Fundamentals of Community Engagement, McMaster University

Checklist

Reflecting on the Six Principles

The following questions are intended to help you self-assess whether your community-based, experiential learning engagement is following McMaster's principles.

Respectful Relationships

- Have I taken the time to understand this community by reviewing publicly available materials prior to engaging the community partner?
- Am I listening actively to community partners?
- Have I been open and honest with my community partner about my skills, limitations, and the amount of time and energy I can devote to this project?
- Your additions:

Reciprocity

- How will I make sure that my engagement contributes something meaningful to this community?
- What can I do to ensure that I draw on community partners time appropriately?
- Your additions:

Equity

- How do my identities (race, gender, sexuality, class) matter in terms of this work? How might community members perceive my participation?
- What broader power structures impact this issue and how does the community participate in this issue? What are common assumptions and biases about this issue?
- Is everyone able to participate equally in this process? What are the barriers and how can we use an equity approach to ensure participation?
- Your additions:

Continuity

- Are there opportunities to build on prior community-engaged learning with this community partner?
- Are there opportunities to develop future community-engaged with this partner?
- Your additions:

Openness to Learning

- Are there elements of your lived experience that might make working and learning with this community partner difficult?
- What difficulties might you have when learning from and with individuals who are dissimilar to you?
- Your additions:

Commitment to Act

- Do you have sufficient time and energy for this work?
- What will I do if I need to exit the work early in the process?
- Your additions: