

**Definition:** “[**University-Community Engagement** describes the collaboration between higher education institutions and their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity.”

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching  
Carnegie Classification Project, 2005

**Engagement is NOT** a fourth mission for the university. Rather, it is a cross-cutting value set and approach to scholarship that is applicable to research, teaching, and service.

Engagement means not just doing something for someone/entity but doing it with them, recognizing that the community has its own unique/special resources that it can use to benefit the joint effort and the university.

**Definition: Community:** That which is not the university and not academia. Communities may be **communities of location** (Lexington), **purpose** (dentists, corporations in a given field), or **need** (non-profit organizations needing assistance, people with a common health problem).

**Definition: Partnership:** Partnership is doing something with some person/entity beyond the university and academia. There are **many levels of university-community partnership**. Community roles may include (among others) expressing/identifying a problem, issue, or need; allowing university students to have experiences there (internships, clinicals, studios) or faculty to have access to research data; assisting in planning and/or management of the effort; participating in the research, teaching, and/or evaluation; identifying and providing some level of resources to support the effort; and/or sharing responsibility for evaluating the project and disseminating engagement products or practices.

**Definition: Benefit: Benefit to the university** may mean access to data and/or resources (human, financial, equipment, knowledge, experience, etc.) that may lead to research findings and/or experiences for students that will enhance university teaching and learning. **Benefit to the community** may mean access to specialized university expertise, equipment, external funding sources, etc.

#### **Areas of university-community engagement:**

- **Research** (including applied research) and creative works that address a community need and that are undertaken in partnership with the community—e.g., Agriculture’s reclaiming/ reforestation of coal-mined lands, Dentistry’s efforts to reduce pre-term/low birthweight babies through removing persistent infections in the mother’s mouth
- **Technical assistance** in solving a community problem (analysis, recommendation, etc.)—e.g., Engineering or Business’s assistance to help a corporation build a product better or cheaper, Public Health’s efforts to address health problems in Mt. Sterling, Nursing’s expertise in assisting interested communities in reducing the incidence of indoor pollution/smoking/radon in their communities, Pharmacy’s analysis and recommendations relating to (Kentucky) Medicaid’s payment for anti-psychotic drugs
- **Teaching for credit, non-credit (CEU), or community understanding** that responds to an expressed community need/desire and that is conducted for those communities, not for typical on-campus full-time UK students; e.g., Education’s distance learning degree programs to train/certify special education teachers in eastern Kentucky, Library and Information Studies’ programs training librarians across Kentucky and surrounding states

- **Overseeing Service-Learning or other Community-based Learning Experiences** (internships, coops, studios, clinicals, rotations, externships, practica, etc.)
- **Serving in the individual's area of UK expertise on community (or community-UK) boards, committees, or commissions**—Bob Wiseman's service on the University-Neighborhood Advisory Committee or the Town-Gown Commission, Lisa Higgins-Hord's service on the Town-Gown Committee
- **Providing clinical services to meet a community need off-campus**—e.g., Research/Medicine's lung cancer vaccination trials, Medicine's Marty Driesler 5<sup>th</sup> District Cancer Initiative, Dentistry's mobile van and treatments in schools across Kentucky, AHECs

Note that while work each of these areas can constitute community-engaged activity, engaged scholarship would require more. See the draft Promotion and Tenure documents created by the UCAPP Engagement Committee based on Provost Subbaswamy's charge.