

The University Senate of Michigan Technological University

Proposal 02-27

Minor in “Education, Outreach, and Community Engagement”

Basic Program Information

Primary Contact: Mark Rouleau, Chair, Social Sciences

Program/Degree type: Minor

Program Title: Minor in Education, Outreach, and Community Engagement

Planned Implementation Date: Fall 2026

Program location/modality: on-campus

Target student population: current students

General description and characteristics of the program

The Social Science Department is proposing a new minor in Education, Outreach, and Community Engagement for use in the Essential Education Program. This minor reflects the goals of the Essential Ed program and aligns with larger Michigan Tech Initiatives. This minor is 18 credits, and is being submitted with approval from the Essential Ed Implementation Team. This minor will be administered by the Social Sciences and advising support may be provided by the advising staff in the department as needed. Future changes to the minor requirements will be reviewed and approved by the Essential Education Steering Committee.

Rationale

This minor theme was identified by campus working groups as a target for development in the second round of Essential Ed minors. Many students across campus are involved in assisting with Education (e.g., peer facilitation, coaching, mentoring), Outreach (e.g., Mindtrekkers, Engineering Ambassadors), and Community Engagement (e.g., Big Brothers Big Sisters, Habitat for Humanity). A minor will help students highlight their interests in a visible way and is expected to be attractive to both students and employers.

Related programs: within MTU and at other institutions

This proposed minor in Education, Outreach, and Community Engagement focuses on human development and learning as well as communicating, mentoring, and engaging with different organizations, communities, and cultures. There are currently no minors on campus that encompass all of these elements. Michigan Tech has two related minors: Global Community Development Partnerships and Diversity Studies. This proposed minor is different from the Global Community Development Partnerships minor with the focus on human development and learning. Additionally it is different from Diversity Studies with this focus on human development and learning as well as the engagement with different communities fostered by the Essential Education Experience classes. Other universities offer programs that combine this education and community engagement piece, including:

- The Ohio State University - [Community Outreach Education Minor](#)
- University of Washington Bothell - [Educational Advocacy & Community Engagement Minor](#)
- University of Washington Tacoma - [Education and Community Engagement Minor](#)
- University of Kentucky - [Undergraduate Certificate \(Undergraduate Certificate\) in Explorations in STEM Education](#)
- City College of New York -School of Education - [Minor in Science Learning and Public Engagement](#)
- Michigan State University - College of Education - [Minor in Education and Society](#)

Projected Enrollment

The Essential Education program estimates about 50 students enrolled in the minor, once the Essential Education program is operating at full capacity. The course lists offer numerous options each semester to allow seats for these students.

Specialized Accreditation Requirements

None required.

Professional Licensure Requirements

None required.

Curriculum Details

Learning Goals

Aligned Essential Ed Goals	Program Learning Outcomes
Communicate: Communicate Contextually	Students will be able to choose communication formats and methods appropriate for the context, purpose, and audience.
Communicate: Foster Collaboration	Students will communicate with others to develop, distribute, and complete tasks; seek and incorporate perspectives of others; and communicate main ideas and results in group settings.
Adapt: Explore Diverse Perspectives	Students will be able to demonstrate awareness of their own norms and viewpoints as well as existing differences within and beyond their own social and cultural group(s).
Contribute/Transform: Engage in Civic Life	Students will develop the knowledge, skills, and motivation to make a difference in the civic life of their communities.

Assessment Plan

This minor will be assessed through the ePortfolio submissions. Students will be specifically asked to reflect on the learning goal(s) for the minor.

Curriculum Design

Total Credits: 18

Course	Credit	Semesters offered	Pre-reqs
List 1: Communicate Contextually (Communication Intensive): 3 cr			
AF 3001 Leading People and Effective Communication	3	Fall	No Freshman or Sophomore UN 1015
HU 2810 Research and Writing in Communication	3	Spring (odd years)	UN 1015
HU 2830 Public Speaking & Multimedia	3	Fall, Spring, Summer	UN 1015
HU 2840 Interpersonal Communication and Technology	3	On Demand	UN 1015

