

Community Engagement and Service Learning

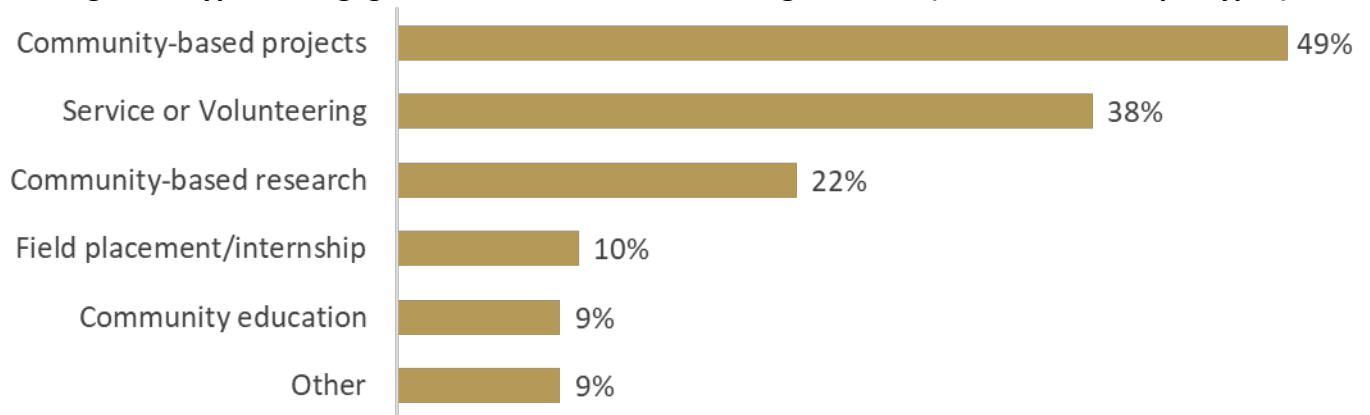
During Winter Semester 2018, OU faculty and staff responded to a survey assessing the scope of community engagement and service learning. In total, 247 individuals responded to the survey and 146 (60%) reported that they were involved in courses, research, service, or partnerships that involved community engagement.

Community engagement (course-based) includes an array of out-of-class activities characterized by student and faculty involvement with the broader community. These experiences can take many forms and may include academic service learning, experiential learning, community partnerships, community service, and/or volunteering.

Courses with Community Engagement

Faculty and staff reported that 100 courses taught during 2017-2018 offered community engagement or service learning components. In most of the courses (n=58) participation in these activities is mandatory. Students taking these courses participate in community engagement for an average of 19 hours per semester (ranges from 1-160 hours). The types of activities offered through courses are primarily community based projects or community service/volunteering (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: Types of engagement activities offered through courses (some offer multiple types)



In many of these courses, student engagement activities are formally assessed. Some of these methods include gathering feedback from internship supervisors to rate student performance, evaluating student portfolios or culminating projects that include personal reflection on community involvement, using rubrics to grade student written and/or oral presentation assignments.

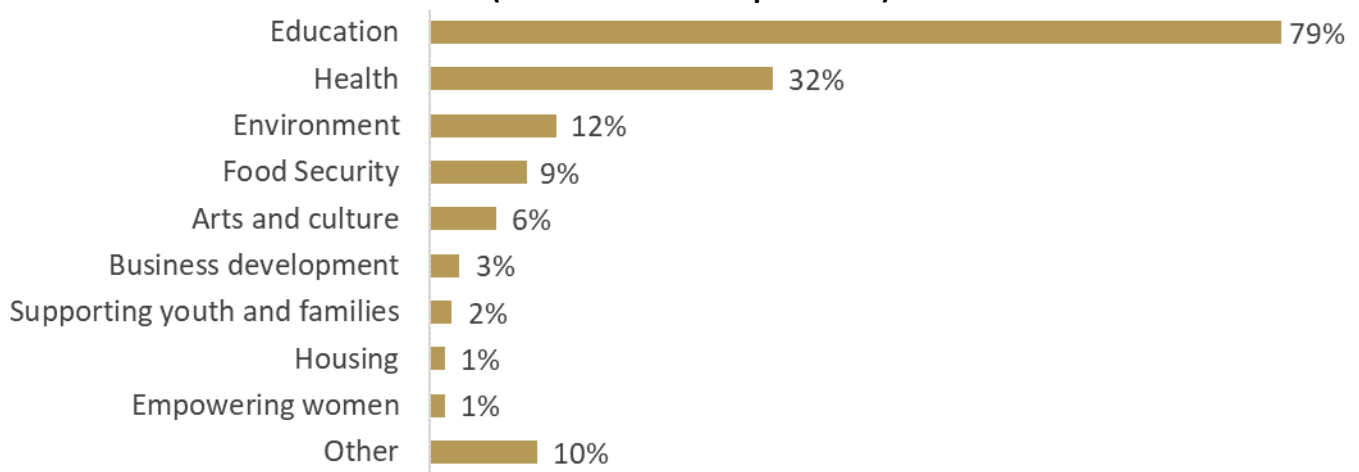
Community-based Service & Research →

Spotlight on OU – September 2018

Community-based Service and Research Activities (other than course-specific)

Faculty and staff reported involvement in a total of 190 community research or service programs/initiatives related to their role at OU (outside of any course-specific activities) during the 2017-18 academic year. Over half of the programs involved student participation ranging from 1-600 students and averaging 38 students. There were 80 programs involving participation of other faculty. On average, faculty and staff spend 49 hours per semester on each program/initiative. Many faculty indicate that the program influenced their scholarly work in various ways including conference presentations (n=19), using experiences in courses or to develop courses (n=12), publications – either finalized or draft (n=10), grants (n=7) and workshops (n=4). In addition, there are a multitude of issues addressed through faculty and staff community-based research and service activities (see Figure 2).

Figure 2: Issues addressed through community-based service and research activities (some involve multiple issues)



For a full list of community-engaged courses and programs reported by faculty and staff on the 2018 survey, refer to the document posted [on the OIRA web section](#).

Student Experiences with Community Engagement and Service

In Fall 2018, OU undergraduate students will be given the opportunity to share their experiences through the National Assessment of Service and Community Engagement (NASCE) as a follow-up to the 2015 survey. At that time, 70% of students agreed that OU promotes service and 65% agreed that OU does a good job at informing the student body of service opportunities. Fifty-two percent of students were satisfied with their personal level of involvement in community service at Oakland, indicating that nearly 5 out of 10 students would like to serve more.