

Applied Learning

Student Centered. Innovation Driven.

Today, WSU is internationally recognized as a model for applied learning and research. Every university initiative is rooted in a commitment to being student-centered and innovation-driven. Our degree programs are steeped in the belief that learning by doing is the most effective way to prepare our students for the complexities of the modern workforce. Our students apply classroom knowledge in practical settings, developing critical skills and gaining real-world experience. Applied learning encompasses a variety of activities including service learning, undergraduate research, theses, dissertations, and other creative (e.g., live performances) and professional services (e.g., practicums, internships, clinical rotations and cooperative education). By offering applied learning opportunities, such as those championed on WSU's Innovation Campus with on-campus industry partners, students not only gain valuable experience but also build career networks, minimize student debt, and launch successful careers -- even before they graduate.

Shockers enjoy a wide range of applied learning opportunities designed to enhance their education and prepare them for their future careers.

These opportunities include:

- Student Employment
 - Applied Learning Placements: paid, WSU-facilitated jobs with local industry partners that build skills that go beyond classroom learning.
 - Co-ops: paid, multi-semester positions directly related to a student's major. Students can earn academic credit.
 - Internships: gain hands-on experience in professional settings through paid or unpaid internships. These can be completed full-time or part-time, with options to earn academic credit or participate for zero credit.
- Practicum and Clinical Placements: practical experience in professional settings that is tied to specific degree programs (such as nursing or social work) and required for graduation.
- Service Learning and Volunteering: classroom learning combined with public service that benefits educational goals while also meeting community needs. Students can create their own project or work with local public agencies and nonprofits.
- Student Research: engage in individualized research projects under faculty supervision, culminating in a presentation of work as a thesis, project or dissertation. Student research at WSU may be conducted on or off campus, independently or in collaboration with faculty, peers and industry professionals.
- Mentorships: connecting with a professional in the student's future area of employment. Mentors provide expertise, guidance and industry contacts.

Want to know more? Visit the Applied Learning website (<https://wichita.edu/appliedlearning/>) or visit the Shocker Career Accelerator in the Marcus Welcome Center, Suite 139, call us at 316-978-3688, email us at SCA@wichita.edu.