

**Approaches to meeting the MCB/COT Experiential Learning Degree Requirement:  
Internship, BUSN 489/TECH 489, and Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)**

***Guidelines for DU Academic Advisors & Students***

**Which Experiential Learning Path Might Be Right for Me?**

<b>Considerations</b>	<b>Internship with Employer</b>	<b>BUSN 489 or TECH 489 Courses</b>	<b>Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)</b>
Degree Relevant Work Experience:	Less than 1 year	1 - 2 years	3+ years
Recommended For:	Traditional-aged and career change students without substantial professional work experience in their field of study	Students already working in their field of study	Students already working in their field of study and who are highly self-directed and work well independently

**How Much Time Does Each Experiential Learning Path Take?**

<b>Internship with Employer</b>	<b>BUSN 489 or TECH 489 Courses</b>	<b>Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waitlist at YLS preferred</li> <li>• Course application is a one month window each semester</li> <li>• 12 or 15 week class</li> <li>• 50 work hours at internship site per credit hour</li> <li>• 6 hours RTV class time</li> <li>• Course assignments: papers, journals, &amp; presentations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enrollment at any time</li> <li>• 12 or 15 week class</li> <li>• 45 hours class time</li> <li>• Students serve as project consultants for live field-based client</li> <li>• Course assignments: papers, journals, presentations, direct e-mail, video chat, or phone meetings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 month application to completion of academic assessment</li> <li>• 0 required class time</li> <li>• Can take optional PLA Portfolio Development class (PLAA 150) to assist in completing PLA</li> <li>• Portfolio completion time dependent on student organization and skill level</li> </ul>

**Definitions**

**INTERNSHIP** is defined as a “structured work-based learning experience, within an approved host organization, for which a student earns academic credit. This experience may be paid or unpaid, based on the program.” Internships require 50 hours of on-site experience per credit hour (3 credits = 150, 4 credits = 200, 6 credits = 300) and are encouraged for all students.

**BUSN 489 and TECH 489** courses are designed as an alternative to an internship for students with relevant work experience. They were developed for adult students in 2014 when an experiential learning (EL) requirement was implemented for all MCB and COT students. [BUSN 489 & TECH 489 are not available as options in all MCB & COT majors. Please consult the catalog to determine availability of the courses for a specific major.](#)

**PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT (PLA)** is defined as a process by which students may be evaluated for credit based on the college-level learning they can demonstrate from previous professional, personal, and community experiences. Students with relevant experience can complete a portfolio for assessment to earn credit for 290, 490, and 790 level internships in the MCB and COT. [PLA is not available for BUSN 489 or TECH 489.](#)

## **BUSN 489 & TECH 489 Course Descriptions & Learning Outcomes**

### **BUSN 489 Course Description:**

This course provides students the opportunity to apply discipline-related knowledge through live, field-based projects with organizational clients from diverse industries and sectors, including entrepreneurs, small businesses, and non-profit organizations, among others. Teams of three to five students, with support of faculty, provide data, analysis, and recommendations designed to help clients achieve new insights on organizational challenges and to impact growth. This course is one option to meet the Experiential Learning requirement in the D.W. Maine College of Business.

Prerequisite(s): Senior status; minimum cumulative GPA of 2.3.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

**Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:**

1. Propose solutions to a specific business problem in a summative research report.
2. Determine the scope of an experiential business project that considers all resource constraints.
3. Demonstrate project management skills in work with the project community stakeholders
4. Relate experiential learning to disciplinary knowledge through systematic reflection

### **TECH 489 Course Description:**

This course provides students the opportunity to apply discipline-related knowledge through live, field-based projects with organizational clients from diverse industries and sectors, including entrepreneurs, small businesses, and non-profit organizations, among others. Teams of three to five students, with support of faculty, provide data, analysis, and recommendations designed to help clients achieve technological advances to solve organizational challenges and to impact growth. This qualifies as an Experiential Learning option within the College of Technology. Prerequisite(s): Senior status and minimum GPA of 2.3.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

**Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:**

1. Propose technology solutions to a specific business problem in a summative research report.
2. Determine the scope of an experiential business project that considers all resource constraints.
3. Demonstrate project management skills in working with the project community stakeholders.
4. Relate experiential learning to disciplinary knowledge through systematic reflection

### **Sample BUSN 489 & TECH 489 Client Projects**

#### **BUSN 489:**

- Business and marketing plans/feasibility studies
- Market research & analysis
- Accounting & Finance systems
- Human resources materials development

#### **TECH 489:**

- Technology systems requirements planning
- Web page and database development
- Mobile app requirements
- Security and disaster recovery recommendations

### **For more information:**

#### **Internships:**

<https://my.davenport.edu/internships>

#### **BUSN 489 & TECH 489:**

<https://my.davenport.edu/experiential-learning/business-industry-projects>

#### **PLA:**

<https://my.davenport.edu/experiential-learning/prior-learning-assessment-pla>