

## Community-Engaged Teaching Overview

### What is Community Engagement?

Community engagement describes collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity.

-Carnegie Classification's Definition for Community Engagement

### What is Community-Engaged Teaching?

It is a form of experiential education where learning occurs through a cycle of action and reflection, as students... seek to achieve real objectives for the community and deeper understanding and skills for themselves. In the process, students link personal and social development with academic and cognitive development.

-Eyler & Giles (1999)

### Core Principles of Community-Engaged Teaching

1. Reciprocal partnership and mutual benefit to all participants
2. Open and intentional communication
3. Cultural humility and self-awareness
4. Balancing community needs and pedagogical goals
5. Respect for the history of organizations, partnerships, and university-community relations
6. Reflection on the part of students and community partners
7. Assessment and evaluation of student learning and community impact

### Core Components of Community-Engaged Teaching

1. Faculty oversight
  - a. Faculty ensures that Community-Engaged Teaching activities are mutually beneficial to the community and students' learning.
  - b. Faculty ensures that students have the resources, skills, and knowledge necessary to engage in community contexts.
  - c. Faculty is available to community partners to discuss projects.
2. Targeted learning activities in a community context
  - a. Faculty and staff work with community representatives to develop experiences or projects that connect to the learning objectives of the course and support the mission or programming of the organization.
  - b. Students draw on course content to achieve the goals of the community engagement.
3. Course content and assignments connected to activities in the community
  - a. Courses include readings and assignments that provide students with skills and knowledge that applies to community engagement.
  - b. Course content and assignments provide students with the opportunity to make connections and critically analyze how the academic component and community components of the course align.
  - c. Course content and assignments provide students with opportunities for structured reflection on their community experience.