SPICES
Definitions and Examples

The 2018-2020 UTSA Honors College curriculum is rooted in student learning an excellence in six areas, or the SPICES: Service, Professional Development, Intellectual Achievement and Research, Cultural Exploration, Engaged Living, and Skill Development. Below, each SPICES area is defined and examples are provided.

**Service**: “Service” includes: 1) projects intended to make a positive impact or shed new light on problems and issues of public concern, and/or 2) contribute to the civic missions of non-profits or governmental agencies. Note that this category is more than volunteering. “Service” experiences must include evidence of a deep understanding and awareness of the primary issues. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Design, development, or execution of pro bono (unpaid) work in a non-profit or governmental agency, independent of internships
- Creation and maintenance of a service organization, e.g., Love Your Natural Self Foundation, Bodied by Chiz, Voices in Praise
- Sustained, demonstrable achievement and work as a mentor, coach or tutor within a service organization dedicated to your intellectual or civic interests

**Professional Development**: “Professional Development” includes activities or projects that demonstrate professional growth and maturation either in professional skills sets or through immersion and work in a specific professional context. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Internships
- Successful completion of professional certification programs
- Development and execution of professional development opportunities for your academic service or honors organization, e.g., the 365 Day Resume program for Delta Sigma Pi

**Intellectual Achievement and Research**: “Intellectual Achievement and Research” include activities and projects that demonstrate growth as academics, scholars, researchers, and creative thinkers. Such activities and projects may be interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary; they do not need to be major specific. They will entail production of new knowledge, insight, interpretation, or creative work. Examples include but are not limited to:

- a business plan you developed for a local non-profit or your own future company
- a musical composition that has been performed publicly
- thesis research
- mentored research or creative inquiry for presentation at a professional association meeting or a publication
**Cultural Exploration:** “Cultural Exploration” includes activities or projects that promote global citizenship, critical, multicultural understandings of the world, and self-awareness of one’s cultural orientations. Examples include but are not limited to:

- language immersion and study in a foreign country
- work immersion in a foreign country
- field school in your discipline in a foreign country or location/community in the United States notably different than San Antonio and your hometown
- cultural immersion program in a foreign country or location/community in the United States notably different than San Antonio and your hometown

**Engaged Living:** “Engaged Living” refers to a conscious, critical choice to explore, develop, and commit to a lifestyle pattern or cause that adheres to specific ethical orientations and/or value sets. Activities will represent a deep exploration of and sustained engagement in that lifestyle pattern or cause. Examples include but are not limited to:

- development, execution and maintenance of a social organization dedicated to philosophy or lifestyle
- State or national recognition for sustained expertise in hobby that reflects your values and ethical orientations, such as orienteering,
- State or national leadership position in a political, activist, or other organization that reflects your values or ethical orientations
- NCAA athlete
- Training and successful completion of a marathon
- Sustained, demonstrable achievement as an advocate or activist in a local community, e.g., the Center for Refugee Services

**Skill Development:** “Skill Development” refers to activities or projects that develop a skillset or lifestyle pattern independent of professional development, cultural exploration, or engaged living. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Sustained training, practice and participation in a creative field, such as dance, art, cooking, or writing, not directly related to your major, e.g., SwingBirds
- Sustained training, practice and participation in a professional field not directly related to your major or professional goals, e.g., an 8-week archaeological field school in a foreign country

**NOTE:** You will notice that some examples look as if they could fit in another SPICES category. It is possible that some activities could fit more than ones SPICES area. The SPICES classification for an activity will depend on your professional, personal, and intellectual goals as well as your plan for your undergraduate career and SPICES emphases. See your peer coach or an Academic Counselor to plan and decide.