



West Texas A&M University Campus to Community: WT and Beyond

The primary goal of *Campus to Community: WT and Beyond* is to use experiential learning as the vehicle to develop students' capacity to transfer theory into practice in situations, communities, and

environments while at the University and beyond (graduate school, career, etc).

While there are existing programs on campus that involve experiential learning (i.e., internships, practicums, etc.) the University does not require that all undergraduate degree programs include an experiential learning component. Currently, there is no university-wide assessment or tracking system for experiential learning activities. With this enhancement plan, WTAMU hopes to reach the target goal of at least 75% of WTAMU students participating in some form of experiential education. Experiential Learning Opportunities (ELOs) will be categorized into the pathways of undergraduate research, service learning, and career-focused experiences. Students may access these pathways in a variety of venues: locally, regionally, nationally, and through study abroad and/or distance learning. Learning opportunities in these three areas will help students bridge the gap between theoretical learning and authentic application of knowledge and ideas.

Two student learning outcomes have been identified to measure the success of Campus to Community (C2C):

- Students will evaluate changes in their knowledge, skills, and dispositions in relationship to intellectual or personal development by engaging in structured reflection throughout the experiential learning process.
- Students will integrate their knowledge, skills, and dispositions (attitudes, beliefs, and ethics) acquired through course work within experiential learning environments.

In order to assess student attainment of these intended student learning outcomes (SLO), WTAMU will use a combination of direct and indirect measures including SLO-specific rubrics that are adapted from the Association of American Colleges and Universities' (AAC&U) Value Assessment of Learning in Undergraduate Education (VALUE) rubrics (<http://www.aacu.org/value-rubrics>). The four performance levels on each rubric describe the progression of performance from a beginning level to emerging to accomplished to advanced. In general, the third level accomplished serves as the achievement target for students involved in C2C-related learning opportunities.

Campus to Community will be a university-wide effort to improve student learning through connecting classroom theoretical knowledge with experiential opportunities that will deepen understanding of the learning process.

CONTACT:

Dr. George Pacheco

Director of Experiential Learning

gpacheco@wtamu.edu