

Community Engaged Learning 101 for Students: What, Why & How?

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Topics



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- Defining Community Engaged Learning
- The Benefits of Community Engaged Learning: Why faculty engage students in community engaged learning
- Essential characteristics of a good community engaged learning project
- Support provided to you by the Center for Community Engaged Learning
- Possible volunteer sites, projects, opportunities



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Defining Community Engaged Learning

Community Engaged Learning: What Is It?



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Community Engaged Learning involves working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities through both political and non-political processes while developing the combination of civic knowledge, civic skills, civic values, and civic action to make that difference.

(from *Civic Responsibility and Higher Education*, edited by Thomas Ehrlich, published by Oryx Press, Preface, page vi.)

Three Forms of Community Engaged Learning



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The Center for Community Engaged Learning (CCEL) facilitates three forms of community engaged learning:



SERVICE



COMMUNITY
RESEARCH



DEMOCRATIC
ENGAGEMENT



SERVICE



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Involves 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.



DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT



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Involves 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.



COMMUNITY RESEARCH



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Involves 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.

Community Engaged Learning Teaches Course Objectives



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Because community engaged learning is designed to help you learn and apply course material, your community experience should be relevant to the topics and issues you are studying in your course.





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The Benefits of Community Engaged Learning

Why faculty engage their students in Community Engaged Learning



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- You benefit!
- Faculty benefit!
- Community benefits!



You Benefit Personally



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- **sense of personal efficacy**
- **personal identity**
- **spiritual growth**
- **moral development**
- **interpersonal development**
 - the ability to work well with others
 - Leadership
 - communication skills

Raises Your Awareness



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- **community issues and needs**
- **how to be part of the solution rather than the problem**
- **cultural & racial understanding**
- **social responsibility and citizenship skills**



Your Academic Learning Increases



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- Application of what you have learned to “the real world”
- Complexity of understanding
- Problem solving
- Critical thinking
- Cognitive development
- Career development



Faculty Benefit



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- Students learn the core information that faculty want them to learn.
- Enriches classroom discussion and lectures with relevant real world experiences.



Community Benefits



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Percent of Community Organizations receiving the following:

Increase Services	72%
Have More Volunteers	52%
Serve More Clients	49%
Increase Resources	49%
Complete More Projects	45%
Increase Collaboration	45%
Recruit New Staff	24%





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Characteristics of Good Community Engaged Learning

Good CEL Involves:



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- **YOU** having a genuine interest in your project.
- **YOU** sharing your knowledge and talents with those being served at your volunteer site while learning from the knowledge and talents of those being served.
- **YOU** reflecting on your volunteer experience continuously throughout the semester.

Good CEL Involves:



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- **YOU** actively trying to understand what you are learning in your volunteer experience in relationship to course material.
- **YOU** making a difference!
- **YOU** learning!



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Support from the Center for Community Engaged Learning

Where Can You Find Support?



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Center for Community Engaged Learning

Student Union Building 327

801-626-7737

weber.edu/ccel

ccel@weber.edu

Services Provided to Students



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- Help you find an appropriate volunteer site for your course, program or BIS project
- Record and track your service hours for your professor/instructor throughout the semester
- Give you access to the hours tracking system so you can monitor the number of volunteer hours you've completed
- Provide one-on-one assistance to address your community engaged learning needs

How to Register with the CCEL



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- In order to receive the services provided by the CCEL, students must register with the center
- Go to CCEL website
weber.edu/ccel

Click on “Register” in the Student Dropdown Menu at the top

How to find Volunteer Sites



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- Community Partner Directory

<http://weber.edu/ccel>



Recording your Volunteer Hours with the CCEL



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Why should I record my hours with the CCEL?

- The CCEL gives your professor/instructor access to reports summarizing the hours you have completed
- The CCEL can write letters for future employers or graduate programs on your behalf
- You become eligible for recognition opportunities for the service you provide in the community
- The CCEL can verify your contributions to the community if you apply for scholarships requiring community engagement

How to Record Your Volunteer Hours



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- To record your volunteer hours go to the CCEL website:
<http://weber.edu/ccel>
- Click on “Record Your Hours” in the Student dropdown box.

All directions for recording hours with the Wildcard swipe system and the online electronic time log are described on this webpage.

Volunteer Programs in the CCEL



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- Community Engaged Leaders
- American Democracy Project
- Civitas
- Community Engaged LLC (in residence halls)
- Alternative Breaks
 - National and International CEL experiences
- Engaged Learning Series
- Student Philanthropy Program
- CEL Designated Courses

Become Part of Something Bigger



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- **AmeriCorps Education Awards Program**
 - Earn an education scholarship in exchange for service.
 - The AmeriCorps program can be thought of as the domestic Peace Corps
 - How it works
 - 300 hours or 10 hours/week = \$1,100.00+
 - 450 hours or 15 hours/week = \$1,400.00+

Come See Us



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