**The American Cultures Engaged Scholarship Program supports the development of courses and initiatives that emphasize public scholarship and engage students in community-based projects.**

**The American Cultures Engaged Scholarship (ACES) Program:**

Launched in January 2010, the ACES program is a partnership between the American Cultures Center (<http://americancultures.berkeley.edu>) and the Public Service Center (<http://publicservice.berkeley.edu>). This program aims to transform how faculty’s community-engaged scholarship is valued, to enhance learning for students through a combination of teaching and practice, and to create new knowledge that has an impact both in the community and the academy.

The American Cultures (AC) requirement—the only campus-wide breadth requirement on the UC Berkeley campus—was passed by the Academic Senate in 1989 and instituted as a campus requirement in 1991 to help students gain a deeper understanding of the diverse cultures of the United States through an integrative and comparative framework. These goals are extended through community-focused and collaborative research and teaching.

In the 2017 proposal cycle, several priorities have been emphasized to support community-engaged scholarship directly benefiting undergraduate education. Including the ongoing support for AC courses which engage students directly in community-based projects, the ACES program expands its consideration of community-based teaching and research. Proposals are therefore welcomed in ONE of the following five categories.

**Application Categories for 2017-2018 ACES Program:**

* The development of a new or revised American Cultures Engaged Scholarship (ACES) course to be taught in **Fall 2017, Spring 2018, or Fall 2018** *(Funding: $3000 grant to faculty, $1500 for student fellow, $1500 to support community project implementation)*
* Continuation of existing ACES courses and projects where learning goals are met using community-engaged scholarship and are integrated in a significant manner within the course curriculum. *(Funding: up to $3000)*
* A departmental initiative, e.g. brown bag or workshop series, to consider the role of existing and development of future community-engaged programs. *(Funding: up to $3000)*
* The appointment of a graduate student to support community-based outreach, teaching, and course partnership development. *(Funding: up to $15,000)*
* Multi-disciplinary efforts engaging the same community-based partnerships. *(Funding: up to $15,000)*

**Benefits of Participation:**

The ACES program is designed to provide faculty with the opportunity to develop, broaden, or deepen their research and teaching of community-engaged scholarship.

Participants receive and gain:

* intensive training and consulting from and with the ACES and Public Service Center staff
* funds of up to $15,000 for costs related to course community projects, graduate student hire, and community-based project development (as detailed per application category above)
* opportunities to present research and best practices at an on-campus ACES seminar
* new relationships with an interdisciplinary cohort of faculty
* enhanced capacity to build and sustain long-term relationships with community partners
* the opportunity to mentor undergraduate and graduate students in the development of community-based partnership

# Program Admission Procedure

**Application Process and Selection Criteria:**

We encourage applications from Senate or non-Senate faculty who are interested in developing community-based projects as applied to one of the five ACES 2017 criteria. In this competitive application process, the faculty selection committee seeks applications in which the proposed project:

…integrates a compelling community partnership project that recognizes the larger community as a knowledgeable partner in both the teaching and the research that will be produced.

…demonstrates the possibility of creating sustainable campus-community partnerships that can last over multiple years.

**After submission:**

* ACES staff will notify participants via email by Monday July 7th.
* Department chairs of accepted applicants will receive a formal letter notifying them of participation.
* ACES orientation will take place Thursday, August 17 from 9:30 – 2:00. In theorientation, participants will explore the concept of engaged scholarship and explore engaged projects across disciplines at UC Berkeley. Participants will examine: What are the components of a community-engaged project? How do we organize such a project? How do I best work with a community partner? How could the work my students do in the course advance my research goals?

