



COMMUNITY ENGAGED SCHOLARS TRANSCRIPT DESIGNATION

RECOGNIZING UNO STUDENTS AS ENGAGED SCHOLARS

2024 Advisors Presentation

About this Designation

The **Community Engaged Scholars Transcript Designation (CESTD)** documents and recognizes UNO undergraduate students for their community engagement experiences.

Being recognized as an engaged scholar offers a competitive edge for students who choose to tailor their involvement and academic work in a way that capitalizes on UNO's comparative advantage.



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Benefits for Students

- Connect with local leaders and change-makers.
- Make a positive impact on your community.
- Develop their resume through these experiences.
- Strengthen their competitive advantage with employers.
- Strengthen their communication, leadership, and teamwork skills.



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Eligibility and Recognition

- **Any UNO undergraduate student is eligible**
- Students are recognized at graduation once all requirements are submitted and approved within five working days following their formal graduation date.
- Students who have already completed some of these requirements in previous semesters are eligible to apply their experiences.
- Students must earn a C or better in the two service-learning classes & the community-based learning course (if applicable).

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Requirements for Students

- **COMMUNITY BASED LEARNING EXPERIENCE** (3 credit hours)
- **SERVICE LEARNING COURSEWORK** (6 hours)
- **VOLUNTEERISM/SERVICE** (135 hours outside of class)
- **CATEGORY REFLECTIONS** (1 written piece for each requirement)
- **FINAL REFLECTION** (1 written piece end of semester)
- **MINIMUM 3.0 CUMULATIVE GPA** (at graduation)



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OFFICE OF ENGAGEMENT

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Omaha

Examples and Requirements for Students

COMMUNITY BASED LEARNING (CBL)	SERVICE LEARNING COURSEWORK	VOLUNTEERISM / SERVICE	REFLECTIONS
<p>(1) CBL experience equivalent to three (3) credit hours OR 135 hours of effort. Academic credits require a minimum C for this requirement. EXAMPLES: Internships; Practica/ Student Teaching</p>	<p>Complete six (6) hours of designated service-learning courses. <i>Must have a service-learning designation in the “course attributes” column of the online UNO course catalog. Students would be allowed to transfer in one service-learning course (equivalent of 3 credit hours) with proper documentation from their previous institution and approval from the SLA.</i> SERVICE LEARNING (defined): Courses that connect classroom learning to community-identified service. These partnerships occur with nonprofit organizations, governmental agencies, P-12 schools, and/or businesses.</p>	<p>135 hours of volunteer OR community service hours that are not part of a class requirement. <i>With permission and proper documentation, students may transfer up to 35 hours of documented volunteer or community service earned while enrolled at another institution of higher education.</i> EXAMPLES: Unpaid hours/work with any community agency or nonprofit or through a student organization, student government, athletics etc.</p>	<p>Includes one (1) written reflection for each category of requirement (i.e., service learning). <i>Category reflections connect experiences with learning and personal development. One (1) final written reflection after completing all of the category requirements. The final reflection challenges students to think critically about how all of their experiences have enhanced their learning. Access to each reflection takes place following each student's completion of the category requirement. Reflections are reviewed and approved throughout the designation process.</i></p>

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Possible Student Candidates

- Students who are currently in or will be taking a service learning or CBL course
- Those who are enrolled in honors programs, learning communities, organizations, student government, etc.
- Students who are or will be taking a capstone or practicum
- Student interns
- Students in service and professional degree paths



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Testimonial



"As a whole, being a community-engaged scholar has enriched my undergraduate experience. I can confidently enter the workforce as an educator who values community and contribution to my classroom, city, and country."

Ashley Honeyman, 2023



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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can high school hours be transferred in for credit?

A: No. Only hours connected to an accredited community college or four-year institution may be transferred.

Q: They just heard about this program; can they use volunteer hours from my entire time at UNO?

A: Yes! This designation is intended to reflect their cumulative experience at UNO. All volunteer hours they have done during their time at UNO or an accredited university count toward this designation.

Q: A student wants to complete this designation, who should they notify, and when?

A: Notify the Centennial Fellow Fatima Arroyo (farroyo@unomaha.edu) by the deadline to apply for graduation.

This allows us to track a student's progress as well as ensure their name is in the commencement booklet.

Q: What counts as a community-based learning project?

A: Many academic courses and experiences outside the classroom count for this. Common projects include internships, practicum, collaborations with organizations or nonprofits for a class project, capstone project, academic research, study abroad, and more. If a student is unsure if their experience counts, please contact us!

Q: When are all their materials and reflections due?

A: Everything should be submitted to Canvas the week before finals week to ensure it can be graded on time.



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Feedback?

- Any ideas of an efficient student outreach methods?
- Is there an easier way to facilitate the enrollment of interested students?
- How can we support you in reaching/referring students with partial component completions?



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