Course	Credit	Semesters offered	Pre-reqs
HU 3120 Technical and Professional Communication	3	Fall, Spring, Summer	UN 1015
HU 3130 Rhetoric of Science and Technology	3	Fall, Spring	UN 1015
HU 3693 Science Writing for Public Audiences	3	Spring (even years)	No Freshman UN 1015
HU 3694 Grant Writing	3	Fall	No Freshman UN 1015
HU 3832 Virtual Encounters	3	On Demand	UN 1015
SS 4040 Civic Communications	3	Spring	none
List 2: Exploring Diverse Perspectives (Intercultural Competency: Upper Division): 3 cr			
BL 3090 Spirituality in Healthcare	3	Fall	none
HU 3261 Topics in Communicating Across Cultures	3	On Demand	UN 1015
HU 3263 Topics in German-Speaking Cultures	3	Fall	UN 1015
HU 3264 Topics in Spanish-Speaking Cultures	3	Fall, Spring	UN 1015
HU 3294 Topics in Hispanic Literatures and Cultures	3	On Demand	HU 3293 or Language Placement Spanish $\geq$ 631 or CEEB Spanish Language $\geq$ 4 or CEEB Spanish Literature $\geq$ 4
HU 3400 Topics in Diversity Studies	3	Spring	UN 1015
HU 3401 Gender and Culture	3	On Demand	UN 1015
HU 3545 Literature	3	Spring, in even	UN 1015

Course	Credit	Semesters offered	Pre-reqs
Across Borders		years	
HU 3855 Power, Activism and Technology	3	On Demand, in even years	UN 1015
HU 3950 Sound and Culture	3	On Demand	No Freshman UN1015
PSY 3340 Psychology of Race	3	Spring	PSY 2000 and UN 1015
PSY 3720 Social Psychology	3	Fall, Summer	PSY 2000 and UN 1015
PSY 4340 Culture and Cognition	3	Fall	(PSY 2000 or HF 2000) and UN 1015
SS 3105 Native American and Indigenous Communities	3	On Demand	No Freshman UN 1015
SS 3260 Latin American Cultural History	3	Fall (odd years)	No Freshman UN 1015
SS 3612 International Relations	3	Spring (even years)	No Freshman UN 1015
SS 3750 Social Inequality	3	Fall (odd years) Spring (odd years)	No Freshman UN 1015
SS 3961 Preparing for Cross-Cultural Immersion Experiences	3	Spring	UN 1015
SS 4420 Memory and Heritage	3	Fall (odd years)	none
SS 4710 Geographics of Migrant and National Communities	3	Spring (odd years)	UN 1015
List 3 Human Development and Learning (SHAPE Courses): 6 cr			
PSY 2110 Educational Psychology*	3	Fall (even years)	none
AND one class below			
PSY 2010 Wellness and Resilience for College	3	On Demand	none

Course	Credit	Semesters offered	Pre-reqs
and Beyond			
PSY 2400 Health Psychology	3	On Demand	PSY 2000
PSY 3010 Theories of Personality	3	Fall (even years)	PSY 2000 and UN 1015
PSY 3200 Motivation and Emotion**	3	On Demand	PSY 2000 or HF 2000
PSY 3400 Developmental Psychology***	3	Spring	PSY 2000
PSY 3600 Cognitive Psychology***	3	Fall	PSY 2000 or HF 2000
PSY 4750 Judgment and Decision Making	3	Spring	No Freshman or Sophomore PSY 2000 or HF 2000
List 4. Behavioral and Organizational Studies (Unrestricted Courses): 3 cr			
AR 2001 Leadership and Ethics	2	Fall	none
ENG 2060 Facilitating Group Learning	1	Fall, Spring	UN 1015
ENG 3060 Developing Mentoring Skills	1	Fall	No Freshman
ENG 4060 Leadership in Group Environments	1	Spring	No Freshman
HON 2150 Know Yourself	1	Fall, Spring	HON 1150
HON 3350 Navigate Your World	1	Fall, Spring	HON 2150
MGT 2000 Team Dynamics and Decision Making	3	Fall, Spring	No Freshman
MGT 3000 Organizational Behavior	3	Fall, Spring	No Freshman
MGT 3100 Leadership Development	3	Fall	No Freshman

