

Stellenbosch University (SU) and Community Interaction

Building sustainable knowledge partnerships with the Community



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jou kennisvenoot • your knowledge partner



Gemeenskapsinteraksie
Community Interaction
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Why community interaction?

Community interaction (CI) as a core function of the university exists to nurture and manage partnerships with communities; facilitate cooperation between the university and communities and provide the means whereby both parties can actively discover knowledge, teach and learn from each other.

Who is our community?

The term community signifies a social grouping of society involved in an interaction at any given moment. Community refers to groups of people united by a common location, or to groups of people that are linked intellectually, professionally and/or politically. This includes geographic communities, communities of interest and communities of practice.

This broad definition allows the university to focus on marginalised groupings in society while at the same time including other community formations.

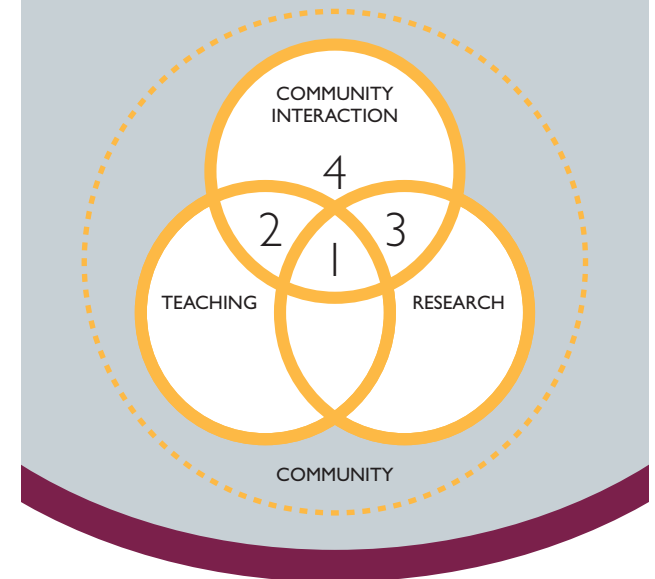
What are the criteria for community interaction?

Exclusive teaching and research activities that do not include a community component cannot be part of CI. To distinguish CI activities from teaching, learning and research, such activities should adhere to the following criteria:

- The activity should be interactively linked to an identifiable group in a community outside the institution.
- Interaction should be actively linked to identifiable needs of both the university and the community. There should be a clearly identified benefit for the community and for the university.
- The interaction should be a sustained activity within a mutually defined relationship or partnership.

The management of the university supports the interdependence and integration of the three core functions, i.e. teaching and learning, research and community interaction

Different types of community interaction



- **Type 1:** Integration of teaching and learning, research and CI. In exceptional instances, projects integrate aspects of all three core functions.
- **Type 2:** Integration of teaching and learning, and CI. Examples include service-learning and short courses.
- **Type 3:** Integration of research and CI. Examples include contract research, community-based research and science and society initiatives.
- **Type 4:** Volunteerism and public service. Examples include student volunteerism, public service by faculty, community outreach and partnerships.

For examples of community interaction projects and flagship projects, visit our website: <http://www.sun.ac.za/ci>

For more information:

Kindly contact the Division for Community Interaction.

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