

ACES Living-Learning Program Experiential Learning Policy

Experiential Learning Requirement

The ACES Living-Learning Program (ACES LLP) requires three credits of experiential learning as part of the 14 credit curriculum to earn the ACES citation. Three course options are available to complete these credits:

HACS279 Undergraduate Research in Cybersecurity, 1-3 credits HACS287 Undergraduate Research in Cybersecurity, 3 credits HACS297 Cybersecurity Experience Reflection, 3 credits

The University of Maryland considers one credit of experience to be equal to 45 hours; therefore students must complete a total of 135 experiential hours of research or internship. HACS297 is a reflections course that allows participants to reflect on an internship experience; the internship experience itself must be 135 experiential hours.

Timeline

The ACES LLP experiential learning requirement may be completed either during an academic year or during a summer. In order to complete the citation requirements on time students should plan to complete the course credits by the end of the summer following their sophomore year.

HACS279, 287, and 297 are typically all available during the summer term. HACS279 and 287 are available during the summer when the research mentor is available to supervise during that session. HACS297 is offered as an online version during the summer, meeting once per week during the evening hours to accommodate students' internship schedules. HACS297 may not be available during the summer, or may be canceled, if minimum enrollment is not met.

Students completing experiences the summer before enrolling at the University of Maryland may request that the internship hours count for experiential learning as long as it meets all other program requirements, is approved by the ACES LLP Leadership and they are able to complete HACS297 reflecting on that experience in a subsequent semester.

Eligibility

All experiences must be approved by the ACES Leadership. Experiences must be related to cybersecurity and fulfill the hour requirement. Confirmation of the experience's relation to cybersecurity and of the hours completed must be received from the student's supervisor.

Examples of past approved experiences include:

- Internships off campus (Northrop Grumman, NSA, NIST, Google, Parsons, etc.)
- Internships on campus (Division of Information Technology)
- Research experiences with UMD faculty



- Summer REU (research experience for undergraduates) programs at other universities
- Participation on the ACES Competition Team*
- Cybersecurity outreach programs with ACES Leadership (summer camp TAs, CyberPatriot coaches, etc.)

*Participation on the ACES Competition Team may be counted toward the experiential learning requirement, however, there is a cap on the number of hours that may be applied. Students participating on the Competition Team may use up to 45 hours toward their total 135 required experiential learning hours. Competition Team hours must be documented via attendance lists and the advisor's verification of the student's active participation on the team. Competition Team participation hours may be combined with other experiences to reach the total 135 required hours in order to be eligible to reflect on it during HACS297.

HACS279 and HACS287 Undergraduate Research in Cybersecurity

Students who intend to complete research with a UMD faculty member may register for either HACS279 or HACS287 to receive research credits. In order to register for either class students must complete a project proposal. The project proposal describes the project, the planned schedule for the semester, the student's role, and other details. The ACES LLP Leadership will review the proposal and, if approved, grant permission for the student to register for the appropriate course section.

The proposal must be submitted within the first week of the semester in which credit is to be earned. Students should contact ACES LLP Leadership to receive details on completing the proposal.

HACS279 is available for 1-3 credits per semester and is intended for students who plan to complete credits across multiple semesters. HACS287 is 3 credits and is intended for students who plan to complete all 135 hours in one semester. HACS287 is approved for Scholarship in Practice General Education credit.

During the semester there are no course meetings, but students work directly with their faculty mentor to attend project meetings and complete the required hours. Students must submit a mid-semester report to ACES LLP Leadership with updates on the project and progress, as well as a final professional paper detailing accomplishments, challenges, and conclusions. The student's final grade is assigned by their faculty mentor.

HACS297 Cybersecurity Experience Reflection

Students who intend to complete their experiential learning hours through any activity other than on campus research (including internships, competition team, outreach programs, etc.) will complement their experience hours by taking HACS297 (3 credits). HACS297 meets once a week (online during the summer) and course content includes reflecting on 10 or more aspects of the cybersecurity experience as well as facilitating sharing so students may learn from each other's experiences. Students may complete HACS297 following the completion of their 135 hours or concurrently with their internship or other experience so long as the 135 hours are completed before the conclusion of the course.



In order to gain permission to register for HACS297 students should contact ACES LLP Leadership. Students will be asked to provide details on their experience hours to confirm they're eligible for HACS297 and will then be granted permission to enroll. Students must contact ACES LLP Leadership by the end of the first week of classes in which they plan to enroll.