



ABOUT THE E DESIGNATION FOR SERVICE LEARNING COURSES

E is for “engaged learning”



NKU's SERVICE LEARNING DEFINITION

The E designator derives from this

“Service Learning is a course-based, credit-bearing educational experience in which students (a) participate in an organized service activity that meets a community need and (b) reflect upon their service activity as a means of gaining a deeper understanding of course content, a broader appreciation of the discipline, an enhanced sense of civic responsibility, and/or a greater interest in and understanding of community life.”

Definition adopted by NKU SHAPE committee and presented to NKU community in January 2006. Adapted from Bringle, R. and Hatcher, J. A Service Learning Curriculum for Faculty. The Michigan Journal of Community Service Learning, Fall 1995, pp 112- 122; and Student Action for a Change .



WHAT COURSES CAN GET THE 'E' DESIGNATION?

- The E designation can be associated with any course that has gone through the review and approval process.
- Both undergraduate and graduate courses can receive the designation.
- All disciplines are eligible. In fact, it is the goal of NKU to have this High Impact Practice (service learning) available across the university.
- The “E” designation appears next to the course number in SAP and MyNKU.



HOW IT IS USED

- The E designation can be triggered any time a section of a course is taught with service learning principles and pedagogy.
- For example, a hypothetical course, HYP 101, might be offered in the fall without service learning and so would appear in MyNKU/SAP as HYP 101-001. But if the same course is in the spring with service learning, then it would be listed as HYP 101E-001.
- Any course that might, in the future, be taught with service learning should be considered for the E designation -- even if it won't be always taught with service learning. That allows for the course to exist in the system with the "E" option should it be offered in an upcoming semester with service learning.



WHY IT IS USED

- The E designation allows NKU to more accurately track where this powerful approach to teaching is being used.
- It also provides students with information about where they can find service learning classes (service learning courses are designated with an “E” in myNKU).
- In addition, the designation allows NKU to create and support a like-minded community of faculty who teach with service learning.



HOW TO GET THE 'E' DESIGNATION FOR A COURSE

- The E designation must be approved by the department chair and the corresponding dean. An application next is reviewed by the E Designation Committee, which makes a recommendation to NKU's University Curriculum Committee for final approval.
- The application can be initiated in Curriculog.
- Questions? Connie Kiskaden, NKU's coordinator for curriculum programs, can assist: kiskadenc@nku.edu



FAQ

Q: How do I know if my course is likely to qualify for the E designation?

A: Review the E designation rubric on this site.

Q: How do I get started if I want my course to get the E designation

A: Early on, discuss your interest with your department chair, who will have to approve the application before it is submitted.

Q: Is a course guaranteed approval for the E designation?

A: No. The review process is set up to assure that the course meets NKU's criteria. However, if a course is not approved, the E designation team will work with the applicant to correct any deficiencies or concerns.

Q: Other first steps?

A: If you would like to know more about service learning at NKU, contact the Scripps Howard Center for Civic Engagement at engage@nku.edu. The center supports service learning at NKU.

Q: What if I need a community partner for a service learning class?

A: The Scripps Center can help.



GENERAL QUESTIONS?

**Contact Mark Neikirk, Executive Director
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