Community Engagement in the Curriculum

CEC as a Thrive partner

“Community Engagement in the Curriculum” (CEC) is a collaboration between the Provost’s Office for Academic Outreach, Student Affairs, Madison House, and the Center for Teaching Excellence. The CEC team can serve as a partner for instructors as they develop and carry out Thrive grants that incorporate community partnerships and service learning experiences in the undergraduate classroom.

Campus-community partnerships require time and investment, as well as an understanding of a potential community partner’s context, needs, and history with the University. “The degree to which we enter [this] endeavor committed to [a] reciprocal relationship will determine whether we move away from seeing the community as a learning lab and toward viewing it as a partner in an effort to increase each other’s capacity and power.” 1

The CEC team can support faculty in the following ways:

1. Develop and integrate community engagement into the proposal and/or the course.

2. Identify and introduce/connect potential partners (if needed), as well as determine the best fit for a partnership model. Facilitate and support the partnership by helping instructors integrate the partner and partnership model into the syllabus and lesson plans. Our suggested course models are as follows:
   a. Volunteer placements
   b. Community-based course
   c. Hybrid – volunteer placements and community-based projects in the same course

3. Support the logistics of a community partnership
   a. Budget coordination and processing—help with reimbursements, honoraria, supplies, meals and event costs, etc.
   b. Transportation coordination for students and community partners

4. Support the partnership model within the curriculum more broadly
   a. Assessment tools specific to civically- and community-engaged learning
   b. Tools for reflection to scaffold challenges that community-based experiences can bring for students, instructors, and community partners
   c. Cohort support for instructors doing community-engaged work
   d. Access to a 1-credit “Community Engagement 101” course for their students to take as a pre-requisite or simultaneously.

Contact Us

If you as an instructor would like to have a conversation about partnerships, partnership models, or anything else during the application process, please contact Rose or Ellen in the Office of the Provost.

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