



# ACE Pathways

SRU Center for Community Engagement

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Q: What is an ACE course?

A: An Academic Community Engagement course integrates community engagement with instruction and reflection to enhance learning, promote civic responsibility and strengthen communities. (SRU 2024).

### Q: What is the ACE Pathway?

A: The ACE Pathway is the application process for designating a course as ACE. It is based on best practices and assists faculty in infusing high quality standards into their engaged teaching through the provision of assistance, resources and support from the CCE.



## ACE Faculty

### Q: What are the benefits of ACE course designation for faculty?

A: Benefits of the ACE course designation for faculty include:

- **OPPORTUNITY** to enhance your teaching, scholarship, and service!
- **ASSISTANCE** with community partnership development if needed.
- **FUNDING** that is built into the Pathway - no separate process nor additional reporting requirements.
- **SUPPORT** with integration of best practices into your academic community engagement courses.
- **TRAINING/PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT** catered to your needs.
- **ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENTS** for your students' civic learning AND community-university partnership outcomes.
- **OUTCOMES REPORT** based on the organization and statistical analysis of your data.
- **DESIGNATION** as an **ACE FACULTY** for recognition and continuing professional development opportunities.
- **ACE CERTIFICATE** for your professional evaluation.

### Q: How do ACE courses benefit Slippery Rock University??

A: ACE courses benefit our institution by:

- Integrating community engagement into academic programs that advance SRU's strategic plan (Pillar #3 Community Impact and Collaboration), and support SRU's Carnegie classification as an engaged campus.
- Measuring the breadth and scope of faculty community engaged teaching.
- Infusing academic excellence and rigor through support of high-quality standards.
- Enhancing student learning and career success through applied skills, community connections, and civic responsibility.
- Providing resources to community-based partnerships and projects.
- Promoting SRU student civic engagement and community impact.
- Providing support and assistance from the CCE professional team.

**Q: Can I apply for ACE course designation if I am new to community engagement?**

A: Absolutely. Whether you are new to academic community engagement, or an emerging scholar-practitioner, the Pathway will support you at any stage of your development and in reaching your highest potential as an engaged professional and scholar through the provision of mentorship, resources and support from the CCE.

**Q: How long are courses designated as ACE?**

A: ACE courses are designated for the specific academic term they are taught.

**Q: Do I need to complete the ACE pathway each time I want to designate a course as ACE for a particular academic term?**

A: Yes, because funding, assessments, and support are unique to every course. However, once you have completed the ACE Pathway for the first time, subsequent submissions for the same course will be expedited as you will likely be adding only slight modifications to your application.

**Q: Are there still HIP designated service-learning courses and faculty at SRU?**

A: No. HIP-designated service-learning courses and faculty no longer exist. ACE replaces HIPS. HIPS courses and faculty are not grandfathered into the new designation.

**Q: What kind of funding is available through the ACE pathway?**

A: Every ACE course is eligible to apply for modest funding at a rate of \$15/student to enhance the quantity and/or quality of student engagement with community. Funds must adhere to public funds policy and are released for expensing upon successful completion of community partnership outcome assessments. There are no additional reporting requirements for funding.

**Q: Is assistance with assessment provided for ACE courses?**

A: Yes, outcomes assessment is essential to the designation process. The CCE not only provides tools for assessing student civic learning and community partnership outcomes, but also organizes your data, conducts statistical analysis, and provides you with a professional report of findings that you can utilize for presentation and scholarship.

**Q: Are faculty designated for ACE in addition to courses?**

A: Yes, once a faculty member has successfully taught their first ACE course, they are designated as an ACE Faculty and maintain that designation indefinitely. The ACE Faculty designation affords them access to additional professional development, service, and leadership opportunities offered through the CCE.



**Q: Are students designated for ACE?**

A: Yes, Students become designated as ACE Students and receive a digital badge on their RockServe impact summery/transcript once they complete a designated ACE course.

**Q: What are benefits to students in becoming ACE designated?**

A: Benefits to ACE students include:

- **DESIGNATION** as **ACE STUDENT** to verify academic community engagement as part of their SRU education.
- **ACE CREDENTIAL** for each students RockServe profile and impact summery/transcript.
- **RECOGNITION** through university-wide awards.
- **OPPORTUNITY** for recognition and professional development.



**Q: Are community partners designated for ACE?**

A: Yes, community Partners are designated ACE Community Partners once they have assessed the outcomes of their partnership with an academic course from SRU with the assistance of the CCE.

**Q: What are benefits to community partners in becoming ACE designated?**

A: Benefits to ACE Community Partners include:

- **DESIGNATION** as **ACE COMMUNITY PARTNER** to verify academic community engagement as part of their collaboration with SRU.
- **VISIBILITY** of ACE designation on their Give Pulse organizational page and personal profile.
- **RECOGNITION** through university-community awards and certificates.
- **OPPORTUNITY** for professional development and to serve as an ACE Community Partner AMBASSADOR.