

The Graduate Certification in Community Engagement at Michigan State University

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Today's Presentation

- Introduction (Bob)
- Elements of the Program (Bob)
 - Core Competencies/Seminars (Bob)
 - Mentored Community Engagement Examples (Burt)
- Design Tensions (Burt)
- Participants in Cohort 1 (Diane)
- Improvements from Year 1 to Year 2 (Diane)
- Things To Be Aware Of (Diane)
- Questions and Answers (20 mins)



Introduction

Genesis

- Path of invention, convergence of
 - Undergraduate Tools of Engagement—advanced modules
 - UOE Conversation with Dean of Graduate School
 - Existing transcriptable Certification in College Teaching through Graduate School
- Academic Governance—approval of framework
- Systemic Approach—undergrad, grad, faculty programs

Purpose

- Prepare next generation of engaged scholars by helping graduate and professional students to develop systemic, thoughtful, and scholarly approaches to community engagement



Elements of the Program

- Annual application process (due early Fall)
- Participants complete
 - Core Competencies /UOE Seminars or approved substitutions
 - Mentored community engagement experience
 - Reflective portfolio and professional presentation
- UOE reviews student's materials to certify achievement of competencies
- Registrar adds official notation to academic transcript



Core Competencies/Seminars

Seminars for Year 1

1. Scholarship of engagement and engaged scholarship
2. Community-based participatory research and evaluation
3. Co-building effective partnerships
4. Capacity-building for mutual benefit
5. Logic models: understanding relationships between actions and outcomes
6. Retrospective, portfolio review, and career perspectives

No one sought approval for seminar substitutions.



Mentored Community Engagement Examples

Engaged Research

- CBPR with local tourism providers in Belize
- Oral history project at Austin History Center, TX
- Burcham Hills Integrative Dance project in East Lansing, MI
- Smart Commute project in Petoskey, MI

Engaged Teaching

- Writing through service learning at Allen Neighborhood Center
- Youth development through sports at Refugee Development Center
- Rock Camp through MSU Community Music School, Lansing, MI

Engaged Service

- Income tax clinics with Northwest Initiative, Lansing, MI

Design Decisions and Tensions

What We Considered	What We Chose to Do
Requirements—completion of checklist	Competency-based—documentation of demonstrated understanding and skills
All seminars required by all students	Substitutions based on equivalent experiences permitted on an ad-hoc, advanced approval basis
University and community presenters for seminars	University Outreach & Engagement faculty & staff teams deliver seminars
Mostly lecture, heavy reading lists	Variety of teaching formats including lectures, discussions, in or out of class assignments
On-going evaluation throughout year	End of year evaluation
On-going discussion and re-design of curriculum	Spring/summer (re)evaluation of design and changes—prior to acceptance and in advance of recruiting and preparation

Participants in Cohort 1

Who & What We Expected	Who Participated & How
Ph.D. students	8 Masters, 10 Ph.D., 3 others
All degree-seeking students wishing to earn transcriptable credential	Some university staff interested in sitting in for a certificate of completion
Interest in engaged research	Interests in engaged research, engaged teaching, & engaged service
Career plans in the academy	Practitioner & academic career plans
Little background experience working in/ with communities	Substantial previous and/or on-going experience working in/with communities
Start community experience as part of Graduate Certification	Already part of an on-going community experience
Need assistance in finding mentored community engagement experience	Have own community contacts or contacts through advisor
Small number due to newness of program	21 participants
Wide range of disciplines	12 majors from 4 colleges
Advance through program as cohort	Start as cohort, finish at different times

Improvements

- Strengthened recruiting across campus
 - More publicity at grad student events, through networks
- Improved seminars
 - Reduced duplication, increased cohesiveness across seminars
 - Added two new seminars—**Evaluation** and **Ethics**
 - Required seminar assignments to be in portfolios
 - Increased interactivity during seminar sessions
- Clarified expectations for
 - Mentored community engagement experience
 - Reflective portfolios and professional presentations
- Created opportunities for continuing students to stay connected

Things To Be Aware Of

Administratively, we needed to:

- Secure high level administrative support from the beginning
 - Remember timing is everything; most things will take longer than you expect
 - Develop a curriculum guidebook for students with consistent rules for registrar's office
 - Create on-campus publicity, recruiting mechanisms, relationships with graduate advisors, up-to-date website
 - Provide advising and consultations with students, need to have someone available to meet with them periodically
 - Keep academic records, attendance, especially for any approved seminar substitutions
 - Design procedures for completing the program, especially for students who do not meet standards satisfactorily
 - Create connections with students who continue from one academic year to the next
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Graduate Certification in Community Engagement

Developing the skills and competencies needed for exemplary university-community engagement

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“ Who would have imagined 150 years ago that we would become the global prototype of a genuinely American brand of higher education – one that is an engine of the economy, a force for democratization of public learning, the model for engagement with the world beyond the campus, and a catalyst for improving the quality of life in Michigan and around the world.

Lou Anna Kimsey Simon, Ph. D.
President, Michigan State University
Founders' Day Address
February 11, 2005

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WELCOME TO THE GRADUATE CERTIFICATION IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WEB SITE!

Michigan State University's new Graduate Certification in Community Engagement prepares students for academic careers that integrate scholarship with community engagement.

The Certification is designed to help graduate and professional students develop systemic, thoughtful, and scholarly approaches to community engagement. With approval from the student's Graduate Committee chairperson and University Outreach and Engagement, students tailor their program of study to strengthen their scholarly and practical skills in engaged research, engaged teaching, or engaged service.

Graduate students who fulfill all requirements will receive a certificate of completion from the Associate Provost for University Outreach and Engagement and the Graduate School and an official notation on their academic transcript through the Office of the Registrar.

[Learn more about the Graduate Certification.](#)

[Download the Graduate Certification in Community Engagement Guidebook \(PDF, 525 KB, 93 pages\)](#) for complete information about the requirements, seminar content, and application process.

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