

## **Signature Experience Program Berry College Quality Enhancement Plan**

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In the Signature Experience Program students engage in thorough reflection of a signature, high-impact experience and its relationship to their broader college learning, with the purpose of deepening overall impact.

This program has three parts: 1) completion of a Signature Learning Experience and Application to the program, 2) completion of BCC 300: Signature Experience Seminar, and 3) completion of a professional ePortfolio, which is integrated into BCC 300. The Signature Experience Program uses a specially designed Signature Experience Seminar to deepen student insight into Signature Learning Experiences through guided exercises, so they will be able to:

1. evaluate their own learning and personal development through reflection and analysis;
2. connect their Signature Learning Experience with other curricular and life experiences to broaden their thinking; and
3. articulate the meaning and impact of their learning and growth to a broader audience.

The Signature Experience Seminar (BCC 300) is a one-credit course that requires students to identify a signature experience and then analyze it in multiple ways, as part of a cohort, with guidance from a mentor. The Signature Experience Seminar's emphasis on reflection, analysis, and integration builds on decades of research about how to optimize immersive experiences such as study abroad, community engagement, and internships. The larger purpose of this initiative is for students to reflect on and understand the fullness of their Berry College experience in the context of reflecting on the Signature Learning Experience (SLE). For the purposes of this program, SLEs at Berry College are defined as high-impact practices that mostly take place outside of the classroom, such as study abroad, internships, undergraduate research, leadership positions in the Berry College LifeWorks program, sustained community-engaged projects, and other experiential learning activities that fit the criteria. A large percentage of our student body already complete experiences of this nature; this program serves to amplify students' metacognitive engagement with these experiences through the process of evaluation, connection, and articulation. To this end, the instructor will also guide them through successful completion of an ePortfolio, in which students tell their story and articulate their learning in a creative and multifaceted way.

Over the course of the next four years, we will offer the Signature Experience Seminar to 30% of the graduating class. We believe this program will provide important lessons about how to analyze, synthesize, and share one's own learning as a junior and senior. It will also provide insight into how students can best identify appropriate high-impact experiences as early as the first and second year. In looking ahead, Berry is working to develop structures and experiences by which all students will engage with their own personal and professional development. In this regard, we view the Signature Experience Program as an important project that will inform and be incorporated into a larger effort.