

Agricultural Externship: Innovating Experiential Curriculum Design

The Morningside College
Applied Agricultural and Food Studies Program

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Why Morningside? We were here before! (1945–1996)

- Applied Agricultural and Food Studies curriculum is built upon an educational philosophy that:
 - Empowers students with broad academic knowledge
 - Provides transferrable skills
 - Strong sense of values, ethics, and civic engagement
 - Integrates quality coursework and...

Real World Experience



What is the Curriculum?

- Major in Applied Agricultural and Food Studies – B.S.
- Areas of Study (Minors)
 - Agricultural Studies (for non-agriculture majors)
 - Agribusiness
 - Agronomy
 - Environmental Policy/Law
 - Food Safety



Real-World Experience



I hear and I forget. I see
and I remember. I do
and I understand.

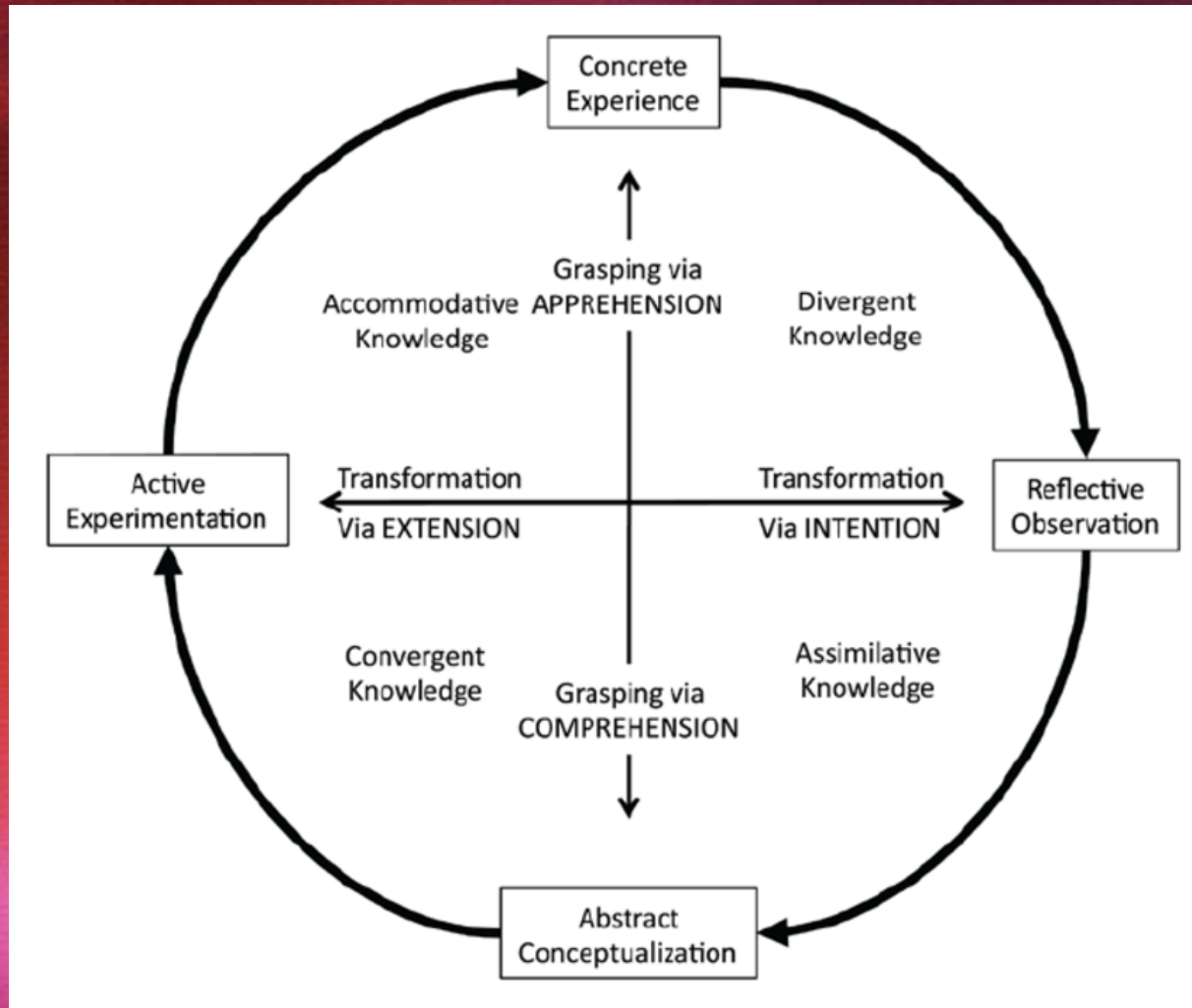
Confucius

Retrieved from: <http://thequotes.in/>



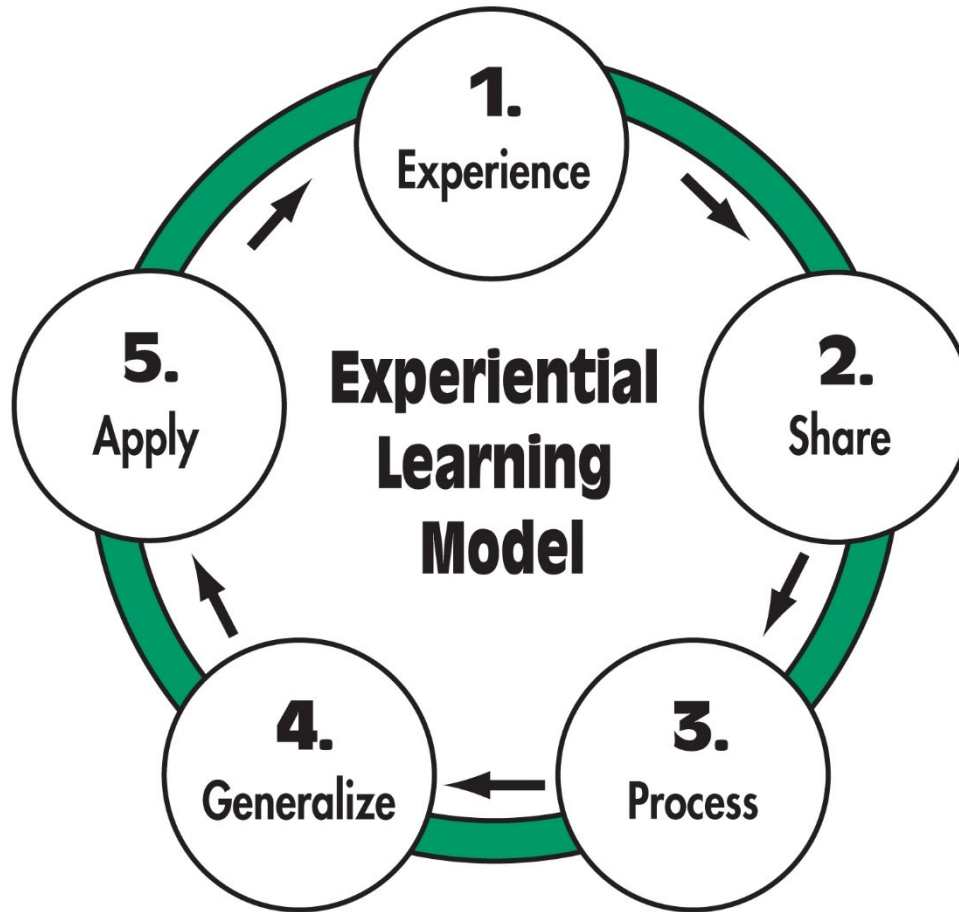
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Kolb's Model



Kolb (1984). Model of Experiential Learning. *Experiential Learning: Experience as the Source of Development* (p. 42)

