

FAQ: Understanding the Refugee Experience at Fort McCoy Domestic Intercultural Immersion Program

Q: How many days and nights is the program?

A: 12 (with one free day on Sunday, January 9)

Q: What will I receive from participating?

A: Upon successful completion of the Immersion program, all students will receive 30 hours of service-learning credit and R1 Liberal Education credit

Q: What will I have to do to earn these service-learning hours and to receive the R1 credit?

A: Maintain a daily journal while on-site at Fort McCoy and write a thoughtful reflective piece at the conclusion of the program.

Q: How much will this program cost me?

A: There is a \$30 non-refundable application fee to be paid after you have been accepted into the program. In addition, at the moment, breakfast and dinner on site at Ft. McCoy each cost \$9. We are currently working to find additional funding support to help subsidize food costs.

Q: When is the application deadline?

A: **The priority application deadline is November 19.** If the program is not full by this date, we will continue to accept applications until November 30th.

Q: What are the accommodations like?

A: You will either have your own room and you will share a bathroom with one other person or be housed in dormitory-style housing.

Q: Must I stay on-site overnight?

A: Yes, all participants must stay overnight on-site to help enhance this Immersion experience. However, in the evenings you will have some free time if you would like to leave the base.

Q: Do I need a car?

A: No, a car is not necessary as all activities will take place (including eating and sleeping) on base at Ft. McCoy. However, carpooling to and from the site will be an option.

Q: Do I need special training / skills to participate or do I have to be of a particular major?

A: No, the program is open to all students. Pre-program preparation will be provided by UW-Eau Claire faculty and staff and on-site staff will provide you with training specific to the program.

Q: What kind of work will I be doing?

A: Volunteer assignments will correspond as much as possible with your skill set. Activities will generally involve communicating with recently-arrived refugees from Afghanistan, including kids and adults. Examples of such activities might include: sports, games, arts and crafts, story time, among others.

Q: Is there a foreign language requirement?

A: No. However, as most of the refugees will not speak English, you will need to communicate in any number of ways—hand gestures, nodding, smiling, through games, etc. Multilingual speakers and translators will be present on-site to assist with communication.

Q: Will this opportunity prevent me from receiving funding for a future UW-Eau Claire Immersion program?

A: No. This program is a very unique and special program that will not count against you in any way and you will still be able to participate with Blugold funding support on another Domestic Immersion program in the future.