

UNV 201: COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING

Syllabus

**Missouri Western State University
Center for Service**

Course Description

This course provides degree-seeking students with an array of opportunities to engage in an immersive community service-learning experience. Working with community partners in Saint Joseph, Buchanan County, the surrounding region and farther afield, students will complete specific projects and volunteer activities tailored to their schedule and interests. On successful completion of 40 hours of service and successful completion of various self-reflection exercises, students will receive one (1) credit hour toward graduation at no cost. Once course requirements have been completed, the Center for Service (CFS) will submit verification to post credit on the student's transcript. Course is repeatable for up to three (3) credit hours toward graduation.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Identify community issues, needs, problems, strengths and resources
- Recognize the value of service and social responsibility
- Demonstrate the ability to work with diverse populations
- Formulate more precise personal and professional life goals
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively and collaborate with others
- Demonstrate the ability to take initiative, follow direction, lead and solve problems

Course Requirements

1. *Completion of 40 hours of service with a community partner.* A schedule will be established with the assigned community partner supervisor. Service time does not include travel to or travel from the service site and does not include completion of the initial intake, completion of self-reflection exercises, or completion of course documents. All community service projects must be approved by the Center for Service.
2. *Completion of five (5) hours of course components related to student service experience.* These include the initial intake, documentation of hours, self-reflection exercises and the final debriefing.

Course Procedures

1. The CFS will help the student identify available service opportunities and help select those opportunities most aligned with the student's interests and goals. Resources will be provided outlining expectations for service which are designed to prepare the student to take full advantage of the experience.
2. Student Service Learner Agreement Form must be signed and turned into the CFS.
3. Student will meet with the assigned community partner supervisor at the beginning of the service activity to receive a more-complete description of responsibilities, to discuss requirements and expectations for service and to establish an agreed-upon schedule.
4. Completion of required service hours can take place within the same semester/term or may be spread out over an extended period of time, utilizing whatever schedule is established with the assigned community partner supervisor. For service hours to count towards one (1) UNV201 course credit, the 40 service hours must be completed within a 12-month period starting from the initial CFS orientation date.
5. Community Engagement Service Learning Activity Log must be completed throughout the service experience and must be verified by the assigned community partner supervisor at the end of the student's service experience.
6. Self-reflection exercises designed to promote learning outcomes and benefits gained through the service experience must be completed as required.
7. On successful completion of hourly service obligations, self-reflection exercises, required documentation and debriefing, the CFS will submit verification to post credit on the student's transcript. This credit will be counted towards graduation at no cost.
8. The course is repeatable for up to three credit hours toward graduation.