4-H Model



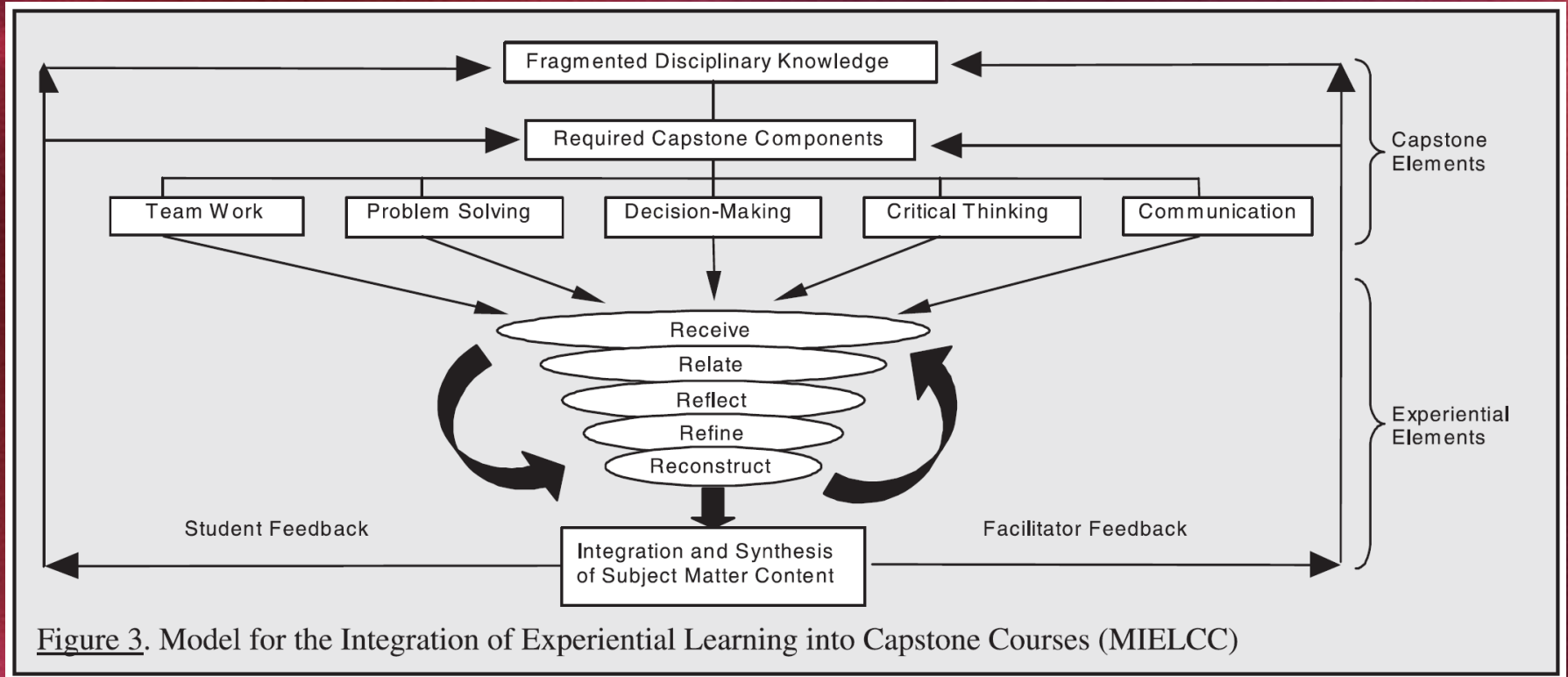
Pfeiffer, J.W., & Jones, J.E., "Reference Guide to Handbooks and Annuals"
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Retrieved from: <http://http://new.4-hcurriculum.org/resources.aspx>



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Andreasen's MIELCC Model



Retrieved from: https://www.nactateachers.org/attachments/article/462/Andreasen_March04NACTA_JOURNAL-9.pdf

The Morningside Externship Experience

The Externship Experience

Creating a unique continuum in education, providing valuable tools for customizing your career path.

01 

Classwork, career exploration and personal interests combine to create possibilities. Industry connections provide Externship opportunities to experience working in a real-world environment.

01
Prepare

02 

The Externship provides experience in the everyday challenges and opportunities of an actual workplace. Putting preparation into practice offers invaluable insights into evaluating and designing your career path, all while getting paid.

Work
02

03
Reflect

03 

Evaluating your hands-on experience as part of a degree program creates the opportunity to adjust and focus the final phases of coursework, preparing you to better define your career path upon graduation.

How Is the Externship Experience at Morningside College different?



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Preparing for the Externship Experience

Builds upon...

- Core academic and agricultural coursework
- Industry exploration
- Personal agricultural interests



The Externship Experience

- Preparation course (Fall of Junior Year)
- Academic exploration and research
- Industry panels and mock interviews
- Research presentations



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The Externship Experience

- Active experimentation
- “Extended” Internship
- Summer after Junior year and
- Fall of the Senior year
- 7-8 month academic



The Externship Experience

- Return for final semester
- Reflection and abstract conceptualization through the Capstone course
- Utilize teamwork, enhance problem-solving skills, and enhance oral and written communication skills
- Connect rich Externship experiences with career aspirations

So What Do Students Say?

- Coursework connections become evident
- “There is so much more to learn”
- Excitement for a future career in agriculture
- The transition back to daily classes is challenging
- Better appreciation for academic outcomes
 - Written and Oral Communication
 - Critical Thinking
 - Workplace Ethics
 - Integration and Application of Academics

Our Challenges?

- Building a curriculum and course rotation
- Utilize numerous out-of-department courses
- Handling students who do not meet admission requirements or do not want the externship
 - 2.50 GPA
 - No major courses less than C-
 - Written application and interview
- Handling transfer students in first few years
- THE CHALLENGES—WORTH IT!!!!

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The Best Thing About Working at a Small College



NACTA
north american colleges and teachers of agriculture
connect | develop | achieve

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