

Guide to ACE Course Design and Support from the CEL

Center for Experiential Learning, St. Olaf College

Drafted by Nate Jacobi on June 14, 2010

1. Course Development

Utilize “Civic Engagement Course Design/Redesign for Faculty” worksheet to begin thinking about various aspects of course development including; *values/background, goals/outcomes, community partnership, preparation/orientation, integration, reflection/process, assessment/benchmarks, evaluation, product and celebration/recognition*. This resource was developed by the Civic Engagement Center at Macalester College.

2. Support from the CEL- Before the Start of the Course

Consult with the CEL on any of the following:

- Course/project development
- Identifying potential community partners
- Identifying ACE-related resources, articles, best-practices, etc.
- Examples of ACE projects/syllabi
- Course logistics, transportation, etc.

3. Support from the CEL- During the Course

Utilize the CEL to

- Talk to your class about civic engagement, campus-community partnerships, working with community partners, the local community context, etc.
- Support student reflection
- Provide guidance or support for students completing ACE projects
- Coordinate or promote meetings, forums, etc.
- Facilitate a Northfield Tour (or something similar)
- Help students connect ACE work to their own vocational development.

4. ACE Course Descriptions

The CEL is interested in documenting ACE courses and projects. Please send Nate a short (two to four sentence) description of the civic engagement project/activity to be used in the ACE Course Descriptions resource. Before student registration, descriptions of tentative ACE Courses offered during the following semester will be shared with students.

5. Public Scholarship (when applicable)

Consider if and how students’ work or scholarship could be made available to audiences beyond the classroom. Possible public scholarship approaches include;

- Students present directly to a community partner
- Students present as part of a campus or community forum
- Students display project or findings in a public space (on campus or in the community)
- Students participate in the Academic Civic Engagement Showcase at the end of the semester (if offered)
- Students’ project or work is made available on the web.

6. Document and Archive ACE Projects

The CEL is interested in documenting and archiving student projects. Specifically, the CEL is interested in collecting and displaying (on the web) some or all of the following: titles of student projects, short descriptions of student projects, links to the projects themselves, names of the students and pictures. See links on 2009-10 ACE Course Descriptions for examples. We are also interested in collecting “student profiles” of students who are involved with particularly successful and unique projects.

7. Assess Student Learning

The CEL is interested in evaluating the impact of ACE involvement on student learning and development. The CEL would be interested in having you distribute a short student survey at the end of the class and/or seeing student evaluations/feedback that relate to the ACE component. Nate will contact you about distributing a student survey sometime during the semester.

8. Community Partner Feedback

The CEL is interested in evaluating the impact of ACE projects on community partners. We have not typically formally surveyed community partners (although this may be an option), but we do find it helpful to debrief with community partners after the completion of the project.

9. Debrief ACE Course

The CEL is interested in meeting to debrief your ACE course/project and to discuss how your course/project may lead to future projects and partnerships.

10. Supporting ACE Teaching and Learning at St. Olaf

The CEL is interested in supporting and enhancing ACE teaching and learning at St. Olaf. Towards this end, the CEL is interested in facilitating opportunities for faculty to talk with their colleagues about their ACE teaching. Consider opportunities to discuss your ACE teaching with your faculty colleagues.

Academic Civic Engagement Web Resources

www.stolaf.edu/services/cel/FacultyStaff/Civic_Engagement_Program.html

- Course and Project Descriptions
- Faculty Resources & Articles
- Student Resources
- Student Profiles
- Local Issues (resources and articles about the local community)
- Local Community-based Organizations (Google Map)

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