

VT Engage: The Community Learning Collaborative
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Developing Global Service Programs

Program/Course Design: Community & Student Learning Outcomes

How are your program / course learning objectives related to service?

What type of projects are you interested in developing with a community partner?

How can you ensure the program meets both student learning outcomes and community goals?

Selecting a Community Partner

How are you choosing a community partner? (Important to consider: trust, known context, community focus vs. student learning focus)

Why is the community partner interested in working with students? (Important to consider: access to resources, enhanced capacity, new perspectives)

How is long-term sustainability of the project ensured?

Relationships with the Community

How is reciprocity, trust and transparency cultivated between the university and the community?

What is the process for planning programs in the community? Is there an emphasis on the community voice, assets and capacities?

What are the long-term expectations from the university/course/department and the community?

Course Preparation

How are students selected to participate in the course?

How are students prepared to work with communities? (Important to consider: pre-departure orientation, discussion of history, culture, politics of the country and community, intercultural competencies, power differences)

What role will communities play in the course?

How are communities prepared to work with students? What expectations are developed together with the community regarding the projects in the community?

In-Country

How is reflection integrated into the course?

What types of educational opportunities are provided during the course that provide more context for service experiences? (Important to consider: lectures, dialogue with community members)

How is cultural exchange facilitated with the community?

Follow-up

What type of follow-up is done after the course with the students? (Important to consider: re-orientation, active citizenship opportunities)

How does the community partner ensure the long-term sustainability of the project?

How do community partners remain engaged with the university after the program? What type of opportunities are there to discuss program outcomes for the community partner?