

Community Engagement

Learning Goal: The core curriculum gives students an engaging, intellectual experience. The Community Engagement goal also requires them to leave the classroom and engage with the world - to apply their intellectual experiences to communities beyond the academy. Students will actively and critically reflect upon these experiences and integrate them in their academic understanding of the world.

Learning Outcomes: Students will

1. Apply academic methods and/or theories in a way that promotes collaboration and mutual benefit in a community setting; and
2. Demonstrate critical reflection throughout their experience; and
3. Express their understanding of the interconnections between their experience and their responsibilities as members of social or professional communities.

Rationale (i.e., the intention of the proposed outcomes): Community Engagement is to be understood broadly as students engaging their academic learning with one or more partners in the community. Outcome #1 requires that Community Engagement be an academic experience. The term *community* is to be understood as broadly as possible, as any group of persons outside of the classroom. (Examples of such communities would include an elementary school in which a student might be teaching, a political organization, the SMC community or some section of it, an AIDS shelter, a financial institution, an engineering facility, a hospital, a prison, etc.) Outcome #1 also requires that the student partner with one of these communities in a way that responds to articulated community priorities and demonstrates a spirit of reciprocity. In outcome #2, critical reflection includes constructive observation, intellectual exploration, and recognition of the complexity of learning. Outcome #3 attempts to create space for students to integrate their learning, requiring that students reflect on the implications of their experience for their lives as citizens and members of community.