

Our model of social responsibility focuses on four key components:

- 1. Multicultural competence, which involves knowledge of and sensitivity towards cultural identities.
- 2. Ethical competence, which focuses on knowledge of ethical standards and applying those standards to make ethical decisions.
- 3. Civic competence, which means being an informed and active local, national, and global citizen.
- 4. Environmental competence, which includes a concern for the well-being of the planet and practicing sustainability.

Social responsibility is an important skill that employers expect in their hires, and a crucial factor for developing ethical, just, and well-functioning societies. Employers agree that social responsibility should be taught to higher education students regardless of their area of study.¹ On a more global level, building a nation's social responsibility encourages people to be more involved in their societies and has the potential to create more caring and just communities.²³

Below are some example learning tasks to give you inspiration for how students can develop and practice social responsibility skills in the classroom.

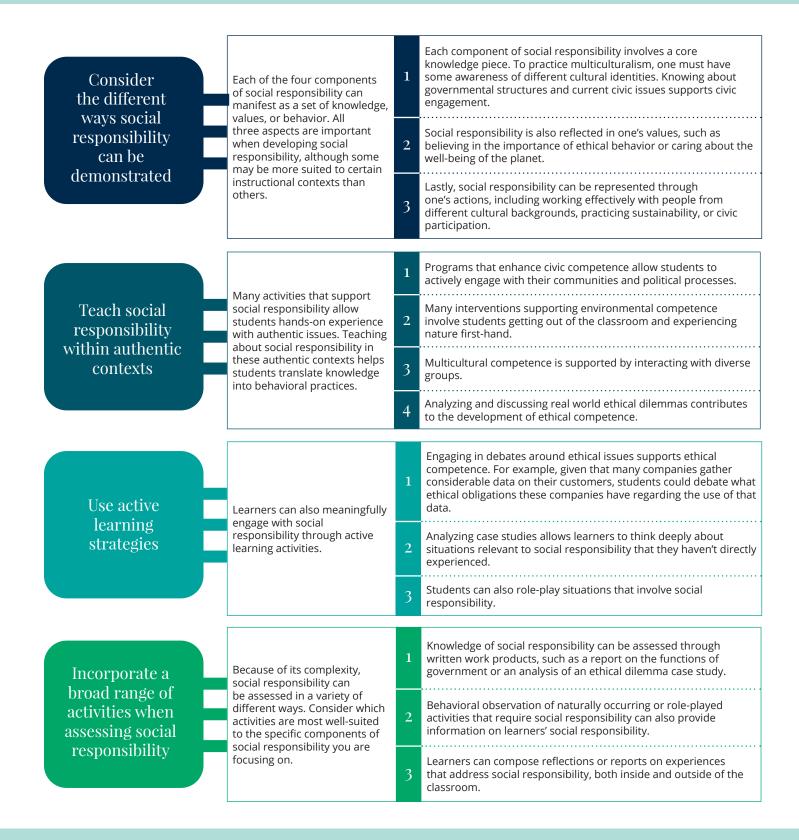
Subject	Component of social responsibility	Learning activity
Accounting & Finance	Ethical competence	Learners analyze and discuss a case study about an ethical dilemma that an accountant might experience in practice (e.g. an accountant is assigned to audit a company that they own stock in).
Economics	Civic competence	Learners write a research paper analyzing how the economies of two countries influence one another, paying special attention to how governmental policies shape the economies.
Engineering	Environmental competence	Learners redesign a current mechanical product or system in order to make it more energy efficient or decrease the negative impact it has on the environment.
Language teaching	Environmental competence	Learners are asked to carry out online research about forms of alternative energy. They then select one form and write a paper discussing why their government should consider converting to that source of energy.
Management	Multicultural competence	Learners research and write a report about a global company. In particular, they investigate and analyze the strategies the company uses to understand and accommodate the different cultural identities of their employees.
Marketing	Multicultural competence	Learners examine various marketing messages and campaigns. They then analyze how consumers' cultural identities along various dimensions might impact how they respond to the messages.
Maths	Ethical competence	Learners read an article about problematic uses of mathematical research (e.g. bias in artificial intelligence systems) and engage in a discussion about the ethical obligations mathematicians and other scientists have regarding the use of their research.
Science	Civic competence	Learners research effective partnerships between scientists and governmental organizations, with the goal of helping students learn how scientists can engage with and support governmental processes, like public policy.

¹ Hart Research Associates. (2015). Falling short? College learning and career success. Washington, DC: Association of American Colleges and Universities.

Beane, J., Turner, J., Jones, D., & Lipka, R. (1981). Long-term effects of community service programs. Curriculum Inquiry, 11(2), 143–155

³ Hyman, J. B. (2002). Exploring social capital and civic engagement to create a framework for community building. Applied Developmental Science, 6(4), 196–202.

These are the big ideas behind the learning activities overleaf. Use these to adapt the examples for your students, or as guidance to devise your own learning tasks.



Are you already incorporating social responsibility skills in your teaching? Tell us how. **efficacy@pearson.com**