

What is a Co-curricular Artifact?

A co-curricular artifact is an optional Whole Person Assessment (WPA) assignment that can be submitted to your ePortfolio to help bolster your WPA score. These artifacts are listed alongside required artifacts in the WPA Table of Contents in ePortfolio so that they are easy for you to access. Although these artifacts may not be required, you are strongly encouraged to submit ones that apply to you. Many of them are reflection papers showing your involvement in clubs or activities on campus. You can look through the Table of Contents, find which artifacts are applicable to you, do the assignment, and then upload it to ePortfolio.

In an article, titled "Connected Cocurricular Service with Academic Inquiry: A Movement toward Civic Engagement," that appeared in the Spring 2007 publication of *Liberal Education*, a publication of the American Association of Colleges and Universities, *Wayne Meisel* discusses the "three pillars of content" for civic engagement or service learning, which is a significant component of ORU's co-curricular requirements. The three pillars include the following: "focus on poverty," "connection to politics," and "engagement in the world." Meisel believes that students need to reach beyond the typical mantra for service learning, to "think globally, act locally," and expand it "to think globally and act globally as well"; in other words, students should go into every person's world.

Meisel explains that service learning programs should focus on three "pillars of design: "intensity of experience," integration of the classroom and co-curricular activities, and developing a "multiyear, sequential, developmental approach" for the entire time the student is in college. These are the kinds of opportunities ORU has designed for the student in its co-curricular activities.

At the heart of Oral Roberts University's co-curricular program is the Great Commission commanded by our Lord Jesus Christ: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you (Matthew 28:19-20a). Co-curricular activities are all about students Going and Doing.

How Do Co-Curricular Artifacts Benefit Me?

Co-curricular artifacts are meant to help you document your journey and experience at ORU. There are many activities on and off campus that you as a student can be involved with that happen outside of the classroom; co-curricular artifacts allow you to receive WPA credit for the extracurricular ORU activities that help to develop you as a Whole Person.

If you have a scholarship that is based on your WPA score, co-curricular artifacts provide you with an excellent opportunity to help your score and secure your scholarship. Why not get credit for things that you are already doing around campus?

Being a Whole Person does include academics, but it involves so much more. This is why the co-curricular activities are so important to your development at Oral Roberts University. If you are going to change your world, you first have to be changed and cultivate skills that will help you to succeed in your discipline and in your spiritual, intellectual, physical, and social life.