

# Sample Rubric to Evaluate Public and Engaged Scholarship Theses, Dissertations, and Promotion Case

Criteria	Evidence/Indicators
<p><b>Goal 1. Clear Community and Scholarly Goals</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> <i>Clear purpose and focus of inquiry</i></p>	<p><i>The scholar provides evidence of clear goals which may include —</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stating the basic purpose of the work and its value for the community and geographic knowledge.</li> <li>• Documenting the alignment between the scholarship and the candidate’s role, departmental priorities, and university/organization mission.</li> <li>• Identifying significant intellectual questions in the discipline AND for the community/external stakeholders with whom the scholar is partnered.</li> <li>• Articulating the connection between the candidate’s scholarly agenda and PES work.</li> <li>• Articulating goals for and/or connections to teaching and student learning.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal 2. Preparation in Content Area and Grounding in the Community</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> <i>Preparation and knowledge about developments in the field of study and relevant community context</i></p>	<p><i>The scholar provides evidence of preparation and grounding in the communities where they work, which may include—</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participating in training that enhances publicly engaged scholarship (PES) if available.</li> <li>• Demonstrating an understanding of relevant existing scholarship and community activities.</li> <li>• Understanding the norms and expectations of high-quality collaboration and partnership.</li> <li>• Investment in relationships and transparent conversations with community early in the process to facilitate open dialogue throughout the project.</li> <li>• Developing the skills and knowledge needed for respectful, reciprocal collaboration.</li> <li>• Demonstrating and/or documenting time and effort invested in developing community partnerships.</li> </ul>

**Goal 3. Reciprocal Approaches to Research Design and Community Collaboration**

**Objectives:**

*Reciprocal engagement is evident in research design, data collection, interpretation, and reporting of results.*

*Scholarship is maintained, or even enhanced, through community-engaged approaches.*

*The scholar provides evidence of reciprocity and reflection in their scholarly and community-engaged work, which could include —*

- Refining a research question, or confirming its resonance, through collaboration or co-generation with community/external partner(s)
- Using methodologies appropriate to the goals, questions, and context of the work.
- Modifying procedures in response to changing circumstances.
- Engaging the community/external partner as a partner/collaborator(s) in developing and/or improving the study design, the collection/ analysis/interpretation of data, and/or the recruitment and retention of study participants.
- Developing policy recommendations and application/intervention ideas, based on study findings, in collaboration with external partners.
- Presenting information and results in forms that community stakeholders and external partners find accessible and understandable.
  - Disseminating information through media used/read by community members.
  - Producing documents directed towards service providers, policy makers, or legislators.
  - Extending and broadening the dissemination of study findings through partnership with community members and organizations.
- Enhancing curriculum by incorporating updated and real-world information from community members critical to student learning of course material.
- Deepening and contextualizing the learning experience in a course by involving community experts in design and implementation.
- Revising curriculum and community placement with community partner based on student feedback and community partner observation.
- Critically evaluating the work with appropriate evidence.
- Seeking feedback and evaluations from community members and using it to learn from and direct future work.

**Goal 4. Impact on the Discipline/Field and the Community**

**Objectives:**

*Beneficial impact in the communities in which the scholarship is conducted.*

*Assessment of knowledge created (in field, discipline, community).*

*The scholar provides evidence of contributions, which could include*

—

- Contributing to new knowledge in the field/discipline through publication in peer-reviewed journals and other scholarly outlets.
- Contributing to and benefiting the community/ external partner.
- Achieving the intended or notable goals, impact, or change consistent with the purpose and target of the work, keeping in mind that change can be incremental and/or take multiple years .
- Making progress towards social equity and/or systemic change.
- Securing increased funding for additional research, program implementation, and/or community partners.
- Increasing capacity of community to advocate for themselves.
- Building scholarly interest in questions and topics that matter to the external partners and the community.
- Advancing knowledge/understanding for the community in which the work is situated, and discussing its importance for other communities.
- Expanding students' understanding of community issues and their relationship to geographic questions, methods and theories.
- Enhancing the ability of students to support collaboration and reciprocity inside and outside of community engaged projects.
- Strengthening foundations for future collaborative work.
- Building community capacities.

<p><b>Goal 5. Effective Presentation and Communication to Academic and Community Audiences</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b>  <i>Scholars effectively and accessibly communicate their work.</i></p>	<p><i>The scholar provides evidence of effective presentation and dissemination, which could include —</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicating with or disseminating to appropriate academic and public audiences consistent with the mission of the institution, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Publication of research results or teaching innovations in peer-reviewed, practitioner, or professional journals</li> <li>○ Story maps</li> <li>○ Infographics</li> <li>○ Policy briefs</li> <li>○ Websites</li> <li>○ Flyers</li> <li>○ Videos</li> <li>○ Museum exhibits</li> <li>○ Carefully facilitated in-person community meetings, tours, workshops, and walking tours</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Presenting information and materials in forms and forums that community stakeholders, policy makers, and external partners find accessible and understandable.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal 6. Relevant Impact</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b>  <i>The scholar's work demonstrates impact, relevance, and/or the capacity to advance the discipline or community agenda.</i></p>	<p><i>The scholar provides evidence of impact and contribution, including but not limited to —</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describing how the work has been recognized, valued, used, or built on by academic peers.</li> <li>• Describing how the work has been sought out, recognized, valued, used, or built upon by community members, practitioners, professionals in the field, and external experts.</li> <li>• Capacity building for students, early career faculty, and community partners.</li> <li>• Assisting with procuring funds for community-generated research and compensating community partners.</li> <li>• Providing scholarship, data, tools, or frameworks that enable communities to solve complex problems, participate in decision-making processes, or otherwise advance their own goals.</li> </ul>

**Goal 7. Socially and Ethically Responsible Conduct of Research and Teaching**

**Objective:**

*The work is conducted with honesty and integrity in a way that fosters respectful relationships with students, community participants, external partners, and peers.*

*The scholar provides evidence of reciprocal and collaborative engagement in their scholarship, including —*

- Socially responsible conduct of research, teaching, and outreach in writings, discourse, approach to scholarship, and nature of collaboration.
- Cultivating the conduct of sound methodologies and pedagogies that result in meaningful and beneficial contributions to communities.
- Following the research ethics review process and all other policies concerning the responsible conduct of research. Projects should go through a community ethics review process or a university ethics review committee focused on community-based research.
- Approaching communities as mutual partners to foster trusting, equitable relationships.
- Adjusting and adapting how research is conducted on community feedback.
- Engaging communities in a respectful manner.
- Recognizing and valuing community knowledge systems and incorporating them into the research process and courses as appropriate.
- Appropriately involving community/external partners in writing and reviewing products and acknowledging their work.
- Protecting information that communities do not want to share publicly.