Developing students’ skills

We’re developing skills—communication, teamwork, critical thinking, problem-solving, working across difference—that employers say are essential for professional success, as well as full participation in community and civic life.

Campuses and communities will thrive when they understand and respect each other, seek shared prosperity, community vitality, and support neighbors’ aspirations to pursue education beyond high school.

Community organizations and leaders are partners and co-educators; both the campus and the community benefit from collaborating.

Show you are listening to others’ voices, co-creating knowledge, and advancing shared goals together, not assuming your institution brings all the expertise and resources to the table.

We engage students, faculty, staff, and community members from a wide array of backgrounds and perspectives in dialogue and action, which does not always lead to agreement but does lead to deeper understanding and capacity for collaboration in diverse communities.

Both student learning and faculty research are relevant, applicable, and useful beyond the academy.

Connect engagement to your institution’s mission, vision, values, learning objectives, and/or strategic priorities. Note how the institution lives out its civic commitment beyond student engagement (e.g., local purchasing, shared facilities, participation in community boards and events).
TERMS TO AVOID
+ suggested alternatives

TRY THIS | not that

Addressing community priorities | Meeting community needs
Advancing shared goals
Fulfilling our responsibility to our community

Working together
Collaborating
Learning from/with

Doing with | Doing for

Jointly defining problems and creating solutions | Fixing problems
Real world
Hands on learning
Preparing students for work, life, and citizenship

Service-learning