LUX: Latin for “light,” it also stands for Lawrence University Experience, the name given to any distinctive opportunities that are uniquely Lawrentian.
Imagine...


Now is your moment to shine.

Your *Chandler Senior Experience* will be your time to show the world that you have mastered your major (or majors). You will produce something of your own, something that has never been done before—and likely will never be done again.

The world—and your future—will brighten with the new light you will generate as a graduating Lawrentian.
SENIOR EXPERIENCE ALLOWS YOU TO weave the strands of your experience INTO A FINISHED WHOLE.

The Chandler Senior Experience* can only be found at Lawrence.

A requirement for every graduating senior, the Chandler Senior Experience is unique for each Lawrentian.

Your Senior Experience will reflect your values and interests—shaped by the experiences you will have had throughout your time at Lawrence. You will work with a faculty member in your major. (If you have more than one major, you may work with more than one.) As you progress through your program at Lawrence, deepening your expertise, you and your faculty mentor(s) will collaborate to develop a Senior Experience tailored just for you.

And the end product—whether it’s a research project, a creative work, a performance—will be an invaluable asset as you step into your life after Lawrence, proving to employers or post-collegiate educators that you are ready for whatever they have in store for you.

* THE CHANDLER SENIOR EXPERIENCE is in part endowed by alumni George Chandler ’51 and Marjorie Chandler ’44. As an undergraduate, George Chandler worked with former Lawrence (and later Harvard) president Nathan Pusey on an intensive project of his own design. This laid the foundation for what the Chandler Senior Experience has become today.

DEEP LEARNING IS A KEY FEATURE OF THE SENIOR EXPERIENCE.

In these pages, you’ll read about four different Lawrentians and the Senior Experiences they crafted for themselves. While the four projects are all unique to each, they share common themes: intensive, student-directed learning; cross-disciplinary engagement; creativity and collaboration.

...an essential skill (and mind) set to lead into life after Lawrence.

Visit LAWRENCE.EDU/ACADEMICS to explore by major the types of Senior Experiences other Lawrentians have completed.
Eduardo Rueda sought an EEG (electroencephalogram) headset that would provide reliable data on brainwave activity, so he used his Senior Experience and our 3D printer to create one from scratch.

The process was not always linear. “Nothing ever works the way you want, so you have to improvise,” he says. “You have to, on the fly, try to solve it. And that’s my favorite part, because that’s how you learn the most.”

As a math and computer science double-major, Eduardo drew on the expertise of his professors whenever he got stuck, but his Senior Experience was largely self-directed. “I like that they let you go on your own and try new things,” he says. He spent most of his time in our Makerspace, a hands-on learning lab that houses our 3D printer and other resources. “Things that were not possible before are now possible because of 3D printers. That’s giving us a competitive advantage,” he says. The competitive advantage Eduardo developed at Lawrence helped land him a job at Facebook, where he now works as a software engineer.

IF YOU WANT A mind-reading computer headset MADE RIGHT, build it yourself.
Katrina Zosseder describes the Senior Experience as “the greatest opportunity to put together many interests.”

As an anthropology and music double-major, she used her Senior Experience to study Irish session music. A Senior Experience grant, which can provide up to $3,000 to support exceptionally ambitious or distinctive projects, enabled her to conduct her research for this project in the best possible place—Dublin. “She’s using her skills at playing the fiddle and knowing the musical background to connect with people and build the foundation for longer-term research,” said Katrina’s faculty mentor.

Katrina says the experience of playing and studying session music in Ireland alongside native musicians was life-changing. It made her rethink the way she sees both of her majors and the connections between them. “It’s so cool how everything builds on everything else,” she says. A deeper understanding of the Irish people led to a better understanding of their music, and a better understanding of their music led to a better understanding of their entire culture.
The seeds of Madeline Schubert’s Senior Experience MAY HAVE BEEN PLANTED when she was TEN YEARS OLD.

It started with head-splitting migraines that would torment Madeline for weeks at a time. A surgery at age 16 relieved some of the pressure, but a diagnosis still proved evasive. It wasn’t until late in her high school career that a trip to a geneticist’s office would offer a clue: She had Ehlers-Danlos syndrome (EDS), a genetic disorder involving the body’s connective tissue.

Madeline spent her senior year at Lawrence trying to unravel a highly personal mystery: What exactly—on a genetic level—causes her condition? To complete her Senior Experience as a biology major, Madeline sequenced her genes and hunted for evidence of mutations that might be behind her hypermobile type of EDS, the most common variation of the disorder, but one whose genetic roots were not yet definitively known.

Working with her Senior Experience advisor, Brian Piasecki, an assistant professor of biology, Madeline harvested her DNA using mouth swabs. She identified a subset of specific genes to examine, based on her own deep review of previous scientific literature on EDS to pinpoint potential culprits. To extract the genes, she designed primers, short pieces of DNA that bond to each end of the target area, through 26 separate chemical reactions.

“She’s basically no research going on because it’s one of the most underserved populations in terms of chronic illness,” she says. Madeline plans to continue using her Senior Experience work as her master’s thesis in graduate school—and plans to work eventually in prenatal or pediatric genetic counseling.
Sam Genualdi isn’t afraid to try new things. When he transferred to Lawrence, he designed his own major—contemporary improvisation—within the music department. While he identifies primarily as a jazz musician, he saw his Senior Experience as an opportunity to do something different. “It’s this very safe environment for me to experiment and try something new,” he says. For him, that meant composing his own genre-bending experimental pop album and, using his background in printmaking, designing a physical book to showcase it in. “It’s a really multidimensional project,” he says. But he didn’t stop there.

Sam applied for and received funding to bring critically acclaimed saxophonist Tim Berne and noted percussionist Jon Mueller, his “personal heroes in music,” to campus to play on his record. Performing his own original compositions alongside them was the high point of Sam’s Senior Experience. “To have [musicians] like that in the room, excited about what you’re doing and playing on it, I was beside myself.”

You could just play songs by your musical heroes, or you could create an album of your own and bring your heroes to campus to play alongside you.

Sam was recently named one of 40 national recipients of the $30,000 Watson Fellowship for a year of independent travel and exploration. He will spend his year in Scotland, Peru, Indonesia, India and Japan to explore culture through music by collaborating with musicians he’s never met.

Read more at blogs.lawrence.edu/sam
You may not want to design your own mind-reading headset, travel to Ireland to study session music, sequence your own DNA or compose your own album. But there is something—maybe more than one something—that you will love and want to pursue more deeply, and on your own terms, with support from brilliant faculty and peers.

Your Chandler Senior Experience will be where that love will shine most brightly.

When it comes to generating your own light, there is no other place that will devote more human power to that endeavor than Lawrence University.

Take your first step toward your own Senior Experience. Visit

GO.LAWRENCE.EDU/YES

today to submit your admission deposit and secure your place in the class of 2022.