

Emerging Leaders

Emerging Leaders supports the Community Engagement (CE) Proficiency. Throughout the program, students will participate in meaningful community engagement opportunities, hear from leaders in the community, and engage in large- and small-group activities that increase their understanding of leadership in themselves and others around them.

Outline of Emerging Leaders Participant Activities and Assignments:

- a. Readings – Participants will be provided a copy of the book, *The Student Leadership Challenge*, and will be required to follow along, as each of the chapters will thoroughly inform each meeting. Other readings and handouts might be required for the course, but they will be assigned and read during meetings.
- b. Small-Group Interaction – Each program participant will be placed in a small group, which will serve as a mini-community and consulting group throughout the semester.
- c. Student Mentors – Each Emerging Leader will be placed as a small group with a student mentor. Student mentors are returning students who have successfully completed the Emerging Leaders program; they will provide support and guidance to first-year students as they navigate college life at SMU for the first time. This mentor will help to connect participants to the SMU community and serve as a consultant for the leadership work they are doing throughout the semester.
- d. Guest Lectures – Emerging Leaders will hear from community leaders and alumni professionals working in the following leadership concentrations: educational leadership, non-profit leadership, public service leadership, sustainability leadership, and international / cross-cultural leadership.
- e. Service – To further illuminate the relationship between leadership and service, there will be a select number of site visits to local non-profit organizations, which will familiarize students with the dynamics of non-profit organizations, as well as increase their awareness of various social issues in Dallas and beyond. Over the course of the program, students will be required to complete 15 hours of direct community service, which includes participation as a volunteer at CEL's annual fall day of service (Stampede of Service). Additionally, students will conduct informational interviews with a staff member at the non-profit where they served that focuses on leadership style.

Full participation in Stampede of Service and the completion of 15 hours of community service with an approved non-profit organization are mandatory for any students requesting the Community Engagement UC proficiency.

- f. Final Project – Drawing from all aspects of their program experience, each student will do a poster presentation. Components of the poster must include one of the following:
- Referencing the Five Practices of Exemplary Leadership Model (as defined by The Student Leadership Challenge) and their engagement experiences, students will describe how specific leadership practices may address or inform various social issues.
 - Students will explain how they observed leadership functioning over the course of the program within class activities and their individual service experiences.
 - Participants will describe what they have personally learned about leadership.

Methods of assessment:

- a. Student Leadership Practices Inventory – Emerging Leaders will participate in the Student Leadership Practices Inventory, a 360° leadership assessment tool designed specifically for students to measure their leadership competencies. This will form the basis for a personalized leadership development profile. Additional assessments are also available through the Community Engagement & Leadership Center.
- b. Point Accumulation – Throughout the course of the semester, students will be evaluated on their participation in the program using the Emerging Leaders Participation Rubric. Points are given based on the level of engagement and depth in the student’s discussion. Students must earn a total of at least 20 points (out of 25 possible) from fully participating in the activities, non-profit work / service hours (15), and final project in order to be eligible to satisfy the Community Engagement Proficiency as a whole.
- c. Reflective Essay – Students in Emerging Leaders who have received the required amount of points to be eligible to request the UC proficiency of Community Engagement will complete a three-to-five page reflective essay over their experience in the Emerging Leaders program. In the essay, students must specifically address how they “gain[ed] an enhanced sense of personal values and civic responsibility through a community engagement experience addressing a community’s specific need(s),” as outlined by the Community Engagement proficiency’s Student Learning Outcome.

The reflective essay is mandatory for any students requesting the Community Engagement UC proficiency.