

3.E - Core Component 3.E

The institution fulfills the claims it makes for an enriched educational environment.

1. Co-curricular programs are suited to the institution's mission and contribute to the educational experience of its students.
2. The institution demonstrates any claims it makes about contributions to its students' educational experience by virtue of aspects of its mission, such as research, community engagement, service learning, religious or spiritual purpose, and economic development.

Argument

Wayne State University offers fosters an enriched educational environment that aligns with its [mission](#). Co-curricular programs at all levels complement core academic preparation by engaging students in the creation of knowledge; provide an extended network of partners and venues through which students can disseminate and apply knowledge and positively impact communities; and offer extra-curricular opportunities for students to improve their quality of life.

As described in Section 3.D., the university's [Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program](#) (UROP) offers co-curricular opportunities that enable students to experience creation of knowledge through active participation in faculty research. Through the online [UROP Connect](#), students can identify potential faculty mentors and access posted research and laboratory employment postings for undergraduate students. UROP is an important resource to students considering a career in research.

The university's service-learning offerings combine service objectives with learning objectives so that each strengthens the other. Established community partner organizations provide a learning laboratory environment in which students work alongside organizational staff and clients to apply classroom concepts and add value to the community organization. Upon returning to the classroom, guided discussions and reflective assignments integrate classroom and field experiences toward a better understanding of course concepts and community needs. All Honors College students must fulfill a [service-learning requirement](#) in their second year; service-learning is optional for other students. Winter 2017 course offerings include [14 service-learning courses](#).

Student-run media outlets offer students from all majors the opportunity to practice teamwork, leadership, and professional communication skills. [The South End](#) campus newspaper provides students co-curricular opportunities to write for and help operate an online newspaper with seasonal print issues. [WAYN Radio](#) offers students enrolled in the WAYN Radio Class (COM 4680) the experience of working in a professional broadcast environment.

The [Office of Study Abroad and Global Programs](#) works with faculty and staff to identify opportunities for students to take classes abroad, or to visit another country as part of a university course. For example, the College of Nursing has led [multiple groups](#) to Costa Rica and Kenya to

participate in health services projects. As another example, students participating in the Honors Foreign Culture Seminar (HON 4260) are traveling to Ghana to observe elections, including the Presidential election; This falls under the [African Democracy Project](#) sponsored by the Forum on Contemporary Issues in Society. In all, the university offers at any given time approximately 35 different opportunities for travel/study in Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and the Americas.

[Hundreds of student-run, academic and non-academic co-curricular activities](#) are supported by the Dean of Students Office (DOSO). The mission of the [DOSO student organization resources](#) unit is:

- To support student organizations as a means for enriching the campus life experience for organization members and the greater campus community;
- To develop student organizations so they may provide quality programs, services, and leadership opportunities that enhance student classroom learning and compliment the Wayne State experience; and;
- To support student intellectual growth and social maturity through promoting ethical and moral development, appreciating diversity, encouraging civic engagement, providing leadership development, and supporting the establishment of meaningful interpersonal relationships.

DOSO-recognized student organizations may apply for funding to support campus-wide, co-curricular activities related to their unique missions. Organizations include student chapters of academic, professional, and disciplinary organizations; groups focused on identity, diversity, and inclusion; campus ministries and religious/spiritual organizations; political organizations; and Greek life. According to the [National Survey of Student Engagement 2015 Spring Student Involvement Survey](#), 97% of respondents have been at least somewhat involved in at least one student organization, and 50% spend one to five hours/week participating in a student organization. As described in Section 1.D, DOSO supports student community involvement through many programs.

Student opportunities to compete in athletics include [intramural programs](#), and National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II extramural programs, which are governed by the university's affiliation with the NCAA. A program of faculty liaisons to Athletics ensures the primacy of academics and that the relationship of sports and academics remains balanced. It is a point of pride that in fall 2015, the average student-athlete grade-point average (GPA) was 3.15, the highest in the Athletics Program's history. Two of every three Warriors carried a GPA higher than 3.0, and 21 earned a GPA of 4.0. Non-competitive fitness activities are available in the Matthaei Physical Education Center and in the Mort Harris Recreation and Fitness Center.

In addition to core academic preparation, the university provides co-curricular professional development services and activities through the Career Services Office; the success of these programs is evidenced by a recent [Career Services Director's report](#) indicated that 91% of undergraduates secure employment in their field within six months of graduation and 86% of those students stay in Michigan (32% in Detroit). For students who choose to strike out on their own after graduation, the university's [Blackstone Launchpad](#) provides co-curricular training in

entrepreneurship and, through the [Warrior Fund](#), offers start-up funding for student-proposed ventures presenting a viable business plan.

Professional schools at WSU often supplement the educational experience outside of the classroom. Among co-curricular activities promoted by the [Law School](#) are the [Business and Community Law Clinic](#), Wayne Law's transactional clinic. The clinic prepares students for real-world practice, combining weekly seminars with representation of real-world for-profit clients who cannot afford to pay for legal services offered by private attorneys. Law students also participate in activities such as the [Jessup International Law Moot Court](#), the [Journal of Law in Society](#), [Mock Trial](#), and [Wayne Law Review](#). Included in co-curricular experiences promoted by the School of Medicine [Office of Student Organizations](#) are the [Robert R. Frank Student Run Free Clinic](#), through which students provide free healthcare to the uninsured in a clinic setting; and [Street Medicine](#), through which students provide free healthcare to Detroit's homeless population on the streets, rather than in a clinic. Examples of [College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences](#) co-curricular experiences for professional students include its Diabetes Education and Wellness Center, and the Community Homeless Inter-Professional Program, a collaboration with the School of Social Work and the School of Medicine that provides basic medical and social assistance to Detroit's homeless community.

As described in Section 1.D., the university holds the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching [Community Engagement Classification](#), which requires embedded practices that meet a broad range of purposes, including assessment of community perceptions of institutional engagement; tracking institution-wide engagement data; assessment of community engagement impact on students, faculty, the institution, and the public; identification and assessment of student learning outcomes in curricular engagement; and ongoing feedback mechanisms for partnerships. Assessment of co-curricular programs is addressed in Section 4.B.

Sources

- African Democracy Project - FOCIS - Wayne State University
- Blackstone Launchpad
- Business and Community Law Clinic - Wayne Law - Wayne State University
- Career Services Annual Report 2015-2016
- Carnegie Community Engagement Classification - 2015
- College of Nursing Fall 2014 Newsletter
- College of Nursing Fall 2014 Newsletter (page number 10)
- CommunityEngagement@Wayne - Service-Learning Courses Winter 2017
- DOSO student involvement survey
- DOSO student involvement survey (page number 10)
- Honors College Service Learning
- Intramural and Club Sports - Mort Harris Recreation and Fitness Center
- Jessup International Law Moot Court Team - Wayne Law - Wayne State University
- Law School student orgs
- Mission Statement - wayne.edu Website
- Mock Trial - Wayne Law - Wayne State University

- Report of Student Organizations - Dean of Students Office - Fall 2016
- Robert R Frank Student-Run Free Clinic
- School of Med Student Organizations
- Street Medicine Detroit - University Research Corridor
- Student organization resources - Dean of Students Office
- Student organizations - College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences - Wayne State U
- Study Abroad & Global Programs - Website Homepage
- The Journal of Law in Society - Wayne State University
- The South End The official student newspaper of Wayne State University
- UROP Connect
- UROP Overview
- Warrior Fund - Blackstone Launchpad - Wayne State University
- WAYN Radio Wayne State Universitys Official Student Run Radio
- Wayne Law Review