

Academic Service-Learning

Frequently Asked Question's

What is Service-learning?

College should offer you the opportunity to learn and explore your future in exciting ways. Service-learning combines experiential learning and service to the community as a course assignment, allowing you to become active participants in the learning process. You will be able to use what you learn in your classroom to solve real-life problems by working with the staff of a partnering community agency. You will serve the needs of the community, and have an opportunity to explore potential careers. Perhaps the most crucial part of Service-learning is that through class discussions and assignments you are able to reflect on the experience and learn your course material in a unique and positive way.

How is Service-learning different from other experiential learning such as internships or volunteering?

In Service-learning, both the service and learning components must be worthwhile and valuable for both the student and the community; the benefit is mutual. In the case of internships and volunteering, one party (either the student or the community agency) is receiving more of the benefit.

Benefits for you as a student:

Service-learning...

- Offers the opportunity for you to connect the concepts you learn in the classroom to real life experiences in the community by bringing academic instruction to life.
- Enhances learning of values and leadership skills and provides a platform for discussing those qualities.
- Provides a chance to gain knowledge and expertise from the community.
- Allows exploration of career options.
- Develops contacts within the community and your field of interest.
- Teaches workforce skills.
- Fosters connections with people of diverse cultures and lifestyles.
- Provides legitimate workplace experience that can strengthen your resume.

As a Service-learning student, what is expected from you?

- Time sheets must be appropriately completed and submitted to your instructor.
- Complete written assignments as decided by your instructor.
- Be open to learn about the community and the partnering organization within that community.
- You must arrange hours with partnering community organization as soon as possible.
- Fulfill all agreed upon duties and responsibilities at the partnering organization site.
- Reflect on the service-learning experience and how it pertains to the course learning objectives.
- Be prompt, respectful, and positive at the partnering community organization site.