Honors Self- Designed Proposal

Complete this proposal **prior** to your experience’s start date and upload it in the UHP Database (<https://webapps.uc.edu/uchonorsstudent>). Create an experience (“Add a new record”) in the “Tracking Project” tab and upload your proposal document as an attachment. The deadline for [submitting proposals](http://www.uc.edu/honors/experiences/experiencesubmission.html) is the 5th of each month (excluding July).

Proposals are intended to be well developed plans for your experience. However, experiences are exploratory in nature, and we are flexible with changes throughout the experience. If your experience changes after receiving approval on your proposal, contact your honors advisor to verify the changes still satisfy the requirements of an honors experience.

**Basic Information**  
Full Name: Jim Ohler

Title of Project: Engaging in the “Other Side” of the Community

Thematic Area(s): Community Engagement

Expected Start Date: June 6th, 2015

Expected End Date: July 29th, 2015

**Guidelines**

1. Proposal submission timeline: Proposals should be submitted at least one month prior to the expected start date of the experience. International experiences require at least two months’ notice. Contact your honors advisor immediately for any exceptions.
2. Proposal length: While the quality of the proposal is most important, strong proposals are typically 3-4 pages single-spaced.
3. Proposal format: Please maintain the proposal format (e.g. headers, layout)
4. Time commitment: Experiences should consist of at least 75-90 hours of preparation, execution, and reflection. This is approximately equivalent to the commitment of honors seminars and pre-approved experiences.

**Requirements for International Travel**

All self-designed international travel experiences require two months’ notice and must be at least one week in length. You will need to provide a detailed itinerary (dates, locations and activities). If participating in independent travel (not with UC faculty, staff or student group), you must also fill out a [Worldwide: Honors Experience application](http://studyabroad.uc.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&Program_ID=10217) via UC International.

Additionally, the [Student Travel Policy](http://www.uc.edu/content/dam/uc/about/docs/university_policies/student_travel_policy.pdf) restricts UC-sponsored travel to countries under a [U.S. Department of State Travel Warning](http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/alertswarnings.html). Those who wish to visit a country with a travel warning must seek an [exemption](http://www.uc.edu/international/study-abroad/applying-to-study-abroad/travel-restrictions---exemptions.html) through UC International. Students traveling without a faculty or staff leader must individually request an exemption. ***We cannot allow you to count this travel as an honors experience nor can we give you a grant without an approved exemption.***

1. **Abstract**

*Briefly describe the experience. What makes this experience personally meaningful? What goals do you have for this experience? What is your timeline for this experience?*

*\*If you are proposing an international experience, provide an itinerary.*

*\*\*If you are developing this experience from an existing opportunity (class with a study tour, campus organization, co-op, etc.) that is not already an honors seminar or pre-approved experience, how will you differentiate your experience from what is already required of other students?*

My experience would consist of a program from my hometown called Serving our Neighbors Ministry (SON) where kids who get free or reduced lunches during the school year, come and get a free meal during the summertime. Along with serving them food, we also play games with them and bring in people from the community, like police officers and dog trainers, to teach them lessons about the community. This is experience would be meaningful to me as I have volunteered with the program for over 3 years now and also makes a direct impact on the people in my community every single day. I plan by the end of the summer to be able to connect with the kids who might be in a different socioeconomic class than me and see how they view our community that we share. The SON Ministries program starts June 6th and ends July 29th, so that will be my start and finish dates for my experience.

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| **Advisor Feedback** | | |
| Must Include:  Brief description of the experience  Personal connection to the experience  Identified goals for the experience  Timeline from start to finish  \*Itinerary (international experiences only)  \*\*Explanation of differentiated experience from what is required of other students | Required Revisions: | Effective: |

1. **Experience Advisor**

*Identify an experience advisor and provide their contact information. Explain why you chose this person and how you plan to utilize your advisor for this experience.*

Note: Advisor(s) should have knowledge or expertise in an area related to the experience. Honors advisors, undergraduate students, and family members cannot be experience advisors.

Kim Emch: 614-586-7939

Kim Emch was chosen because she was the founder of the organization SON Ministries and has been putting SON Ministries on for 9 years now and saw the initial problem that was needed in our community.

