

Oh the Places You Will Go with Your ELO

What is an ELO?

ELO stands for Extended Learning Opportunity. So what does that actually mean? An ELO is a time to explore your passion, a time to try new things, a time to think outside of the classroom box. This experience allows you to design an experience that leads you into all kinds of new directions. With the help of an adult mentor, the possibilities are limitless. For instance, you might be doing a job shadow, an internship, a community service project, or maybe you've learned something in a class and you would like to know more. These are just a few of the ideas you could explore, but there are many more to be created. You could even take a class* outside EHS. Keep your eyes and ears opened for new possibilities. When you complete the ELO process successfully, you can earn credit on your high school transcript.

What is expected in an ELO?

*If you take a class, all the requirements will be given to you by the instructor of your class.

If you are not taking a class, you will be expected to connect with an adult mentor who will help you form the vision of your ELO. The mentor will meet with you at the beginning of the process to help you fill out the ELO Application. Once you fill out your application, you will be asked to meet with the ELO committee and explain what you would like to do. Be prepared to not only explain your goals, but discuss the final products that you hope to create along the way. After you meet with the ELO committee, they will vote on whether or not they think your proposal is a strong one. They may want you to tweak a few things before they approve it, or they may want you to provide more information so that they can better understand the process. Once you get the approval, you're on your way.

You will have pre-arranged check-in meetings with your mentor. These can be face-to-face or by email. During this time you will share your ELO Calendar for the month. This is where you include your long-term and short term goals. For instance, you might be interviewing someone outside of the school who shares your passion. Fill in your calendar with the day of the interview, chart the time it took for you to get there, the time it took you to interview, and the time it took you to get home. Chart the time you spent on interview questions. In other words, just like a good business person, keep track of all the time you spend. Your ELO Calendar will be submitted to the committee at the end of your exploration.

At the check-in meetings, you will also decide what type of final product(s) your ELO will include. For instance, you might provide a taped interview, a three dimensional model, a speech, a film, a portfolio, or something else. Who knows? You will have the opportunity to devELOp this as you explore your goals. Once you've discovered your final products you will start charting those goals. Be sure to stay organized, using your ELO Calendar, and don't forget to check-in with your mentor if you have questions. Your final product(s) will be shown to the ELO committee for your final presentation. Always remember to keep thinking outside the box.

You will also keep an ELO Reflection Journal. This journal will give you the opportunity to talk about how things are going. For instance, there will be days when you think you've got everything planned and then something happens that forces you to change your awesome idea. Be sure to talk about that in the journal. Talk about your feelings towards the topic. Above all, be honest with yourself and your journal. The more honest you are, the easier it will be to problem solve as you go through the process, and above all talk about the things you're learning.

The final presentation will be delivered to the ELO Committee. The committee can't wait to see and hear about the journey you took. Your mentor will join you as you share your final product(s). Remember, it could be a film, a taped interview, a performance.....again, keep thinking out of the box. You will also have your ELO Calendar and ELO Journal there for all of them to review. After your presentation, the ELO Committee will ask you questions. Don't worry; you'll have all the answers because you have created the experience. After you present, the committee will vote on whether or not they will accept your ELO to go on your final transcript.

*If you take a class, your final presentation will be sharing your experience with the ELO Committee. You should provide a transcript from the course, instructor's comments if they apply, and your final transcript.

Exeter High School Extended Learning Opportunity Application

“Empowering all New Hampshire students to make the world their classroom and earn credit for real world learning.” (NHELO Vision Statement)

Please complete this application and return it to the Guidance Department.
Attach all necessary documentation.

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Guidance Counselor: _____

School EMail: _____ Alternative EMail: _____

1. Name/Title for your Extended Learning Opportunity.
2. When do you plan to start and complete your ELO?
3. Describe the ELO project that you plan to undertake.
4. What are you hoping to *know, understand, and be able to do* at the conclusion of your ELO?
5. What essential question are you hoping to answer?
6. Why is this ELO important to you? Is it needed for graduation?

7. What resources will you need to complete your ELO? (People, equipment, travel, etc.)

8. You will need a mentor to assist you throughout the ELO process. Do you have a mentor (teacher, community partner, etc.) determined? Please include contact information.

9. To earn credit, you will present to the ELO Committee a product that demonstrates learning, achievement and reflection. At this time, what do you hope to present?

10. Will you be using a private vehicle for transportation?

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Legal Guardian's Signature

Date

Mentor's Signature (If determined)

Date

ELO Teacher's Signature

Date