

# Ways of Engaging with the Community: Basic definitions and benefits

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**Community Engagement** – Any activity or effort done in collaboration with community where *community* may be a place, entity, or identity group. Activity or effort may take the form of any of the engagement models (partnership, collaborative, research or student focused activity). “Community Engagement” is more broadly defined as an umbrella term by institutions of higher education. See *Carnegie Classification Community Engagement definition*.

**Civic Engagement**- Engagement in the community for the purpose of building civic knowledge, participation and citizenship behavior in a democratic society.

**Community Service**- Community engagement for the purpose of serving the community, such as through volunteerism. Community is the primary beneficiary.

**Service-Learning** - Teaching method where community engagement is the mechanism for achieving one or more academic learning objectives. Student and community are equal beneficiaries.

**Community-based Internship** - Extended, structured, experience organized in and with community where the primary beneficiary is the student while serving a community purpose. Professional development and preparation are key desired outcomes, and community may also benefit.

**Clinical/Field Experience** - Field and professional development that may be performed in the community where the student is the primary beneficiary, and where the community is either the laboratory and/or the community partner is a collaborating educator. These types of experiences may be regulated and defined by accrediting bodies in certain disciplines like nursing and pharmacy. Community may benefit.

**Community Outreach** - Activity performed to invite community participation in a desired activity, event, or program. It may also be the act of disseminating information and resources to the community. Community may benefit.

**Community-Based Research** - Research conducted in and with the community with intended societal benefits.

**Community engaged scholarship** – scholarship in or with community in the context of reciprocity and mutual benefit. Scholarly product contributes to a body of knowledge, is peer reviewed, disseminated to appropriate audiences and contributes to the public good. Best practices include equity or social justice frameworks.

**Community-Based Participatory Research** - Research conducted in and with the community where the community has input and decision-making authority on the focus, purpose and methods of the research project. Principles of partnership apply. See *Community Campus Partnerships for Health*.

**Community Partnership** - A collaboration where desired outcomes and expectations from participating partners are shared, understood and agreed upon. Partnership varies in length and purpose with the use of one or more engagement models. Partnerships should be structured in the spirit of equity, reciprocity, and mutual benefit.

**Community Collaborative** - Community interaction for a specific purpose and outcome with transactional goals and objectives. May evolve into a community partnership.

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