



WHAT IS COLLABORATORY™?

Collaboratory™ is a web-based platform that tracks and monitors partnerships, activities, and collaborations among universities and their communities. The data collected can be used to inform decision-making surrounding ISU's role as an anchor institution in McLean County and tell the story of ISU's research and creative activity, teaching and learning, and community engagement to advance the state of Illinois and the intellectual growth of its citizens.

The ISU Center for Civic Engagement launched **Collaboratory**™ to systematically collect a broader range of data on a variety of activities (e.g., community engaged research, outreach programs, events, course-based experiences, co-curricular activities) that utilize community engagement principles, practices, or pedagogies.

ISU'S COLLABORATORY™ CAN BE FOUND HERE:
[HTTPS://HE.CECOLLABORATORY.COM/ILLINOISSTATE](https://he.ccollaboratory.com/illinoisstate)

WHAT INFORMATION DOES COLLABORATORY™ CAPTURE?

Types of Activities (which may involve students, faculty, staff, community, or alumni):

- Community-based research; community-engaged research; public scholarship
- Courses, including those utilizing high-impact practices (e.g., service-learning, first year seminars, capstone)
- Outreach programs (e.g., K-12 programs, events, clinics)
- Community service events (e.g., donation drives, fundraisers, volunteer events)
- Partnerships

Types of data collected related to activities:

- Partners:
 - Community organizations, agencies, entities, groups; the role that partners play
 - Other ISU units involved (e.g., centers, institutes, schools, departments, offices),
 - Other universities involved
 - Faculty/Staff partners (interdisciplinary work)
- Student involvement (e.g., undergraduate research, internship, assistantship)
- Course Information (e.g., high-impact practices used, student learning objectives, delivery format)
- Issue area (e.g., education, health and wellness, environment)
- Populations served
- Location of the activity (if applicable)
- Scholarship (e.g., research method, IRB #, expected and achieved products)
- Funding (external or internal)
- Intended Outcomes (i.e., Institutional Outcomes, Student Outcomes, Scholarly Outcomes, Public Service Outcomes)

HOW COLLABORATORY™ CAN BE USEFUL TO ISU?

TOP FOUR WAYS COLLABORATORY™ HELPS ISU

1. Builds a comprehensive story about ISU's community engagement (e.g., community-engaged research, curricular and co-curricular programs, outreach, partnerships).
2. Identifies opportunities to create synergy and foster collaboration around our communities' most pressing issues (e.g., public health, education, economic, workforce development).
3. Supports fundraising and development efforts that align with ISU's mission and vision.
4. Collects data for local, state, national and international representatives as well as accreditation, strategic planning, awards, and recognitions.

TOP FOUR WAYS COLLABORATORY™ HELPS ISU's FACULTY/STAFF & ADMINISTRATORS

1. Tells who is doing what, where, with whom and for what purpose including sponsored research, student involvement, public events, length and focus of partnerships, and more.
2. Creates an opportunity to promote greater interdisciplinary collaboration and coherence.
3. Leverages the knowledge and expertise of faculty to increase funding, resources, and support.
4. Illustrates the role of faculty, staff, students, centers, institutes, and initiatives in community engaged work to evaluate and internally recognize community engaged activities.

TOP FOUR WAYS COLLABORATORY™ HELPS ISU STUDENTS

1. Provides a database of service-learning and community-engaged courses and experiences offered.
2. Allows students to explore how ISU is addressing pressing social issues in their city, state, and beyond.
3. Demonstrates the variety of ways students can practice engagement in their community.
4. Identifies faculty/staff conducting activities related to areas students are passionate about.

TOP FOUR WAYS COLLABORATORY™ HELPS THE COMMUNITY

1. Displays how community partners interact with ISU, including with which units, faculty/staff, or student groups.
2. Identifies faculty/staff conducting activities related to areas community partners care about.
3. Showcases the various community organizations are involved with ISU.
4. Collects data for community partners on their partnerships.

HOW CAN COLLABORATORY™ BE USEFUL TO ME?

1. Find community partners, identify existing relationships or build new relationships.
2. Discover if other faculty on campus are also working with the same community partner.
3. Find faculty/staff who are doing community-engaged work by topic (e.g., education, social justice, drug addiction, mental health).
4. Search projects based upon populations (e.g., African American youth, immigrants, elderly).
5. Document relationships and projects over time in order to illustrate how your engagement is connected to teaching and research, sustained, and outcomes achieved.
6. Request robust reports on community engagement or public service activities within my unit to support program review, accreditation, or other internal/external reporting.

HOW DO I USE COLLABORATORY™?

Collaboratory™ allows for activities to be entered by individual faculty/staff involved in activities or entered by a proxy who enters activities on a faculty/staff members' behalf. Below are some articles on frequently asked questions and tutorials on how to enter or claim activities within **Collaboratory™**.

1. [Register for Collaboratory](#)
Log in with your ISU email and password and answer a few questions to register for the first time.
2. [Create an Activity](#)
Step-by-step directions and video on how to create your own activity.
3. [Accept a Faculty/Staff Partner Invitation](#)
Step-by-step directions on how to accept an activity you have been added to by someone else.
4. [Claim a Proxied Activity](#)
Step-by-step directions and video on how to claim an activity entered on your behalf.
5. [Check the Status of an Activity You Submitted for Publication](#)
Step-by-step directions on how to check the status of your activity.
6. [Edit, Save, and Delete Activities](#)
Step-by-step directions on how to update or delete any of your activities.
7. [Glossary](#)
List of commonly used terms/phrases within **Collaboratory™** with their definition.

WHO DO I CONTACT TO GET HELP OR LEARN MORE ABOUT COLLABORATORY™?

Contact Rachel Sparks, Ph.D., Assistant Director of Assessment at ISU Center for Civic Engagement with any questions you may have about **Collaboratory™** or assessing, tracking and monitoring community engagement at ISU: raspar1@ilstu.edu or (309) 438-1100.

If you have questions or any issue with entering an activity into Collaboratory, you can always click on the “Chat with Collaboratory” icon on the bottom right-hand side of your screen when visiting ISU’s **Collaboratory™** portal.

Chat with Collaboratory

