Opportunities to apply classroom learning 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 and fulfill the Wisconsin Experience (https://wisconsinexperience.wisc.edu/).

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 CALS First-Year seminar to explore different areas of study, learn about how to take advantage of campus resources, and make friends. 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 research experiences in labs and internships.

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

Students gain a global perspective by taking courses with an international focus and many students choose to study abroad. CALS offers more than 34 faculty-led study abroad programs, and students may also choose from general UW-Madison study abroad opportunities.

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.