

MEMO: Advising Students on the Expanded Classroom Experience
FROM: Gregory Fried, Chair of the ECR Subcommittee
TO: All Suffolk CAS Faculty and Advisors
DATE: Oct. 1, 2007

As of Fall 2007, there is a new element to the CAS Core for all Suffolk students entering with less than 45 transfer credits: the Expanded Classroom Requirement (ECR). This requirement builds on Suffolk's tradition of relating academic learning to practical experience. Our goal is to provide exciting educational opportunities for our students to develop their skills beyond the traditional classroom.

The ECR may only be fulfilled by courses of three or more credits or by programs approved by the CAS faculty in which students receive passing grades. Approved courses will involve at least 25 hours of ECR activity. Students may fulfill the ECR in approved courses or programs that use one of the items listed below:

- **Study Away.** This includes study abroad and domestic study in other regions of the United States, through programs approved by the college.

- **Study Tours.** Study tours are different from study away in that they are not primarily linked to a host institution other than Suffolk University. Instead, a Suffolk instructor leads students in the study of a subject matter that involves substantial travel away from campus in a credit-bearing course.

- **Field Work:** A course with a fieldwork component differs from a study tour in that the fieldwork involves the practical application of methods and theories being studied in the course.

- **Internships and Cooperative Learning:** Internships and cooperative learning include a wide variety of educational experiences in which the student works in an actual professional, educational or service context.

- **Service Learning.** Service learning involves working with a community service provider in the context of an academic course.

- **Sequenced ECR Coursework:** Students may fulfill the ECR by completing a sequence of related courses within an academic department that, in combination, complete the ECR.

- **Linked Learning:** This category includes all activities that satisfy the engaged learning goals of the ECR but which do not fall into any of the other categories listed above. Students interested in designing a Linked Learning project, together with a faculty mentor, must present a proposal to the ECR committee. Students interested in designing a Linked Learning project, together with a faculty mentor, must present a proposal to the ECR committee as semester in advance of the proposed Linked Learning course.