



Community Engagement & Leadership (CEL) Program

UTEP COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Why Community Engagement?

- Engagement in the community serves the purpose of building knowledge, motivation, and participatory behavior in a democratic society.
- Faculty create opportunities for engagement through a community partner.
- Students get connected to activities that create a mutually beneficial, reciprocal relationship that helps to serve the community in some way.

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Purpose



To strengthen students' understanding of their role in society as engaged citizens.



To build the knowledge and competencies that will enable students to be socially responsible and participating community leaders.



To expand the learning experience beyond in-class critical-thinking and discussions.

Benefits for students

- Engage with the community
- Gain valuable knowledge, experience and expertise
- Develop leadership skills
- Make positive contributions to society
- Have CEL courses on transcript to demonstrate to recruiters and employers seeking for students that went beyond a traditional education



Benefits for faculty

- Engage with the community
- Invigorate curriculum
- Fine-tune teaching and research skills in line with the Boyer model of scholarship
- Align teaching with UTEP Edge
- Maximize evaluation and recognition of work



Benefits for the community

Participate in a mutually beneficial, reciprocal relationship that helps to serve a need through but not limited to:

- community-based internships
- outreach
- capacity-building and mentoring
- field-based learning
- student teaching
- community-based research

Connect with UTEP students and faculty to help solve problems, make use of resources, and fulfill key services.



Who are some of the community partners?

- While some faculty choose to develop their partnerships directly with key organizations, an increasing number of faculty and organizations are now also working in conjunction with UTEP's Center for Community Engagement through the Community-University-Engagement (CUE) Portal (see: <https://utep.galaxydigital.com/>).
- Examples of agencies recently working with the Center for Community Engagement to partner with faculty and students using the CUE:
 - The Opportunity Center for the Homeless
 - Hispanic Women's Network of Texas
 - Central El Paso Community Organization (CEPCO)
 - El Paso Zoo Society
 - YWCA El Paso del Norte Region
 - Military Veteran Peer Network



How can students register for CEL courses

1. Speak with your advisor about CEL courses offered in the course catalog when planning your semester schedule.
2. Look for courses with the CEL designation, such as:



HIST 5390 (CEL)



ENGL 3374 (CEL)



POLS 4315 (CEL)

How to obtain a CEL designation?

1. Review

Faculty Syllabus Design Guide

CEL Application Form

CEL Signature Form

*These can be accessed from the College of Liberal Arts website

<https://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/resources/faculty-staff-resources/ce/index.html>

2. Update your syllabus to reflect the design guidelines

3. Complete the CEL Application Form

4. Complete the CEL Signature Form (with applicable signatures at the department level)

5. Submit syllabus, CEL Application Form, and CEL Signature Form to achaconsilva@utep.edu

Further information and guidance

- Faculty, advisors, and students interested in CEL courses may contact:
 - Associate Dean, Dr. Selfa A. Chew-Melendez (sachewsmithart@utep.edu)
 - Dr. Areli Chacon Silva (achaconsilva@utep.edu)
 - Cynthia Marentes, (cmarentes@utep.edu)
- Register for upcoming community engagement workshops and training sessions.
- For more general guidance and links to key resources online, please visit the CEL webpage at: <https://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/resources/faculty-staff-resources/cel/index.html>

An aerial night photograph of a city, likely Los Angeles, with the San Gabriel Mountains in the background. The city lights are visible, and a prominent 'WELLS FARGO' sign is seen on a building. The text 'Thank you!' is overlaid in a large, bold, orange font in the center of the image.

Thank you!