Pathways to Engagement: Learning outcomes and curriculum pathways for community-based research

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Experiential education that puts communities first.

Community-based teaching & research can be transformative for teaching, research and communities.

This is a foundation for nurturing the legitimacy and relevance of universities.
Independent brokers facilitate student capstone community-based research projects with Trent

Trent Centre for Community-Based Education
Formed by COIN, Peterborough Social Planning Council and Trent University in 1996

Integrated within the University in 2018
Some Impacts in Communities from CBR
Impacts of community-based learning on teaching & learning

For example, a water festival
For example: Abbey Gardens in Haliburton

Project goal

To develop curriculum that incrementally builds students’ skills for practicing successful community first campus-community engagement, from high school through to graduate school.
Project Activities

Curriculum mapping for community-based research

Build tools, courses, modules to support student learning and skills development in community-campus engagement
- On-line modules to introduce CBR to undergrads
- Create terms of reference templates for community-based graduate theses
- Design a high school CCE course for students in grade 11/12 (e.g., Youth Leadership in Sustainability, launched fall 2018. http://yls.green)
- Enhance community service learning programming

CBR competencies & skills

Overall competencies
- Interpersonal skills
- Communication & listening
- Time management
- Project planning

Competencies supporting CBR
- (Inter)Cultural competence
- Civic engagement
- Community knowledge
- Research skills (Inquiry & Analysis)

Employment & career competencies
- Professionalism
- Self awareness
- Career planning
Student Learning Theory

- Awareness Phase (I see that it exists)
- Questioning Phase (I am asking about it)
- Entering Phase (I am learning rules and roles)
- Belonging Phase (I can do this)

Assessing competencies is crucial, but not easy
## Opportunities

### High School
- Find out what the admission requirements are for programs that interest you.
- Get a head start by exploring the Youth Leadership in Sustainability Program.

### First Year
- Use the Academic Calendar to ensure you are taking the required courses for your major.
- Take advantage of community-service learning opportunities in ERSC 1020H/1020H.

### Second Year
- Enroll in ERST 2510H Qualitative Methods in Environmental Studies and the eLearning course Introduction to the Theory and Practice of Community-Based Research if it is offered.
- Continue meeting the degree requirement for your major.

### Third Year
- Third-year courses: ERST 3000H Environmental Professional Practice, ERSC 3160H Community-Based Natural Resource Management.
- An average of 75% is required to participate in community-based research projects.

### Fourth Year & Beyond
- Complete your Community-Based Research Project or Thesis.
- Attend Celebration of Research.
- Complete all degree requirements.

## Requirements & Courses

### Experience
- Consider participating in one of Ontario’s Specialist High Skills Major Programs in Environment or Non-Profit work, taking part in Environthon, or participating the Students As Researchers (SAR) Program.

### Community Connections
- Join a club or group that suits your interests! Trent has many environmentally focused clubs and groups to join them.

### Career & Personal Development
- Explore your university options by booking a campus tour, coming to an open house, or speaking to current students at Trent, and don’t forget to apply!

## Models for community-based research

- Graduate student internship/ placement
- Faculty research program & projects
- High school models
- Graduate student thesis
- Double credit undergrad honours thesis
- Within a graduate course
- Service learning
- U-Link
- One-term undergrad course
- Co-curricular projects
- Single credit undergrad course
- Graduate research program & projects
- Models for community-based research: Faculty research program & projects, Graduate research program & projects, Service learning, U-Link, One-term undergrad course, Co-curricular projects.
Scaffolding CBR in the Trent School of the Environment

Next steps

Institutionalize
- Formalize and extend curriculum pilots across School of the Environment

Evaluate
- Assess & evaluate outcomes for community organizations and students

Connect
- Better connect TSE curriculum pilots with experiential learning initiatives across campus
Thank you.

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