

Self Study Learning Contract 2007-2008

Undergraduate Leadership Program

1813 Hinman Avenue
ulp@northwestern.edu

847-467-1367
www.northwestern.edu/ulp

Student's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Overview

Contract learning involves the forging of an agreement between ULP and you to design a project for you to complete. You set, with program approval:

1. Your goals,
2. The methodology or pedagogy that will govern the achievement of those goals,
3. The criteria or instruments of evaluation that will demonstrate whether the agreed upon goals have been met.

Area I: Self-Study Goals

A key resource to help you identify your goals is the "Leadership Self-Study Information & Expectations" material. As you consider the information and our expectations, ask yourself, "what would be fun to explore and will also be interesting and worthwhile to me?" As you refine ideas, be sure that your goals are achievable in the here and now. You should also consider ideas that you can share with others and that advance your personal and professional aspirations. Finally, your goals should specifically address how they will help you lead others.

List no more than 3 concrete and specific goals for your self-study:

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Area II: Methodology

Once you have set your goals and decided exactly what it is you want to do, you are then faced with the task of determining how best to achieve your objectives; you must select a methodology (or pedagogy). You are most likely to achieve something significant if you have carefully considered how best to achieve what you desire. If you can specify evidence and criteria to measure your goals it becomes easier to achieve them.

List the key action steps you need to take to achieve your goal:

Then, for each action step, identify:

- a. How we will know the action step has been achieved*
- b. The timeframe or date by which that action step will be complete.*

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Area III: Evaluation Criteria

How will you demonstrate your learning? What evidence can you gather or what capability can you develop that can be demonstrated afterwards to prove that you have achieved your stated goals? It is your task to explain what is to be evaluated in terms of your goals, to establish criteria for evaluation, and to demonstrate that you have accomplished what you set out to do.

Briefly describe the specific criteria that you and we will use to assess whether you have achieved each of your self-study goals. Be sure to include the evidence you will present to us.

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Area IV: The Bottom Line

Contract learning takes advantage of the fact that you learn most quickly and powerfully what you are immediately interested in and see a use for; i.e., your own questions are usually the most compelling.

In 1 sentence, describe the most compelling question for you that you plan to answer for the self-study:

Area V: Program Approval

A valid learning contract requires the approval signatures of the following two people:

Student

ULP Sponsor

If your project is sponsored by an on- or off-campus organization, the signature and contact information of an executive sponsor from that organization is also required.

Off-Campus Sponsor

Phone Number

Email Address

A final reminder: have fun and be creative!

(The contract learning principles and text are adapted from University of Colorado Professor Ronald Billingsley.)