What is the CEL designation?

The CEL designation on courses stands for Community-Engaged Learning and indicates that the course involves an engaged learning teaching strategy, such as service-learning or community research or democratic engagement. Any existing course at WSU can apply for this designation. The community engaged learning experience in the course can be required or optional for students. Finally, individual sections of courses can receive the CEL designation for individual instructors or all sections of a course can receive the CEL designation if all sections, regardless of instructor, offer a community engaged learning experience to students.

Why should I apply for CEL designation?

It announces to students, at the time of registration, that your course involves a community engaged learning component, whether service, democratic engagement or community research.

It registers your course with the CCEL which in turn provides support to you and your students by:

- Maintaining a Community Partner Directory (list of over 100 community partners) for faculty & students
- Providing assistance finding and developing community partnerships appropriate for your course
- Recording and tracking completed engaged hours
- Connecting you with WeberSync so you can see how many hours your students are completing
- Providing training for WeberSync so that students and faculty can monitor their completed hours
- Providing documentation of community engaged hours for students for potential employers and/or graduate programs
- Providing documentation of faculty involvement in community engaged learning for promotion and tenure files
- Assessing the CEL experience in classes and sharing results with faculty

This designation formally recognizes innovative teaching, which can be noted on your promotion and tenure documents. This designation gives you the opportunity to actively participate in building a campus culture that celebrates community engaged learning, both in and out of the classroom.

You become an active participant in upholding the mission and strategic plan of WSU.

How do I apply for a CEL designation?

Use the online form at http://www.weber.edu/ccel/cel-designation-proposal.html to submit your application. A course syllabus and a signature page to verify your course as an existing WSU course need to accompany your application. For more information see http://weber.edu/ccel/cel-designation.html

When are applications due?

For spring semester: September 15th

For summer semester: January 15th

For fall semester: February 15th
What are the criteria for the CEL designation?
The CCEL CEL Curriculum Committee uses the following to determine whether a course is designated. These criteria are consistent with similar designations across the nation. Your course will receive the designation if it does the following:

1. Students in the class have a community engaged learning experience in service, community research or democratic engagement.
2. The learning outcomes of the course are related to community engaged learning outcomes (http://weber.edu/WSUImages/cCEL/docs/CELOutcomes2013.pdf)
3. Students in the class have an opportunity to reflect fully on their community engaged learning experience.
4. The community engaged learning opportunity relates to the subject matter of the course and is a substantial part of the course.

What is democratic engagement?
Democratic Engagement experiences often involve raising awareness about issues of public concern and working more systemically through both political and non-political processes to create change; such as, attending organized discussions about pollution, serving on a neighborhood association, writing a letter to an elected official, serving as a poll worker, assisting with voter registration drives, engaging others in the process of deliberative democracy, or producing a piece of legislation or policy.

What is service?
Service experiences often involve working directly with community residents to meet an immediate need; such as, volunteering to serve meals at a homeless shelter, serving as a mentor or tutor in a local youth development program or school; cleaning up the banks of the Ogden River; hosting a Valentine’s Ball at a local senior center; or coaching a Special Olympics team.

What is community research?
Community research experiences often involve gathering information with and for community organizations to solve a pressing community problem or create change. Examples of community research include, but are not limited to: community needs assessment survey; water quality or scientific assessment; or program evaluation for non-profit organizations.

How will students know what courses have the CEL designation?
Two ways:
1. Online Class schedule – once your course receives the CEL designation, it will be listed in the online class schedule with Community-Engaged Learning next to the title of your class.
2. List of classes on the CCEL website – each semester the CCEL will also provide a list of CEL designated courses on our website. Students and faculty alike will be able to see the full list of CEL classes offered in any given semester at WSU.

Who reviews the CEL application?
The CCEL CEL Curriculum Committee, consisting of experienced community-engaged learning faculty from across the colleges, will review each application. The CCEL CEL Curriculum Committee chair will notify the course instructor, department chair, and secretary after the committee completes its review of applications.