

INITIATIVE BRIEF

CLASSROOM TO CAREER



UTSA's Classroom to Career Initiative further develops and promotes experiential learning opportunities for students, including those that occur outside the classroom such as internships, service learning, undergraduate research, study abroad and more.

INITIATIVE LAUNCH September 2018

OVERVIEW

Experiential learning can greatly augment classroom instruction and have a profound impact on student learning outcomes and career success. The Classroom to Career initiative will develop an integrated, campus-wide framework to identify, connect and align existing experiential learning programs and to pursue partnerships that could lead to new or expanded programs. As a critical part of this process, the task force will reach out widely to community partners to gather their input.

THE CHALLENGE

In the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) conducted in the spring of 2017, 35% of UTSA seniors responded that they had participated or were currently participating in an internship, co-op, field experience, student teaching or clinical placement—lower than the rate of 51% for seniors at all surveyed institutions across the U.S. In the same NSSE survey, 75% of first-year UTSA students said that they planned to pursue one of these opportunities while at UTSA, indicating a high level of student interest in this area. The Classroom to Career initiative fills this important opportunity gap.

THE IMPACT

Experiential learning facilitates a fuller understanding of the real-world applications of students' classroom learning. UTSA is aiming to have 75% of all students participate in some form of experiential learning by the time they graduate. The resulting increase in student engagement will directly support UTSA's student retention efforts. Finally, by expanding UTSA's co-curricular and extracurricular learning options, the university will strengthen existing relationships in the San Antonio community and cultivate new partnerships.

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION**

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BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

- » Develops fuller understanding of practical applications of classroom learning
- » Explores career interests before graduation
- » Gains marketable skills to improve career success
- » Engages in research-related scholarship
- » Acquires real-world experience to build resumé
- » Prepares for graduate studies

BENEFITS TO SAN ANTONIO

- » Increases university connections to area businesses, non-profits and government organizations
- » Places UTSA interns throughout the San Antonio community and beyond
- » Facilitates workforce development by preparing students for careers and to be the leaders of tomorrow

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- » Internships
- » Co-ops
- » Field experiences
- » Service learning