

Curricular Advancements: Tools of Engagement & Graduate Certification

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Utah Valley State College Visit to Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan
September 13, 2007

Tools of Engagement

MSU's model of engagement emphasizes

- the interconnectedness of people and their environments
- learning by doing
- growing with experience
- and improving with practice

Good engagement is a learned competency



Tools of Engagement

UOE has developed a series of learning modules to:

- increase engagement competency
- enhance service-learning experiences
- assist with the training of the next generation of engaged scholars



Tools of Engagement

Goals of the outreach and engagement curriculum are to:

- Encourage reflective thinking about community-based research and community engagement experiences.
- Improve students' community-based research skills and ability to participate in community engaged experiences.
- Enhance students' professional development and socialization within the culture of university-community partnerships.



Tools of Engagement

Goals of the outreach and engagement curriculum are to:

- Foster an atmosphere that supports critical discussions about engagement at MSU.
- Cultivate relationships between faculty, students, and outreach specialists who share similar disciplinary and engagement interests.
- Familiarize students with Michigan State University's land-grant tradition of engagement and the resources that support that tradition.



Tools of Engagement

- Modules are grouped at an introductory, intermediate, and advanced levels.
- Modules in each level are organized around the broader definitional themes of scholarship, community-based, collaborative, responsive and capacity-building. Within each level modules sequentially build on each other.
- They also build on each other within the themes across the levels.



Tools of Engagement

Learning Modules Core Areas	Learning Levels		
	Introductory	Intermediate	Advanced
Engagers as Scholars	Lesson Plans	Lesson Plans	Lesson Plans
Community -based Engagement	Lesson Plans	Lesson Plans	Lesson Plans
Engagers as Collaborators	Lesson Plans	Lesson Plans	Lesson Plans
Responsive Engagement	Lesson Plans	Lesson Plans	Lesson Plans
Engagers as Capacity -Builders	Lesson Plans	Lesson Plans	Lesson Plans



Tools of Engagement

Lesson Plan Framework

- Reading Segment
 - Articles
 - Terminology Glossaries
- Participatory Segment
- Reflective Segment



Tools of Engagement

Examples of Learning Objectives in Scholarship Modules

- Introductory: Students will be introduced to MSU's commitment to engagement
- Intermediate: Students will learn the fundamentals of participatory, community-based evaluation and research
- Advanced: Students will explore multidisciplinary approaches to engagement



Tools of Engagement

Examples of Learning Objectives in Community-Based Modules

- Introductory: Students will understand themselves – personality types, intricacies of power & privilege
- Intermediate: Students will understand differences in community
- Advanced: Students will understand systems (family, community, etc.)



Proposed MSU Certification in Community Engagement

Purpose

- To help graduate students develop systematic, thoughtful, and scholarly community engagement experiences.
- As a national leader in engagement, a certificate program in community engagement could serve as a model for how to support the development of future generations of engaged scholars across colleges and units in partnership with the preparatory work done within disciplines.



Proposed MSU Certification in Community Engagement

Key Points

- Students demonstrated knowledge about and competency in the following 5 core areas:
 - Engagers as Scholars
 - Community-Based Engagement
 - Engagers as Collaborators
 - Responsive Engagement
 - Engagers as Capacity Builders
- Students participate in a mentored engagement experience with engaged scholars (faculty)
- Individual units/colleges may provide additional restrictions, guidelines, and program options.
- Individual units/colleges determine methods for fulfilling the requirements which may vary by unit or college
- Individual units/colleges determine when all requirements have been met
- Upon complete students receive Certificate of Engagement and it is noted on their transcripts.



Proposed MSU Certification in Community Engagement

Benefits

- For the student, a certificate of community engagement on their transcripts signifies publicly and officially that:
 - They have gained a definable set of scholarly skills and competencies related to community engagement.
 - They value community outreach & engagement as a scholarly activity.
- For a prospective employer, it signifies that the student has skills and competencies desirable for successfully engaging the community in collaborative scholarly activities.