I will be meeting with her every week on Fridays after we have our weekly staff meeting.

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| **Advisor Feedback** | | |
| Must Include:  Experience advisor name and contact information  Description of why advisor was selected  Specific plans to engage with advisor | Required Revisions: | Effective: |

1. **Connection to Learning Outcomes**

*List 3* [*learning outcomes*](#ThematicAreas) *from any thematic area(s). Provide specific activities you plan to engage in to help you make progress towards the chosen learning outcomes. Describe how you expect each activity to help your progress. Include an estimated time commitment for those activities.*

I hope to identify and differentiate multiple ways to contribute towards the development or achievement of the community’s goals. Now that I’m in college and have turned 18, I am allowed to have more responsibility in the running of SON Ministries. In the past I have only been a teen intern and was not given all the responsibilities in the program. Now that I’m old enough, I have a say in the planning of each day and have full responsibility throughout the program. This responsibility will help expand how I will be able to help the community because instead of just helping out in the program when I can, I can now have a say in how we run the program. With this ability, I will be able to better achieve my community’s goal of feeding kids. This will happen most clearly every Friday when we have weekly meetings about the plans for the following week.

I hope to develop a thorough understanding of the world view, beliefs, experiences, self-consciousness, or history of community members through collaboration. I plan on doing this by engaging with the kids that attend SON Ministries and hearing their story that they share. Many of the kids that come to SON Ministries have grown up very different than me and hearing their stories will help me realize the other side of my community that I had not seen until I had joined SON Ministries. This will happen every day that I am at SON Ministries while we are eating lunch with the kids.

Another learning outcome I plan to connect with is to understand and optimize the use of people, technology, physical resources or community in a creative process. At SON Ministries, we have limited resources as we are run solely on donations and government aid. Along with that there are only 3 fully paid staff members for an organization that serves lunches to 650+ kids every day. Because of this, SON has had to be creative to run properly. One thing I have learned is to recruit teen volunteers to help do a lot of the work such as distributing lunches and cleaning up the lunch room after the kids are done eating to let the adults focus on leading the games for the kids. We also give each kid their own code so we know if they showed up, if they have gotten lunch already, or if they have any food allergies. We will think of a more creative ideas to implement during our planning meetings every week.

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| **Advisor Feedback** | | |
| Must Include:  3 learning outcomes explicitly identified from any thematic area(s)  Examples of activities and explanation of how each will assist the progress towards the chosen learning outcome  Estimated time commitment for each activity | Required Revisions: | Effective: |

1. **Academic Resources Connected to the Learning Outcomes**

*List 1-2 academic resources you plan to use to enhance your understanding of the learning outcomes. Explain how each resource connects to your learning outcome(s) and helps you execute your experience. Please include the title and author/creator for each resource.*

Note: Academic resources are professional works that can be used to assist your understanding of the topic. Some examples are books, documentaries, videos, or research journals.

One academic resource I would use is a research paper called *Motivating Kids in Physical Activity* by Maureen R. Weiss which is about getting kids to use physical activity, such as games, and how it affects kid’s self-esteem and how they perceive themselves. This could help me because along with feeding the kids lunch, we also play games such as tag, dodgeball, and basketball. This reading could help link the physical activity we are doing with how well the kids perceive themselves and boost their confidence in life.

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| **Advisor Feedback** | | |
| Must Include:  1-2 academic resources connected to the learning outcomes  Title and author of each resource  Description of how resources will help make progress towards learning outcomes and execution of experience | Required Revisions: | Effective: |

1. **On-going Reflection**

*The on-going reflection should help you process the experience and progress toward your chosen learning outcomes. Describe your method for reflecting throughout the experience. Indicate specific reflection questions/topics you plan to use to guide your reflective process.*

Note: A variety of methods can be used for on-going reflection. Some examples are videos, drawings, blogs, songs, and journals. Reflection topics to consider include your ideas/insights about the experience, connection to other areas of involvement, and your progress towards the learning outcomes.

A way that I can do ongoing reflection is through a daily journal that I keep track of what I do each day. Some of the topics I could talk about are the stories that the kids tell me which help me see what it is like to live through their eyes. I could also write about how the lessons that the kids learn at SON Ministries could also impact my life.

