

Designing a Service-Learning Experience

Say “Thank you” -- Like Everyone, Students Want to be Welcomed and Appreciated

Truly reciprocal service-learning experiences grow from the collaborative planning efforts of community partners, faculty and students. Highly effective partnerships are designed to meet the academic needs of the students while also addressing a community need as defined by the partner agencies. This outline is designed to help guide initial discussions between all parties in the service-learning experience, with the goal of developing mutually beneficial campus and community partnerships.

For the Community Partner

1. Briefly describe your organization: mission, main interest, population served, organizational structure, budget, etc.
2. What do you see as the potential benefit for the community from students performing these service activities? What are the most important lessons your organization can teach college students?
3. List three service outcomes (representative activities that you would like students to perform) at your organization and describe them to the students and faculty members.
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
 - c) _____

For Faculty Members and Students

4. Describe the course in which community service-learning will be used.
5. List your top three student learning outcomes (the three most important things you want to learn or have your students learn during the service learning experience) and describe them to your community partner.
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
 - c) _____

For Both Partners

6. Find at least three intersections where the faculty and student goals (number 5) and the community partner goals (number 2) can coalesce. Keep talking and negotiating until this is accomplished.
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
 - c) _____