ThinkAchieve Course Designation: Beyond the Classroom
Guidelines
http://www.utc.edu/think-achieve/experiential-learning.php

ThinkAchieve is UTC’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) for SACS reaccreditation. The QEP focuses on the development of student critical thinking skills. Experiential learning – learning through experience – is one way to promote these skills. In order to recognize students who participate in experiential learning through classes and faculty who offer such course sections, the Faculty/Staff Application to Offer Beyond the Classroom (BTC) Course/Experience has been developed. Approved applications will result in a BTC designation being placed as an attribute code in the course sections listing.

Experiential learning engages students beyond the classroom in projects that encourage them to apply their knowledge and skills in a practical setting. For example, experiential learning may involve students in a community setting such as business, nonprofit, community service, or government, encouraging them to examine, apply, practice, and reflect. Experiential learning may also involve study abroad, internships, and capstone and culminating experiences. The essential component of experiential learning that is common among experience types is that students engage in critical reflection before, during, and after the experience.

Students who successfully participate in designated courses can earn points toward a Think Achieve Experiential Learning Graduation Distinction, including a designation on their official University Transcript and recognition at UTC’s Commencement Ceremony. To see complete awards opportunities for students, please visit: http://www.utc.edu/think-achieve/beyond/index.php.

Faculty who successfully apply for designation of a course will be designated as Beyond the Classroom Faculty. Additionally, Beyond the Classroom Grants are available for participating faculty. For more information on both of these opportunities, see http://www.utc.edu/think-achieve/.

Program Requirements

- Submit a graded evaluation rubric for each student no later than the last day to submit grades.
- Notify the Experiential Learning Coordinator of any changes to the designated section

Eligibility, Designation Cycle, Selection Criteria and Process

The Faculty/Staff Application to Offer Beyond the Classroom (BTC) Course/Experience is open to individuals and small teams of UTC faculty and staff. Collaboration across departments and with community partners is encouraged. All part-time and full-time faculty and staff are eligible to apply. Experiences offered by staff equivalent a semester long course section may also be used to complete the application.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and considered on a monthly basis by an inter-disciplinary committee using the criteria shown in the rubric on the next page. The last dates for applications for Fall Designation are due on February 1, for Spring Designation the due date is September 1. Applicants will be
notified within a month of these dates. Applications should be submitted to Bengt-Carlson@utc.edu by the 1st of the month.

Faculty/Staff Application to Offer *Beyond the Classroom (BTC)* Course/Experience Evaluation Rubric: approved applications must fully achieve all criteria in the rubric.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Does Not Achieve</th>
<th>Somewhat Achieves</th>
<th>Fully Achieves</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Linkage of course learning goals to ThinkAchieve student learning outcomes</td>
<td>There is little or no connection of course learning goals to ThinkAchieve student learning outcomes</td>
<td>Connection of course learning goals described for 1 or 2 ThinkAchieve student learning outcomes</td>
<td>There are clear connections of course learning goals to 3 ThinkAchieve student learning outcomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence of critical reflection plan</td>
<td>No description of evaluated reflection products included in application.</td>
<td>Description for plan includes either Pre, ongoing or post project reflection</td>
<td>Description for plan includes evaluated Pre, ongoing or post project reflection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experiential learning is a component of this project.</td>
<td>Description of project does not include experience</td>
<td>Description includes an example of experience with some relation to the discipline</td>
<td>Project’s offering of experience based knowledge of the discipline is thoroughly described</td>
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