

## **About Service-Learning . . .**

This is a learning method that connects meaningful community-service experiences with academic learning, personal growth, and civic responsibility. It enhances what is taught by extending students' learning beyond the classroom and providing opportunities to acquire skills and knowledge in real-life situations in the community. This is one of the few University of Hawai'i system-wide programs.

Service-Learning should not be regarded as strictly volunteerism nor as an internship. There are other programs that fulfill these areas. It should not be a required part of a course. Usually instructors offer service learning as an option in place of a research project, paper, or examination. Sometimes it is used as extra credit.

The experience must be integrated into the academic fabric of a course. Depending on the subject area, instructors have a rich pallet of methods they use to accomplish their course objectives and learner outcomes (such as discussions, audio-visual materials, group work, hands-on activities, reading assignments from text and other resources, web-based activities, problem sets, observations, examinations, and on and on.) This is another technique to enrich the learning experiences of your students while serving their community.

Service-Learning programs differ depending on the instructor and the institution. Traditionally students make their own contacts with the volunteer coordinator or director at an agency of their choice. Participation at agencies must be previously arranged by the instructor or the Service-Learning staff. We have an extensive list of agencies that welcome participation by our students in our evolving Community Partners Catalog. A meaningful time commitment for a semester is about 20 hours. For most courses, students

1. arrange their own schedules,
2. keep a time log and have it signed by a supervisor,
3. record their experiences in a reflective journal,
4. share their experiences with their classmates, and
5. submit a two-page paper at the end of the semester.

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