

Features of High-Impact Practices

Tandet, Jodi. April 2021. "What High-Impact Practices Are and Why They Matter for Student Success." From: <https://www.presence.io/blog/what-high-impact-practices-are-and-why-they-matter-for-student-success/>

According to Kuh, to qualify for this gold-standard co-curricular label of "high-impact practices," programs must offer:

- **Considerable time and effort requirements for students**
HIPs "demand that students devote considerable time and effort to purposeful tasks [and] require daily decisions that deepen students' investment in the activity as well as their commitment to their academic program and the college."
- **Meaningful interactions between faculty and students:**
They challenge students to interact with faculty and peers "about substantive matters, typically over extended periods of time."
- **Collaboration with people of diverse backgrounds**
HIPs "increase the likelihood that students will experience diversity through contact with people who are different from themselves... [and] challenge students to develop new ways of thinking about and responding immediately to novel circumstances as they work side-by-side with peers on intellectual and practical tasks, inside and outside the classroom, on and off-campus."
- **Constant, Consistent Feedback**
HIPs offer frequent feedback about their performance, and "because students perform in close proximity to supervisors or peers, feedback is almost continuous."
- **Opportunities to apply concepts in real-world settings**
They provide opportunities for students to "see how what they are learning works in different settings, on and off-campus."
- **Reflection and integrative learning opportunities**
HIPs "deepen learning and bring [students] values and beliefs into awareness ... [they] help students develop the ability to take the measure of events and actions and put them in perspective. As a result, students better understand themselves in relation to others and the larger world, and they acquire the intellectual tools and ethical grounding to act with confidence for the betterment of the human condition."

Key to this all is *intentionality*. Other campus experiences — such as leadership roles, org membership, or orientation attendance — may *happen* to gift students with some of the same learning outcomes as HIPs, but they are unlikely to meet the high bar set by all six of Kuh's HIP qualities.

The very best HIPs offer all of the following experiences and benefits:



Considerable time and effort requirements for students



Opportunities to apply concepts in real-world settings



Meaningful interactions between faculty and students



Collaboration with people of diverse backgrounds



Constant, Consistent Feedback



Reflection and integrative learning opportunities

