

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT VALUE RUBRIC

for more information, please contact value@aacu.org



The VALUE rubrics were developed by teams of faculty experts representing colleges and universities across the United States through a process that examined many existing campus rubrics and related documents for each learning outcome and incorporated additional feedback from faculty. The rubrics articulate functions of civic engagement that are essential to the development of a civic-minded graduate. Civic engagement is the process of developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make that difference. It means promoting the quality of life in a community, local, national or global, and addressing the needs of all people. (Adapted from *Higher Education*, edited by Thomas Ehrlich, published by Oryx Press, 2000, Preface, page vi.) In addition, civic engagement encompasses activities that are life enriching and socially beneficial to the community.

Framing Language

Civic engagement is a responsibility of higher education. Yet the outcome of a civic-minded graduate is a complex concept. It is shaped by social, cultural, and institutional conditions, pre-professional norms and practice, and the mission and values of colleges and universities. This rubric is designed to make civic engagement a central focus of the learning experience. For students this could include community-based learning, service learning, or organizational involvement to electoral participation.

- Civic/community contexts: Organizations, movements, campaigns, a place or locus where people and/or living creatures inhabit, which may be defined or defined by shared identity (i.e., African-Americans, North Carolinians, Americans, the Republican or Democratic Party, refugees, etc.). In addition, contexts should benefit a person, group, or community, including community service or volunteer work, academic work.

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Definition

Civic engagement is "working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values, and motivation to make that difference. It means promoting the quality of life in a community, through both political and non-political processes." (Excerpted from *Civic Responsibility and Higher Education*, edited by Thomas Ehrlich, published by Oryx Press, 2000, Preface, page vi.) In addition, civic engagement encompasses actions wherein individuals participate in activities of personal and public concern that are both individually life enriching and socially beneficial to the community.

Evaluators are encouraged to assign a zero to any work sample or collection of work that does not meet benchmark performance.

	Capstone 4	3	Milestones 2	Benchmark 1
Diversity of Communities and Cultures				