

Community-Engaged Teaching Checklist

The Gephardt Institute for Civic and Community Engagement developed three key elements of a Community-Engaged Teaching course:

- faculty oversight
- targeted learning activities in a community context
- course content and assignments connected to activities in the community

Successful courses incorporate all three of these elements (though not all components may be applicable to all engagement activities and courses):

Faculty Oversight

- Goals and objectives for the academic component of the course are in place.
- Goals and objectives for the community component of the course are in place.
- Readings and assignments support the academic component of the course.
- A plan is in place to manage all aspects of a community-engaged component of the course including:
 - Managing relationships with community partners.
 - Managing students in their community context and/or sites.
 - Managing logistical considerations including transportation and liability waivers.
 - Clear parameters are set for the community component, including the number of hours students are expected to commit to a community project and the deliverables expected.

Recommendations: Learning goals and objectives are helpful when developing projects with partner organizations. The more you are able to share with potential community partners about what is going to happen in class, the easier it is to develop a project that is mutually beneficial.

Targeted Learning Activities in a Community Context

- Community component connects to the learning goals and objectives for the course.
- Community partners have agreed to a project that supports their mission and vision and aligns with the learning objectives for the course.
- Community partners understand their role in student learning including providing students with supervision and project support.
- Orientation to the community component and/or site is included in the syllabus.
- Project structure and/or deliverables are identified before the course begins.
- Student and community outcomes are included in syllabus and project descriptions.

Recommendations:

- Community-engaged activities are most likely to be relevant and meaningful if (1) the activities address issues which the target community (or your community partner) has identified or acknowledged as being significant, (2) the community partner is involved in developing the course activities and learning outcomes related to the experience, and (3) the relationship is sustained over time, if appropriate and mutually desired.



- To learn more about community organizations in the St. Louis community, visit the Gephardt Institute St. Louis Non-profit Agency database: stlvolunteer.org/wustl

Course Content and Assignments are Connected to Activities in the Community

- Course content and assignments prepare students for the community-engaged experience.
- Readings and assignments support the integration of the academic and community components of the course.
- Reflection and integration assignments are in place to help students critically think about community experience in relationship to the course content.
- There is time in the course for orientation, discussion, reflection, and integration of the community experience.
- Final papers, projects, and/or presentations connect the academic and community components of the course.
- Assessment and evaluation criteria are in place for academic and community components of the course.

Other Considerations

- Roles and responsibilities are clearly articulated for students, faculty, and community partners.
- Structure is in place for liability.
- Adapt the Gephardt Institute liability waiver for your course (available on our resource page).
- Develop a communications plan between you and your community partner(s).

Liability waiver and partnership agreement forms are available on the Gephardt Institute for Civic and Community Engagement website: gephardtinstitute.wustl.edu/cec/resources/

Web Resources

Gephardt Institute for Civic and Community Engagement: gephardtinstitute.wustl.edu

The Gephardt Institute for Civic and Community Engagement cultivates engaged citizens, connects campus and community, and catalyzes positive change to foster thriving communities.

For additional support and resources or assistance in developing community partnerships, contact Beth Martin, Senior Lecturer in Environmental Studies and Gephardt Institute Community Engagement Faculty Fellow: martin@wustl.edu