

UNV 501: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT 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 credit hour toward graduation at no cost. Once course requirements have been completed, the Center for Service will submit verification to post credit on the student's transcript. Course is repeatable for up to three credit hours toward graduation. ***This course must be approved by the graduate program advisor and the Dean of the Graduate School prior to service hours counting 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 community partner.* A schedule will be established with your 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.

2. *Completion of five hours of course components related to your service experience.* These include the initial intake, documentation of hours, self-reflection exercises, and the final debriefing.
3. *Completion of a five-page essay related to your service experience.* This essay will be assessed by the Executive Director of the Center for Service and must earn a grade of B or higher.

COURSE PROCEDURES

1. The Center for Service will help you identify available service opportunities and help you select those opportunities most aligned with your interests and goals. You will also be provided with resources outlining expectations for your service and designed to prepare you to take full advantage of the experience.
2. You must also sign a Student Service Learner Agreement Form.
3. You will meet with your community partner supervisor at the beginning of your service activity to receive a more-complete description of your responsibilities, to discuss requirements and expectations for service, and to establish an agreed-upon schedule.
4. The completion of required service hours can take place quickly or may be spread out over an extended period of time, utilizing whatever schedule is established with your community partner supervisor. Further, the completion of required service hours is not confined to Fall, Summer, or Springs terms. Rather, the completion of required service hours may take place across these terms. However, the required service hours must be completed within a 12-month period.
5. A Community Engagement Service Learning Activity Log must be completed throughout your service experience and must be verified by your community partner supervisor at the end of your service experience.
6. Self-reflection exercises designed to promote learning outcomes and benefits gained through your service experience must be completed as required.
7. A five-page essay related to your service experience must be written at the completion of the required service hours. Assessed by the Director of the Center for Service and the Dean of the graduate school, a grade of B or higher must be earned on this requirement.
8. On successful completion of your hourly service obligations, successful completion of self-reflection exercises, successful completion of required documentation, and successful completion of the required essay with a grade of B or higher, the Center for Service will submit verification to post credit on the student's transcript. This credit will be counted towards graduation at no cost.