**Application Materials:**

*Please submit application by Monday, June 26 at 5:00 PM to Victoria Robinson, ACES Program Director,* [*americancultures@berkeley.edu*](mailto:americancultures@berkeley.edu)

1. **Cover Letter:** The American Cultures requirement asks the instructor to provide a comparative and integrative analysis of race, ethnicity, and culture in the United States, a dynamic analysis which straddles the past, present, and future. Within this cover letter, faculty should demonstrate how any proposed course or project relates to the AC requirement, especially when proposing a new course. How will the community-engaged scholarship build on that intent? What specific goals do you hope to realize for your scholarship, your community partner(s), your department, students enrolled in your course, or the graduate student supporting the project? Please submit a letter of no more than three pages in length. *Note: For those applying to continue an existing ACES course, no cover letter is needed. Please submit the remaining materials as described below.*
2. **Course Details (for new or continuing ACES course proposals):** Please provide all information on pages 3-4.
3. **Project Details (for departmental initiatives, graduate student support, or multi-disciplinary efforts):** Please provide all information on pages 5-6.
4. **Letter of Approval from the Department Chair:** Please submit a letter of support from your Department Chair, confirming the Department’s support of your participation in the ACES program. If you are applying to develop a new/revised AC course *or* for continuing an existing ACES course, this letter should also confirm the department’s commitment to offering the course in the proposed semester.

**Course Details (for new or continuing ACES course proposals):**

1. **Course:**
   1. Please describe the existing course and attach a current course syllabus. Alternately, for new courses, please provide a description of the proposed AC course.
   2. What is the course’s current or proposed size?
   3. Please comment, if appropriate, on the relationship of the course to your department’s current curricular goals.
2. **Community Partnership:**
   1. Please describe (250 words or less) the community-identified needs that you hope to explore. How have you determined that these are the appropriate needs to address?
   2. How do you envision partnering with a community organization? If you have ideas of who your community partners may be, please share that information. *Note: For those applying to continue existing ACES courses, please briefly describe how you will build on current community partnerships.*
   3. How will this partnership contribute to student learning, and what impact do you hope it will have in the community?
3. **Scholarship:**
   1. How do you hope your participation in this program will benefit your research and/or facilitate your career goals?
   2. How might you disseminate work produced?
4. **Budget:** Please provide a detailed budget breakdown for the use of the ACES program funds for your application category. Please note that these funds cannot be used to replace or supplement regular departmental supplies and budget expenses.

* The development of a new or revised American Cultures Engaged Scholarship (ACES) course to be taught in **Fall 2017, Spring or Fall 2018. *(****Funding: $3000 grant to faculty, $1500 for student fellow, $1500 to support community project implementation)*
* Continuation of existing ACES courses and projects where learning goals are reached through community-based scholarship and integrated in a significant manner within the course curriculum. *(Funding: up to $3000)*

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1. **Student Appointment:** Please identify any students that you would potentially like to support the implementation of your ACES endeavor. Students must be available through the semester in which your project is to be implemented.

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**Project Details (for departmental initiatives, graduate student support, or multi-disciplinary efforts)**

1. **Project Description:**
   1. Please describe the proposed project, including how it will support community-engaged scholarship.
   2. What is the project’s proposed timeline?
   3. Who are the campus partners that will implement the project?
   4. What special considerations or structures will you effectively utilize to work across multiple faculty, departments, or disciplines as you implement your project?
   5. Please comment on the relationship of this project to your department’s current curricular or strategic goals.
2. **Community Partnership** *(for multi-disciplinary efforts applications only):*
   1. Please describe (250 words or less) the community-identified needs that you hope to explore. How have you determined that these are the appropriate needs to address?
   2. How do you envision partnering with community organization(s)? If you have ideas of who your community partners may be, please share that information.
   3. How will this partnership contribute to student learning, and what impact do you hope it will have in the community?
3. **Scholarship:**
   1. How do you hope your participation in this program will benefit your department(s) and/or discipline(s)?
   2. How might you disseminate work produced because of your participation?
4. **Budget:** Please provide a detailed budget breakdown for the use of the ACES program funds for your application category. Please note that these funds cannot be used to replace or supplement regular departmental supplies and budget expenses.

* A departmental initiative, e.g. brown bag or workshop series, to consider the role of existing and development of future community-based studies, such as field studies programs. *(Funding: up to $3000)*
* The appointment of a graduate student to support community-based outreach, teaching, and course partnership development. *(Funding: up to $15,000)*
* Multi-disciplinary efforts engaging the same community-based partnerships. *(Funding: up to $15,000)*

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