

EN 13: Community Service

5 points available

A. Credit Rationale

This credit recognizes institutions that engage their student bodies in community service, as measured by how widespread participation is at the institution. Volunteerism and the sense of compassion that community services help develop are fundamental to achieving sustainability. From tutoring children to removing invasive species to volunteering at a food bank, students can make tangible contributions that address sustainability challenges through community service. In addition, community engagement can help students develop leadership skills while deepening their understandings of practical, real-world problems.

B. Criteria

Part 1

Institution engages its student body in community service, as measured by the percentage of students who participate in [community service](#).

Part 2

Institution engages students in community service, as measured by the average hours contributed per student per year.

Institutions may exclude non-credit, continuing education, part-time, and/or graduate students from this credit.

C. Applicability

This credit applies to all institutions that have undergraduate [students enrolled for credit](#). Institutions that exclusively serve non-credit, continuing education, and/or graduate students may choose to pursue or omit this credit.

D. Scoring

Each part is scored independently.

Part 1

Institutions earn the maximum of 3 points available for Part 1 of this credit by engaging their entire student body in community service. Incremental points are awarded based on the percentage of students that contribute community service. For example, an institution where 50 percent of students contributed some community service would earn 1.5 points (half of the points available for Part 1 of this credit).

Points for Part 1 of this credit are calculated automatically in the STARS Reporting Tool as follows:

Factor		Number of students engaged in community service		Total number of students		Points earned
3	×	_____	÷	_____	=	Up to 3

Part 2

Institutions earn the maximum of 2 points available for Part 2 of this credit by engaging their students in an average of 20 hours of community service per year. Incremental points are awarded based on the average number of hours contributed. For example, an institution where students contributed an average of 10 hours per year would earn 1 point (half of the points available for Part 2).

Points for Part 2 of this credit are calculated automatically in the STARS Reporting Tool as follows:

Factor		Number of student community service hours contributed		Total number of students		Points earned
0.1	×	_____	÷	_____	=	Up to 2

E. Reporting Fields

Required

- ☐ Number of students enrolled for credit (headcount; part-time students, continuing education, non-credit and/or graduate students may be excluded)
- ☐ Number of students engaged in community service (headcount; part-time students, continuing education, and graduate students should be excluded if excluded above)
- ☐ Does the institution wish to pursue Part 2 of this credit (community service hours)?
If yes, provide:
 - ☐ Total number of student community service hours contributed during the most recent one-year period

Optional

- ☐ The website URL where information about the programs or initiatives is available
- ☐ Does the institution include community service achievements on student transcripts?
- ☐ Does the institution provide incentives for employees to participate in community service (on- or off-campus)? (Incentives may include voluntary leave, compensatory time, or other forms of positive recognition)
- ☐ A brief description of the institution's employee community service initiatives
- ☐ Additional documentation to support the submission (upload)
- ☐ Data source(s) and notes about the submission
- ☐ Contact information for a responsible party (a staff member, faculty member, or administrator who can respond to questions regarding the data once it is submitted and available to the public)

F. Measurement

Timeframe

Report the most recent annual data available from within the three years prior to the anticipated date of submission.

Sampling and Data Standards

Include, at minimum, all full-time undergraduate [students enrolled for credit](#). Institutions may use a [representative sample](#) or survey to determine student participation in community service. Institutions may choose to exclude part-time, continuing education, and/or graduate students, as long as they are excluded from both the count of students engaged in community service and the count of total students.

G. Standards and Terms

Community service

Consistent with [The President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll](#) (U.S.), community service is defined as:

Activities designed to improve the quality of life of off-campus community residents, particularly low-income individuals. Community service activities may include but are not limited to: academic service learning, co-curricular service learning (not part of an academic course, but utilizing service-learning elements) and other co-curricular student volunteer activities, as well as Work-Study community service and paid community service internships. Community service includes both direct service to citizens (e.g., serving food to the needy) and indirect service (e.g., assessing community nutrition needs or managing a food bank).

Representative sample

A representative sample is a subset of a statistical population that accurately reflects the members of the entire population. A representative sample should be an unbiased indication of what the entire population is like. For example, in a student population of 1000 students in which 25 percent of the students are enrolled in a business school, 50 percent are enrolled in humanities programs, and 25 percent are enrolled in science programs, a representative sample might include 200 students: 50 business students, 100 humanities students, and 50 science students. Likewise, a representative sample of purchases should accurately reflect the institution's total purchases, accounting for seasonal and other variations in product availability and purchasing.

Students enrolled for credit

Consistent with U.S. [IPEDS](#), students enrolled for credit include all students enrolled in courses or programs that can be applied towards the requirements for a postsecondary degree, diploma, certificate, or other formal award, regardless of whether or not they are seeking a degree or certificate. This includes:

- Students enrolled for credit in off-campus centers
- High school students taking regular college courses for credit
- Students taking remedial courses if the student is degree-seeking for the purpose of student financial aid determination
- Students from overseas enrolled in U.S. courses for credit (e.g., online students)

- Graduate students enrolled for thesis credits, even when zero credits are awarded as these students are still enrolled and seeking their degree.

Scoring Example: Community Service

Part 1

Example Community College has 2,000 students. 750 Example Community College students engaged in community service during the past year.

Factor		Number of students engaged in community service		Total number of students		Points earned
3	×	<u>750</u>	÷	<u>2,000</u>	=	1.13

Part 2

Example Community College enrolls 2,000 students. Example Community College students contributed 12,000 hours of community service during the past year.

Factor		Number of student community service hours contributed		Total number of students		Points earned
0.1	×	<u>12,000</u>	÷	<u>2,000</u>	=	0.6