

Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching: Community Engagement Classification

Overview of application:

- This is an elective classification
- The community engagement classification entails substantial institutional commitments in the areas of curricular engagement and outreach partnerships. It involves extensive data collection and documentation of campus activities.
- The application was prepared under the guidance of Elizabeth Burman of the Office of Research who also serves as the Campus Coordinator for the Academic Outreach and Engagement Council. The Council members provided the oversight for the application process. Numerous other faculty and representatives of various units on campus contributed to the effort in valuable ways over the summer of 2010.
- Participation in the review for the classification is strictly voluntary. An institution's failure to achieve the classification is not a judgment about the institution's commitment to its community.

2010 classification process and results:

In order to be selected, institutions had to provide descriptions and examples of institutionalized practices of community engagement that showed alignment among mission, culture, leadership, infrastructure, strategic planning, resource budgeting, faculty teaching and scholarship, community partnerships, student engagement tied to the curriculum, and the use of institutional measures such as the OEMI* (for tracking and assessing campus engagement) and the NSSE** (for understanding student engagement in learning through community engagement.)

- 154 submitted applications to receive the classification; 115 were successful (75%)
- Of the 115: 61 public institutions, 54 private.
- Of the 115: 37 research universities (32%), 40 master's colleges and universities, 28 baccalaureate colleges, 6 community colleges, 4 institutions with specialized focus

Summary of application results:

The Carnegie Foundation's review board commended UTK for strong outreach and partnerships, including Tennessee Cooperative Extension and other outreach offices attached to UT's land grant mission. The UTK's application however was not successful. According to the reviewers, UTK has not yet expanded its outreach and extension mission into an engagement mission. The main barriers to full alignment of engagement across campus include a lack of systemic assessment mechanisms, no campus-wide coordination of curricular engagement (service learning) programming, and no clearly stated mission for engagement in the institution's strategic plan.

- Of UTK "Top 25" benchmarks institutions: the majority (17) now carry this classification
- In Tennessee: 10 carry this classification (including both UT Martin and UT Chattanooga)

Looking ahead

- The next opportunity to apply for this classification will be in 2015.
- ALL institutions currently classified for community engagement will have to re-apply in 2015. Clearly, the Carnegie is moving towards an accreditation process.

*OEMI: Outreach and Engagement Measurement Instrument

<http://csue.msu.edu/publications/instruments.aspx>

**NSSE: National Survey of Student Engagement <http://nsse.iub.edu/>