

Community Engagement

Student Learning Outcomes: Students will demonstrate the combination of knowledge, skills, motivation necessary to integrate their academic learning with direct action and involvement. In addition, students will demonstrate the ability to work with different types of people and be a part of the work, such as teammates, colleagues, community/agency members, and the community; it prepares students for their public lives as citizens of communities, and professionals in society. Through the process of community engagement, students gain or collaborate in the process. In this way, students develop collaborative skills and experience participating in multiple types of civic action and skills, and they are given enhanced perspectives that will serve them throughout their lives.

Supporting Skills

1. Students will provide evidence of engagement with the community.
2. Students will demonstrate an ability to collaboratively work across and within community contexts and structures to achieve a civic aim.
3. Students will identify the impact of their engagement on the community.
4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the value of engagement with communities on the individual.

Course Content Criteria

1. Courses in this category have, as a central focus, the study of social and community needs, the fulfillment

Experience Criteria

Students may apply to fulfill the CE requirement through a curricular activity. These criteria apply to experiences that meet the CE curricular requirements, the characteristics of the experience, the steps a student must follow to petition the experience for approval, and the number and types of assignments students must submit to satisfy the requirement.

1. Students must obtain preapproval for any activity used to satisfy this component. Approval must be obtained prior to the start of the activity.
2. Students must submit independent verification of participation in the approved activity, by a supervisor or other authoritative individual, who is not a blood relation.
3. Students must be involved in 16 hours of engagement work including planning, work toward the engagement project, support of the engagement project, and direct engagement with the community, with a minimum of 6 hours of direct engagement with the community.
4. The engagement with the community must be such that it provides a tangible benefit to the community in question.
5. Students who matriculate at SMU as first year students must begin and complete all community engagement experiences after matriculation at SMU.

Students who matriculate at SMU as transfer students may petition for Community Engagement experiences completed after high school graduation but prior to matriculation at SMU. Students fulfilling Community Engagement requirements through an activity must submit either samples of work completed during the course of the activity that demonstrate the required supporting skills or a written reflection of approximately 1000 words that responds to the following prompt:

Please describe in detail the activity you used to complete the Community Engagement requirement. In your reflection, answer the following questions. How did you, through this activity, work collaboratively to meet a community need? What impact did your service have on the community you served? What impact did your service have upon you personally, and