**Mars Hill University**

**Center for Community Engagement**

**Community Engagement Course Designation**

The Center for Community Engagement (CCE) seeks to support faculty and all course instructors in their adoption of community engagement pedagogy for their courses. The Center supports faculty through idea generation, community partner connection, course design, reflection and assessment activities, and funding for supplies and transportation for those courses that are designated as “Community Engagement.”

In order to receive Community Engagement designation, courses must meet eligibility requirements and instructors must apply for the designation by published deadlines. Courses are approved for one semester only.

**Requirements for Community Engagement Designated Courses**

1. The course must include a community engagement activity which comprises a significant component of the course.
2. As student time commitments will depend on the nature of the community engagement component of the course, there is no set minimum number of required service hours.
3. Students in the course provide an instructor-approved service to a CCE Community Partner that fulfills a real community need.
4. The course integrates action and reflection. Reflection occurs on a regular basis throughout the experience. Reflection activities may include discussions, creative works, journals, papers, presentations, etc.
5. Projects cannot be partisan in nature or involve proselytizing. Partisan is working on behalf of a candidate for election or a political party. Proselytizing is working on a project that has a core mission of religious formation, prayer, or worship.

**Community Engagement Student Learning Outcomes:**

* Identify social and environmental issues, resources, assets and cultures in the community, region and the world.
* Communicate informed, innovative, and effective action steps for positive change in the community.
* Engage with people who have ideas, beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors different from one’s own as professional members of society.

**Examples of Approved & Non-approved Courses**

The following examples are meant to illustrate, but not limit, community engagement. If a course instructor has an idea for a community engagement course or project but is unsure if it would meet the requirement, the CCE staff is available to discuss ideas and options.

*Approved projects (all must relate to course objectives*): Read to children enrolled in a Smart Start program, support Madison County Arts Council events, conduct research for the Madison County Health Department, analyze policies for Children First/Communities in Schools, voter education, develop curriculum for the local Girl Scout troop, web development and design for the Community Housing Coalition, supporting Mars Hill Baptist’s food program, market analysis and feasibility study for Beacon of Hope.

*Non-approved projects:* babysitting for individual families, campus facility improvement, talking with a roommate about problems, shoveling snow at a church before services, campaigning for a political candidate, tutoring a first-year MHU student in Math.

**Application Process**

To apply for the Community Engagement course designation submit a proposal through interview with a CE Advisory Board member or through written submission.

To apply faculty will need to respond to the following prompts/questions:

* Describe the community engagement activity(ies) that comprises a significant component of the course
* For which Center for Community Engagement partner will students provide service? Describe the real community need that will be addressed by student work
* How will the course integrate action and reflection? How will reflection occur on a regular basis?
* Do projects avoid partisan work and proselytizing?
* Does the course meet the student learning outcomes for the CCE

*Center for Community Engagement Mission*

*The Center for Community Engagement builds deep and meaningful opportunities that promote student learning, responsible citizenship, character development and connection to the world of work. The Center establishes and maintains mutually beneficial partnerships with non-profits and government agencies in order to meet needs in the community, region and world.*