

OLLI Program Definitions and Filter Questions for Learning Trip Committee

What is the purpose of OLLI programming?

OLLI's volunteer-led learning community, featuring a dynamic curriculum of non-credit classes, study groups, and educational travel, will allow members to enjoy a satisfying and fulfilling life as they reach and enjoy retirement, share Bradley's dedication to lifelong learning, and enrich the intellectual life of Bradley University's campus.

Learning Trip Definition:

- Learning Trips: educational travel experiences offering interaction with local experts who provide behind-the-scenes looks at area businesses, regional attractions, and international destinations in the following categories: Arts, Entertainment, & Media; Commerce; Community Services & Development, Government; Historical Sites; Locally Owned Businesses; Manufacturing; Non-Profit; STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics); and Topical. Trips are offered year-round and are categorized into local, regional, and multi-day destinations. Local trips are often half-day tours that utilize Bradley-owned shuttle buses. Regional trips are full-day tours on privately chartered coaches, and multi-day trips are privately chartered, preferably with Road Scholar or a similar service, and use both air and ground transportation. The goal number of trips offered each season are: 20 for Winter, 40 for Spring, 30 for Summer, and 40 for Fall. A volunteer committee selects the trips for each season, and staff coordinates all logistics. Local trips are the primary offerings of this program. Regional trips are scheduled several times a year with local experts; multi-day domestic and international trips are privately chartered every year, preferably through Road Scholar or a similar service (domestics in odd-numbered years; internationals in even-numbered years).

FILTER QUESTIONS TO ASSIST IN SELECTING OLLI PROGRAM OFFERINGS

The specific offerings from each of the three types of OLLI programs (Classes, Study Groups, and Learning Trips) are determined by committees of OLLI volunteers working with the Continuing Education staff members who support OLLI. To help volunteers and staff to be aligned, these filter questions provide guidance for selecting appropriate offerings (not rigid checklists, but rather helpful guidance). Consider all the filter questions in total.

All three categories of Filter Questions are to be applied to all decisions – the Universal, the Staff, and the Committee Filter questions.

UNIVERSAL FILTER QUESTIONS FOR LEARNING TRIPS:

What do we want our members to experience?

- High quality, educational programming with a broad spectrum of topics
- A diverse, academic-oriented experience available through Bradley University
- A sense of belonging to a continuous learning community
- Volunteer-driven curriculum and peer-led instruction

How does the program provide social engagement for our members?

- Held in an open, friendly environment with food and fellowship
- Opportunity to learn on Bradley's campus and/or provide positive interactions with BU students

How do we engage our membership?

- Provide programming to enable adults ages 50+ to develop intellectually
- Provide outstanding, personalized customer service and opportunities for fellowship
- Provide an outlet to let members feel relevant and part of a continuous learning community

STAFF FILTER QUESTIONS FOR LEARNING TRIPS:

- Do membership fees cover the direct cost of the program and provide revenue?
- Is there enough to see/do/learn to fill two hours of scheduled trip time?
- With no more than four trips per week, can the trip be scheduled to fit staff schedules?
- Can the trip be scheduled before/after a meal to provide ample time for discussion?

COMMITTEE FILTER QUESTIONS FOR LEARNING TRIPS SELECTION AND PRIORITIZATION:

- Is this something someone "off the street" cannot experience? Behind-the-scenes?
- Does trip fit into programming categories and provide tie-in opportunities?
- Is this trip not available elsewhere (via Peoria Charter Coach, Vagabond, etc.)? Note: the trip is not defined just by the destination, but rather the total learning experience.
- For Regional trips, do any BU faculty have interest in hosting or inviting students to attend (intergenerational)?
- For Regional trips, is there a local expert available to attend the trip and provide insight throughout day?
- What is the educational component of this learning trip?
- If a docent has led a trip before, were his/her evaluations positive?