Course	Credit	Semesters offered	Pre-reqs
MKT 3200 Consumer Behavior & Culture	3	Fall	MKT 3000
PSY 2000 Introduction to Psychology	3	Fall, Spring, Summer	none
PSY 2082 Psychology of Friendship	3	On Demand	PSY 2000(c) or HF 2000(c)
PSY 3700 Industrial Organizational Psychology	3	Spring	No Freshman
SS 2210 Community Development and Planning	3	Spring (odd years)	none
Or these courses listed below from List 2 and 3 if not used to those requirements			
PSY 3010 Theories of Personality	3	Fall (even years)	PSY 2000 and UN 1015
PSY 3340 Psychology of Race	3	Spring	PSY 2000 and UN 1015
PSY 3400 Developmental Psychology***	3	Spring	PSY 2000
PSY 3720 Social Psychology	3	Fall, Summer	PSY 2000 and UN 1015
SS 3750 Social Inequality	3	Fall (odd years) Spring (odd years)	No Freshman UN 1015
SS 4710 Geographics of Migrant and National Communities	3	Spring (odd years)	UN 1015
List 5. Essential Education Experience: 3 cr			
ENG 4070 Peer Mentoring Practicum	3	Fall, Spring	No Freshman or Sophomore
FW 3760 Human Dimensions in Natural Resources Stewardship	3	Fall	none
HON 3999 Experiential Community Experience	3 (may be repeated)	Spring, Summer	UN 1015

Course	Credit	Semesters offered	Pre-reqs
HON 4070 Leadership Practicum	var up to 9	Spring	MGT 3100 or AF 3001
HU 3000 Humanities Experience: Community-engaged learning	3	On Demand	UN 1015
HU 3298 Experience Spanish Language & Culture through Teaching	3	Spring	No Freshman HU 3292 or Language Placement Spanish $\geq$ 480
HU 3810 HU Experience in Technology & Critical Making	3	Spring	UN 1015
HU 3825 HU Experience in Environmental Communication	3	Fall (even years)	UN 1015
PSY 3510 Peer Support Communities Foundations & Practice	3	Fall, Spring	No Freshman PSY 2000
PSY 3511 Teaching for Digital Newcomers	3	Fall, Spring	Instructor Permission PSY 2000 and UN 1015
PSY 3512 Sparking Curiosity - SYP	3	Summer	Instructor Permission
SS 3235 A Wasted Past: The World of Goods, Trash, and Sustainability	3	Fall	No Freshman UN 1015
SS 3665 Crime, Incarceration, and Social Policy	3	Fall, in even years	none
SS 3918 Community-Engaged Experience	3	Spring, Summer	none
SS 3960 Cultural Immersion	var to 3 (repeatable to a max of 9)	On Demand	UN 1015
SS 3962 Experiencing Cross-Cultural Immersion	3	Fall, Spring, Summer	none

Course	Credit	Semesters offered	Pre-reqs
SS 4551 Industrial Communities	3	Fall (even years)	No Freshman or Sophomore
SS 4700 Communities and Research	3	Fall	No Freshman or Sophomore UN 1015
SS 4915 Effective Social Action: Supporting Local Justice, Policy and Cultural Initiatives	3 (repeatable to max of 6)	Spring (even years)	No Freshman
UN 4070 Peer Mentoring Practice and Project Development****	3	Fall and Spring	No Freshman or Sophomore

Notes from Kelly Steelman

*PSY 2110 can be offered every year if demand increases

**PSY 3200 is typically offered every other year

*** The caps on PSY 3400 and PSY 3600 can be increased if needed to meet demand

**** New course proposal submitted during Fall 2026 binder cycle

New Course Descriptions

No new courses are required to launch this minor.

Model Schedule

The model schedule below shows an idealized sequence where the minor courses are completed in years 2 and 3, which is a recommended practice.

Semester	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Fall		List 1: Communicate Contextually	List 3: Human Development and Learning (1 course)	
Spring		List 2: Exploring Diverse Perspectives List 3: Human Development and Learning (1 course)	List 4: Behavioral and Organizational Studies List 5: Essential Ed Experience	
Totals		9	9	

Faculty Qualifications

Courses will be taught by faculty determined to be qualified by their respective home units and other university review, where appropriate. Faculty qualifications will be available upon request.

Resources Needed

No new library resources are needed to support this minor.

Suitability of existing space, facilities, and equipment

Current spaces and facilities are sufficient.

Program Costs

No additional costs are expected.