SCYP Faculty Guide

How SCYP Works

The Sustainable City Year Program (SCYP) focuses a multidisciplinary set of courses every term, for the duration of one academic year, on projects for our partner city. These projects typically address the city's quality of life, redevelopment, and sustainability goals. By connecting courses which enroll hundreds of students, SCYP provides academic experience working on real-world projects, all while creating momentum and enabling students to provide service and support to Oregon communities.

Participation

Faculty, including adjunct faculty and lecturers, are encouraged to participate in the program. If you teach an existing upper-division undergraduate or graduate course with an applied learning component, would like to incorporate a real-world project into your curriculum, or would like to serve a community by incorporating and analyzing community data, SCYP is for you.

How SCYP Benefits Your Classroom

SCYP exists to bring communities and students together to catalyze real change. By focusing your existing course on a city-identified project, your students are linked to a larger effort with a visible impact in our partner city. As much as cities are seeking resources and assistance in accomplishing critical projects, students are seeking tangible, real-world experience to make a difference, and practice their skills outside the classroom.

Time Commitment

Little time is required to participate. We recognize that faculty have strict time-constraints, and we minimize this barrier by connecting existing courses with city needs. Our SCYP program manager provides support before, during, and after your course. While there may some upfront time investment to develop the class activity, SCYP provides maximum support to reduce faculty time burden.

Faculty Participation Benefits

SCYP matches courses with real-world projects from our partner city and provides the support and infrastructure to make the project applicable for your existing course. The opportunity SCYP courses provide are of direct interest to students, and fuel their engagement and excitement in the classroom. SCYP will provide:

- Staff support: Our SCYP program manager help with your applied learning activity.
- Impactful work for students: Which is more likely to engage students—hypothetical data OR data from a local community that could solve real-world problems?
- Publicity: SCYP works with campus and local city media to share course successes and ensure you receive recognition for the good work your class provides for the community.

Student Participation Benefits

- Enhanced learning experiences
- Applied skills and experience that students can use on resumes and in interviews
- Development of personal relationships with local communities

SCYP Provides Faculty Support

The SCYP program manager will assist you in identifying a project, connecting with the community partners, and setting up learning activities. Participating should require little or no additional time. Furthermore:

- The SCYP program manager facilitates contact with city and community partners, works with you and city staff to develop the initial concept into a project that is appropriate for your course, and ensure that you have what you need for your project.
- The SCYP program manager will communicate with city staff throughout the project to maintain collaborative relationship and provide technical assistance. We will communicate project successes to campus and local media, and set up presentations of project findings to the city and stakeholders as needed.
- We will also work with a paid student from your course to develop a report which serves as the final deliverable to the city.

SCYP Faculty Responsibilities

- Incorporating a final presentation component that focuses on students presenting their final work to city staff.
- Assisting the SCYP program manager with identifying a high achieving student with whom they can contract to create the summary report.
- Facilitating the transfer of materials to the report writer.

End-of-Term Course Deliverable

At the end of the term, the partner city receives a summary report of the best designs, solutions, and/or products generated by your class for each project. The SCYP project manager will contract a student in the course to write the report, outside of class. Reports will be posted on our website and faculty will receive a hard copy.

You Don't Need a Background in Sustainability

Nope! You can help our partner meet their sustainability goals whether you have a background in sustainability or not. For example, a course project that provides recommendations for financial savings or increases citizen access to city services both support SCYP goals. The program strives to contribute to the quality of life of our partner communities.

Get Involved

Contact us! Please get in touch with the SCYP Manager, Megan Banks, at mbanks@uoregon.edu to learn more or to share your ideas.