

Designing a Service Learning Course

SERVICE LEARNING is a course-based educational experience in which students participate in an organized service activity that meets identified community needs, and reflect on the service activity in such a way as to gain further understanding of course content, a broader appreciation of the discipline, and an enhanced sense of personal values and civic responsibility.

Instructors collaborate with a community organization to identify community needs that address the learning objectives of a course. Together, they structure an educationally meaningful service experience for students. Students are involved in the service experience during the semester, and they relate that experience to specific course objectives through structured reflection activities (e.g., journal, log sheet, directed writing, final paper, class presentation).

The Center for Service and Learning assists faculty by consulting on course design and implementation, identifying community partners, providing resources (e.g., materials, Service Learning Assistants, workshops), supporting grant proposals, collaborating on assessment and research, and recognizing the contributions of students and faculty in the community. Service learning courses can also be designed to meet the requirements of the [RISE to the IUPUI Challenge](#). Contact Mary Price in the Office for Service Learning for more information.

KEY QUESTIONS TO ANSWER AS YOU PLAN YOUR COURSE:

- What is the course description (e.g., learning objectives, enrollment) and **how can you imagine service meeting the learning objectives of this course?**
- **What community agencies can you imagine partnering with to meet the learning objectives?**
- **What type of service activity would be ideal for your students?**
- **How many hours of service are appropriate?** Typically, it is recommended that students contribute between 10-20 hours of service during a semester, approximately 2 hours a week for a maximum of 10 weeks. However, the amount of service depends on community needs and the learning objectives of the course.
- **How will students document their learning from the service experience?**
- **What reflection activities will be structured and integrated into the course?**
- **What role will the community partner take in providing orientation, supervision and monitoring of the service experience?**
- **What roles could a Service Learning Assistant assume to assist you with the implementation of the service learning course?** (SLA scholarships provide students \$750-\$1,500 per semester for 5-10 hours of assistance each week.)
- **What type of research might you be interested in structuring to evaluate outcomes for students and/or the community?**

Need Assistance?

Contact Mary F. Price, Service Learning Specialist at 278-2539 or price6@iupui.edu

or

visit the CSL website: <http://csl.iupui.edu/>.