overview
Proof of completion: Certificate of completion of the program

4. Honors Program (pre-approved)
Students will participate in the University, College, or Departmental Honors Programs and complete no less than twelve hours of honors coursework. More information on these programs can be found at this
Students must complete at least twelve hours of honors coursework prior to the first semester of their senior year.

**Proof of completion:** An unofficial transcript showing at least twelve hours of honors coursework with a grade of C or better.

5. **AggiE_Challenge (pre-approved)**

The program provides engineering undergraduates with opportunities to engage in multidisciplinary team projects addressing elements of some of the most important engineering challenges. Student is required to take a total of 3 hours of courses that contribute to AggiE_Challenge. For more information about Aggie Challenge see: [https://engineering.tamu.edu/easa/areas/enrichment/aggie-challenge/about.html](https://engineering.tamu.edu/easa/areas/enrichment/aggie-challenge/about.html)

**Proof of completion:** An unofficial transcript showing at appropriate ENGR 491 coursework (>= 3 hours) with a grade of C or better.

6. **Startup Aggieland (pre-approved)**

Startup Aggieland is a globally recognized, award-winning, job creation program disguised as a multidisciplinary business accelerator. Students are required to show proof of completion of their Startup Aggieland project to earn credit for their High Impact Experience requirement.

**Proof of completion:** A letter from Startup Aggieland confirming that you completed a minimum of one semester of meaningful activity towards a startup in their incubator.

7. **Undergraduate Research (pre-approved when doing research for a College of Engineering faculty member, otherwise a form with approval prior to experience is required)**

Student must engage in research that pertains to their major with a chosen professor.

In order to earn credit for your High Impact Experience requirement, you must complete 3 hours of 491 coursework with a grade of C or better and be able to furnish a letter of reference from the professor who supervised your research. Must be research with a professor from the College of Engineering. If you are doing research outside of the College of Engineering you must get approval from your program coordinator or faculty advisor.

**Proof of completion:** An unofficial transcript indicating that you successfully completed a minimum of three hours of 491 credit and a reference letter from your faculty supervisor. If your research is with a faculty member outside of the College of Engineering, you must attach the pre-approval form as well.
8. TAMU Minor or Certificate Program (pre-approved)
Student must complete any minor or certificate program offered and recognized by Texas A&M University. Student may choose any valid TAMU minor or certificate program. The coursework for the minor or certificate must be completed at least one semester before your expected graduation date for this to count as your High Impact Experience. In addition, the minor or certificate must include at least six hours of coursework that is not included in coursework being used towards your degree.
Proof of completion: A degree evaluation that indicates successful completion of all minor or certificate requirements.

9. Engineering or Business Competitions (Form with approval prior to experience is required)
Student must receive pre-approval from their program coordinator or faculty advisor. The student must have placed first, second or third in the competition.
Proof of completion: A letter or certificate indicating that you have won 1st, 2nd or 3rd place in the competition. You must also include your signed pre-approval form.

10. Leadership in Student Organizations (pre-approved if the student organization is within ETID, otherwise a form with approval prior to experience is required)
Student must be in a Texas A&M University recognized officer position that is elected (not appointed). This is a pre-approved activity IF the student organization is within ETID. Otherwise the student must receive pre-approval from their program coordinator or faculty advisor.
Proof of completion: A reference letter from the faculty advisor of the organization indicating that you completed a minimum of one semester in an elected officer position. The letter must indicate the value you contributed to the organization. You must also include your signed pre-approval form if the student organization is outside of ETID.

11. Talent Incubator (pre-approved)
Student will be hired through the Talent Incubator through the Industrial Distribution department. The program will be nine months in length and complete a presentation to the company at the end of the program.
Proof of completion: A letter from the Talent Incubator confirming that you completed a minimum of one semester of meaningful activity in their incubator.
12. **Student Research Worker (Form with approval prior to experience is required)**

Students who are hired to work for a faculty or staff member on the TAMU campus. The work must be related to your degree and must be research/development/teaching/training in nature. Administrative and/or office work will not satisfy this requirement. Examples of activities that might be approved include working as a paid undergraduate researcher, working on the development of technical training materials, having responsibility of delivering a STEM workshop, etc. THIS ACTIVITY MUST BE PRE-APPROVED THROUGH YOUR PROGRAM COORDINATOR OR FACULTY ADVISOR AND MUST BE AT LEAST ONE SEMESTER AND NO LESS THAN TEN HOURS/WEEK IN DURATION.

**Proof of completion:** A reference letter from your faculty supervisor indicating that you spent no less than one semester at 10 hours/week of effort and that your efforts were satisfactory. You must also include your signed pre-approval form.

13. **Corp of Cadets Membership (pre-approved)**

Must be enrolled in one of the core of cadets units, Aggie Band, ROTC-Air Force, ROTC-Army or ROTC-Navy/Marine.

**Proof of completion:** Must have successfully registered and completed 3 credit hours of SOMS/band, NVSC, MLSC or AERS sections.

14. **Non Pre-approved Experiences (Form with approval prior to experience is required)**

If you would like to propose a high impact experience that is not listed above, you may submit a one page proposal (see the form at the end of this document) to the advising office that describes the experience, indicates the number of hours of effort, lists a start and end date, and proposes how you will prove successful completion at the end of the experience. This will then be reviewed by the faculty member responsible for ENTC 399 as well as the appropriate program coordinator. APPROVAL FOR A PROPOSED EXPERIENCE MUST BE RECEIVED PRIOR TO START DATE OF THE EXPERIENCE OR IT WILL NOT BE COUNTED.

**Proof of completion:** As proposed by the student. You must also include your signed pre-approval form.
Instructions for the Two-Page Self Reflection

Purpose: The purpose for the self-reflection is for you to summarize the impact that your chosen activity had on you and your education. This self-reflection piece will then be evaluated by the faculty member teaching ENTC 399 and they will determine if you have satisfied your ENTC 399 credit.

Format: Your self-reflection must include the following components:
- a cover sheet with your name, major, type of high impact experience as per the attached list of experiences, the start date, and the end date
- the 2 page reflection should be double-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font with 1” margins on all sides. The reflection should have:
  - a half page summary description of the high impact experience
  - a one and a half page discussion of how the experience impacted you and your education. It should answer the following questions:
    - What did you learn beyond your technical education from this experience?
    - How will you apply this experience to your career and professional life?
    - What recommendations can you make to future students about how to maximize the value of their high impact experience?

- if you are doing a non pre-approved experience, you must attach a signed copy of the approval form
- the proof of completion as specified by the experience chosen

Due Date: The reflection is due the semester in which you are registered for the required ENTC 399 – High Impact Experience course. The actual due date will be given to you during the ENTC 399 orientation meeting.

YOU WILL RECEIVE MORE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS ON EXPECTATIONS DURING THE ENTC 399 ORIENTATION MEETING IN THE SEMESTER THAT YOU ENROLL IN THE COURSE.