

Service Learning Handout

Goals:

- Heightened awareness of social problems
- Deepened sense of community
- Appreciation of cultural diversity
- Concretized understanding of self in relation to community
- Increased responsibility for local and/or community issues
- Enhanced understanding of the ways volunteerism intersects with citizenship
- Development of teamwork skills

Elements of Service-Learning

- Meaningful Service – Because service dovetails with course aims, students clearly envision the links between in-class learning and out of class skills
- Reciprocity – Students realize that Service-Learning is a two way street; they gain as much as the community does
- Reflection – Systematic reflection on the Service-Learning process encourages development of critical thinking and awareness of students' integrative and integral place within the larger community and/or agency structure
- Development - Students coordinate and participate in a wide array of stages learning to not only serve, but also to observe, analyze, plan, enable, exhort, and lead
- Diversity – The diverse cross-section of agencies and community partners interested in Service-Learning partnerships allows students to move beyond their own cultural parameters to engage with others of different backgrounds

Benefits of Service-Learning

For Students

- Gain instruction and knowledge from a wide array of community stakeholders including agency personnel, community leaders, instructors, and community members
- Explore majors and job possibilities while gaining marketable job skills and hands-on job experience
- Extend critical thinking skills
- Enhance ethical development and understanding of different cultural values
- Understand real-world application of in-class knowledge and skills

For Faculty

- Develop strategies for further engaging students in the classroom
- Provide more genuine and ethical motivations for learning
- Move classroom learning beyond the classroom into real-world situations
- Encourage individual reflection via student engagement with the community
- Deepen ties with the community as well as generate support for the University

For the Community

- Educate college community about local issues and needs
- Expand network for potential collaboration and development of possible solutions
- Enhance the learning of current college students
- Create partnerships both within the college and with other agencies