



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ASSESSMENT PLAN



General Education Committee
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Project Scope

One of the General Education Goals is that our students “practice civic engagement.” The learning outcomes associated with this goal are:

1. Recognize the potential for individual civic action to affect change
2. Construct a personal vision of a civic pathway
3. Lead organizations/projects in planning and implementing public participation that address local community needs, issues, and problems

The Faculty Outreach on Civic Engagement in the Gen Ed Curriculum Subcommittee (2020-2021) created the following assessment rubrics for this goal.

Assessment Plan

Each Gen Ed instructor will use the following measures to assess learning in their courses and report the Findings/Results in Weave (Contact the ATU Director of Assessment for Weave access).

Learning Outcome	Measures	Expectations for this Outcome	Methodology
1.0 Civic engagement: Students will demonstrate the development of personal attributes that contribute to civic engagement.	1.1 Course Exit Student Survey	80% of students will rate their potential for civic action to affect change at a 4 or higher (5 point scale)	Students will complete a survey of their experience at the end of the course. Electronic Survey in QuestionPro. Survey link provided to students in Blackboard and/or via Mongoose (email/text).
		80% of students will rate the influence of their experience on a vision of civic pathway at a 4 or higher (5 point scale)	
		80% of students will rate their leadership skills at a 4 or higher (5 point scale)	
	1.2 Community Partner Survey	80% of community partners will complete the survey	Community partners will complete a survey at the end of the course to assess their experience. Electronic Survey in QuestionPro.
80% of community partners will rate their level of satisfaction at 4 or higher (5 point scale)		Survey link provided to community partners via Mongoose (email/text) or directly emailed a link with note from the instructor.	

Survey Instruments

Course Exit Student Survey (1.1)

Civic engagement Outcome: Students will:

1. Recognize the potential for individual civic action to affect change
2. Construct a personal vision of a civic pathway
3. Lead organizations/projects in planning and implementing public participation that address local community needs, issues, and problems

Survey adapted from the book, “Assessing Service-Learning and Civic Engagement” (Gelmon, Holland, & Spring, 2018).

Survey:

First, we would like some information about you

1. What is your ethnic background
 - African American
 - Asian/Asian American
 - Caucasian/White
 - Hispanic
 - Native American
 - Other
2. What is your age group
 - Under 25
 - 25-34
 - 35-44
 - 45-54
 - Over 55
3. What is your gender
 - Male
 - Female
 - Male/Female nonbinary/third gender
 - Prefer to self-describe
 - Prefer not to answer
4. What is your class level?
 - Freshman
 - Sophomore
 - Junior
 - Senior
 - Graduate Student
 - Other (please specify)
5. I have a job that requires me to work... (hours per week)
 - 1-10 hours/week
 - 11-20 hours/week
 - 21-30 hours/week
 - 31-40 hours/week
 - 41+ hours/week
 - I do not have a job
6. Name of the agency/community organization with which you worked during this class.
 - Please specify _____

Sections II – V will include a 5-point Likert scale (strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree, and strongly agree)

Next, we would like to gain your perspective about the civic engagement components of this course. Please mark your level of agreement with each statement.

7. I feel that the community work I did through this course benefited the community.
8. I felt a personal responsibility to meet the needs of the community partner of this course.
9. This course has helped me to see that I can make a difference in the community.

The following questions relate to the likelihood of civic engagement in the future. Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements.

10. I probably won't volunteer or participate in the community after this course.
11. This course has helped me to see other ways that I might get involved in the community.

Next, we would like to know about your leadership and group work skills. Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements.

12. Doing work in the community helped me to become aware of my personal strengths and weaknesses.
13. The civic engagement in this course assisted me in practicing my leadership skills.
14. The civic engagement I performed in this class enhanced my ability to work in teams to solve problems.

Community Partner Survey (1.2)

Civic engagement Outcome: Students will demonstrate development of personal attributes that contribute to civic engagement.

Survey adapted from the book, "Assessing Service-Learning and Civic Engagement" (Gelmon, Holland, & Spring, 2018).

Survey:

First, we would like some information about you

1. How long have you been working with our university?
 - Less than 1 year
 - 1-3 years
 - More than 3 years
2. What is your organizational status?
 - Public or
 - Private
 - For-profit or
 - nonprofit
3. What are the benchmark areas addressed by your organization?
 - Education
 - Housing
 - Safety
 - Health
 - Environment
 - Public Services
 - Other _____

The next set of questions relates to your most recent experiences with our university

4. How did your interactions with the university influence your capacity to fulfill the mission of your organization? Mark any that apply.
 - New insights about the organization/its operation
 - Increase in number of clients
 - Enhanced offerings of services
 - Increased leverage of financial/other resources
 - New connections/networks with other community groups
 - Changes in organizational direction
 - Increases in number of services offered
 - No influence
 - Other influences (please specify)
5. What are some of the challenges you encountered? Mark any that apply.
 - Demands upon staff time
 - Project time period insufficient
 - Students not well prepared
 - Number of students inappropriate for size of organization
 - Mismatch between course goals and organization
 - Little contact/interaction with faculty
 - Students did not perform as expected
 - Other (please specify)
6. What were some of the economic effects of your work with the university? Mark any that apply.
 - Increased value of services
 - Increased organizational resources
 - Completion of projects
 - Access to university technology and expertise
 - New products, services, materials generated
 - Increased funding opportunities
 - Identification of new staff
 - Identification of additional volunteer expertise
 - Other (please specify)
7. In what ways do you believe that you are able to influence the university as a result of your connection with one of our courses? Mark any that apply.
 - Influence on course content
 - Influence on university policies
 - Influence on faculty awareness of community
 - Influence on student learning experience
 - Other (please specify)
8. As a result of your connection to this university course, how has your awareness of the university changed? Mark any that apply.
 - I learned more about university programs and services
 - I learned whom to call on for information and assistance
 - I am more involved with activities on campus
 - I have increased knowledge of university resources
 - I have more interactions with faculty and administrators
 - I have taken or plan to take classes at the university
 - Other (please specify)
9. Do you plan to continue working with the university in this or another activity?
 - Yes
 - No

Please rate your level of satisfaction with your connection to a university course in the following areas:

5-point Likert scale (strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree, strongly agree)

10. Overall communication with students and faculty
11. Level and quality of interaction with students/faculty
12. Quality of student work
13. Feedback and input into planning of experiences
14. Scope and timing of activity
15. Level of trust with faculty and students

Open comment section

16. What was the best aspect of this experience for you?
17. What aspects of the experience would you change?
18. Please add any other additional comments.

References

Gelmon, S. B., Holland, B. A., & Spring, A. (2018). *Assessing Service-Learning and Civic Engagement*. Boston: Campus Compact.

Mikles-Schluterman, J. (2019, October 11). *Center for Community Engagement and Academic Outreach (CEAO)*. Retrieved from Arkansas Tech University: <https://www.atu.edu/GenEd/>