



Community-Engaged Learning Activities During COVID-19

REMOTE PROGRAMMING UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Following recommendations from the Community-Engaged Learning workgroup of the Outreach and Engagement Subcommittee, MSU-sponsored community engagement placements for undergraduates are recommended not to occur in-person until further notice. Exceptions are detailed below.

This guidance does not include activities and opportunities offered outside of MSU-sponsored community-engaged learning programs, nor does it include employment-based activities.

PROCESSES FOR REMOTE COMMUNITY-ENGAGED LEARNING

Community placements for undergraduates may continue through remote access.

Program planning should focus on developing rich virtual learning experiences with established community partners. Community needs, as defined by community partners, should continue to be key in the design. Virtual community-engaged learning must be based in the same principles of community engagement as in-person experiences.

Existing Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and other partnership agreements should be updated to include current university and partner policies and procedures and incorporate new virtual safety protocols. Note that the transition to a virtual format may cause additional barriers to partners, students, and instructors.

EXCEPTIONS:

Exceptions to these recommendations are allowable in the following cases with appropriate major unit approval and a documented plan (see below) for meeting all university and partner safety protocols:

1. Essential medical experiences
2. Required program or accreditation experiences
3. Course-based internships and/or field experiences

In these cases, the following must be in place:

1. Agreements outlining responsibility for program operations, expectations, and accountability
2. Required safety checklists including the issuing/distribution of approved PPE
3. Commitment statements that assure that safety measures will be met by all parties
4. Understanding of the requirement that if safety protocols are not met, they must be reported by a partner, student, or educator, following MSU protocols, and may result in the termination of the activity

MAUs are responsible for any costs related to the implementation of MSU-approved exceptions.

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