Opportunities to apply learning in the classroom to real-world settings is at the core of a CALS education. We offer a variety of CALS Signature Experiences for students in all majors to live the Wisconsin idea.

These opportunities fall into five major categories:

We want our students to make a strong start and every CALS first-year student can achieve that through a First-Year seminar to explore different areas of study and build a peer group. There are several seminars to choose from, including QuickStart (https://cals.wisc.edu/academics/prospective-students/quickstart/), which allows students to begin their college career the summer before they arrive on campus.

CALS students learn through hands-on, real world experiences. A majority of CALS students earn credit for internships and research experiences in labs.

Through peer advising and mentoring, student organizations and residential learning communities, students build their community and networks.

Students gain a global perspective by taking a course with an international focus and many students study abroad. In addition to general UW–Madison programs, CALS offers more than 34 study abroad programs led by our faculty.

Finally, many CALS students take advantage of the ability to customize their path of study by participating in an honors program, pursuing certificates or second majors, and choosing elective courses that match their interests and meet their goals.