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| **Advisor Feedback** | | |
| Must Include:  Method for ongoing reflection  Reflection questions/topics clearly specified | Required Revisions: | Effective: |

1. **Sharing Your Learning**

*Describe how you plan to actively share what you’ve taken away from this experience with a targeted audience. Explain why you chose this specific audience.*

Note: While social media can be an effective platform for sharing, only posting on your personal learning portfolio or social media account(s) does not reach a targeted audience.

A way I plan on sharing what I have taken away from my experience at SON Ministries is through TV. At SON in the past we have had local TV stations come and do stories of what we have been doing and interviewing people involved with SON. I would be able to, if I asked Kim Emch, to be one of the people interviewed and I could share my experience to my community. By sharing it locally, I would be able to tell the people in my community of how great of an experience I had in a place so close to home and affects them directly.

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| **Advisor Feedback** | | |
| Must Include:  At least one method to actively share take-aways/learning from the experience  A specific audience and why the audience was selected | Required Revisions: | Effective: |

1. **Budget (if applicable)**

*Provide an itemized budget and indicate your source for cost information.*

*\*If you are engaged in an unpaid internship or research, please indicate the number of weeks and hours per week you plan to participate.*

**No Budget**

I plan on being a part of the SON Ministries team for 8 weeks during the summer with 25 hours per week.

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| **Advisor Feedback** | | |
| Notes:  Detailed budget of expenditures with sources to justify budget estimates  \*Indicates the number of hours per week and number of weeks of participation | Required Revisions: | Effective: |

**Thematic Area Learning Outcomes**

**Learning Outcomes for the Community Engagement Thematic Area:**

By engaging in this thematic area, you will make progress towards learning how to…

* Identify and differentiate multiple ways to contribute towards the development or achievement of the community’s goals.
* Develop a thorough understanding of the world view, beliefs, experiences, self-consciousness, or history of community members through collaboration.
* Articulate the purpose of service on a social issue or public policy and how service mutually enhances individual growth and the common good.
* Explain how education, advocacy, mobilization, or public policy can influence social issues and transform communities.

**Learning Outcomes for the Creativity Thematic Area:**

By engaging in this thematic area, you will make progress towards learning how to…

* Discover new techniques to gain knowledge, consider options, make new connections, and ask questions.
* Explore a new creative competency/medium or seek new ways to engage an existing competency/medium.
* Understand and optimize the use of people, technology, physical resources or community in a creative process.
* Articulate the broader significance of a creative project and the value of its contributions.

**Learning Outcomes for the Global Studies Thematic Area:**

By engaging in this thematic area, you will make progress towards learning how to…

* Develop practical travel skills that promote safe, stimulating, and productive travel throughout your life.
* Summarize the interconnectedness of geography, history, cultural traits and world issues.
* Articulate the interdependence of professional fields to address current and impending global issues such as technology, the environment, human rights, or politics.
* Demonstrate an understanding of cultural diversity by acknowledging the impact of their own identity and the experience of social norms, customs, or beliefs that are different from their own.
* Demonstrate a sense of empathy, respect, and appreciation for others to build meaningful cross-cultural collaborations toward mutual growth and prosperity.

**Learning Outcomes for the Leadership Thematic Area:**

By engaging in this thematic area, you will make progress towards learning how to…

* Formulate and manage a shared vision and develop goals towards its achievement.
* Motivate and collaborate effectively with others towards completion of shared projects or goals.
* Develop strategies to identify and respond to challenges and obstacles.
* Identify personal strengths and areas of growth and evaluate opportunities to maximize skills and abilities.
* Synthesize the current trends related to a specific issue or field and evaluate how thought-leaders are currently addressing them.

**Learning Outcomes for the Research Thematic Area:**

By engaging in this thematic area, you will make progress towards learning how to…

* Demonstrate the ability to locate, interpret, and critically evaluate primary sources appropriate to field.
* Identify and apply appropriate methods to collect and organize data for analysis.
* Analyze and interpret the meaning of results.
* Produce dissemination appropriate to the field in order to share the results or impact of the research.
* Articulate the broader significance of the research project and its relationship to other fields, research and ideas.