We're Formalizing Service Learning at University of Arkansas

Service learning courses will soon be formally recognized on campus.
The Committee has proposed the following for UA Service Learning Courses:

Definition:

Service learning is a credit bearing faculty directed teaching-learning experience that is course specific. Service Learning strengthens academic content knowledge and sense of civic responsibility. Students build critical thinking skills as they engage in experiential, community-based activities that are aligned with and integral to academic course work. At the same time, the community (real people in real situations) benefits from assistance that would otherwise not be available.

Criteria:

To qualify as service learning, a course must:

- *Be approved through a faculty evaluation process*
- *Address a community need through formal collaboration*
- *Support attainment of one or more course learning objectives*
- *Demonstrate clear and articulated connection between service activity and course content*
- *Involve structured reflection*
- *Require a minimum of 5 hours of service per credit hour of course content*
- *Involve training for students before working with partners*

Additional criteria may be added that are course or program specific.

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

Service Learning Initiative

Visit

Servicelearning.uark.edu

for more information

f **UARKServiceLearning**

t **@UARKSL**

How Can You Get Involved?

Check Out Our Pages
Website: **Servicelearning.uark.edu**
Facebook: **facebook.com/UARKServiceLearning**
Twitter: **@UARKSL**

Join the Listserv
The listserv will inform faculty of the Committee's activities. It will also provide an outlet where faculty can share information, concerns and successes regarding service learning activities.
To join email **svclrn01@uark.edu**.

Apply for SL Designation
To begin the designation process, complete the Course Registration survey found under the Faculty Resources page. For questions specific to the course designation process, please contact Jennie Popp, Ph.D.

Find a Community Partner
If you are interested in working with a community partner but are unsure how to begin, contact Angela Oxford. The Project Proposal application found on the website allows organizations and faculty to connect.

Talk to Us
Do you have questions or concerns ?
Please contact the Committee co-chairs or your college's representative for more information.

Get to Know the Committee

College	Representative	Email
Co-Chair	Jennie Popp, Ph.D.	jhpopp@uark.edu
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Don't forget to encourage your students to visit our site too!

Matrixes of Differences Among
Service Learning, Community Service and Traditional Internships /Practicums

The committee has developed the following matrix to assist faculty, staff and students in distinguishing among activities that are truly service learning and those that are not.   Oftentimes, community service and internship/practicum experiences may share some of the characteristics of service learning experiences. However, in order to qualify as true service learning on the UA campus, any experience must include the eight characteristics listed in the service learning column below.   This means that some internship/practicum experiences will indeed receive SL designation but this will be done on a case by case basis.

Characteristics	Service Learning	Community Service	Traditional Internship/ Practicum
Primary Intended Beneficiary	Student and recipient(s)	Recipient(s)	Student
Primary Focus	Providing meaningful service and enhancing classroom learning	Providing meaningful service	Learning by doing
Intended Educational Purpose/Benefits	Academic learning, enhanced intellectual and civic engagement	Moral, personal and social growth and development	Career development and professional preparation
Curricular Integrating	Full integration within the curriculum	None	Co-curricular or supplemental
Reflection	Includes structured reflection	Generally not included	May include reflection
Nature of Service Activity	Based on course topic or discipline	Based on student interest/ motivation	Based on industry or career
Duration of Activity	Semester	Agency decision	Semester or longer
Time Commitment	Minimum 5 service hours per 1 class credit hour	Variable	Prescribed by program

Service Learning Designation

The University of Arkansas Service Learning Initiative Committee has been tasked with both developing minimum criteria for courses wishing to be designated as service learning courses on campus and then inventorying all those courses that meet the minimum requirements. Please note, requesting service learning designation does not replace the college level curriculum review process for new courses. Please contact your dean's offices for more details.

The Initiative is asking faculty to register their courses to provide a database for University of Arkansas faculty, students, and community partners. The Initiative will spread awareness regarding service learning opportunities and will work to find resources to enhance and expand current and future service learning opportunities. Registered courses will be marketed through the Service Learning website, as well as social media sites. Likewise, there will be an identified point of contact if funding or other resource opportunities align with the objectives of a particular course.

How to Register Your Course:

Visit **http://servicelearning.uark.edu/faculty-resources/course-designation**

What You'll Want to Consider Before Completing the Survey:
- Instructor/Co-Instructor(s)
- College(s)/School(s) and Subject(s)
- Course Alpha, Numeric, Number, Section, and Cross-Listings
- Year(s) and Semester(s)
- Credit Hour(s)
- Number of Required Service Hours
- Student Fee
- Community Partner(s)
- Course Description and Objectives
- Methods of Assessment
- How the Course Aligns with the Service Learning Criterion

The Committee will review applications on a monthly basis.