



John Carroll University

CENTER FOR SERVICE AND SOCIAL ACTION

What is Service-Learning?

Service-learning is a high-impact instructional strategy that integrates course content with a relevant service activity. Service-learning not only enhances students' ability to understand and retain course content, but also gives them an opportunity to work with **diverse peoples and cultures**, to contextualize what they are learning in a “real world” experience, and to develop their sense of **civic responsibility**.

The goal of service-learning is **reciprocal learning and growth** for everyone involved in the service activity: the students, the community members with whom they interact, the community partner agencies, and the faculty.

In service-learning, the service activity is often viewed as **an additional text** through which students are able to explore their coursework **within the larger context** of issues of social justice and social policy. Service-learning differs from volunteering in that with service-learning there is an intentional curricular and academic purpose to the engagement. **Service-learning** is practiced at over 1,000 universities and by over two million college students nationwide, and reflects national trends both in **higher education** (which seeks to **increase civic engagement** among college students) and in **employers** (who are increasingly looking for graduates with **real-world experience**).

“ *The students in my courses who participate in service-learning develop an advanced mastery of the class material while, most importantly, further developing their identity and sense of community.* ”

Tracy Masterson, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

How does the Center for Service and Social Action coordinate service activities?

- CSSA meets with partners to identify needs and activities.
- CSSA offers a comprehensive online platform where students can enroll and search for service activities by a specific course, ensuring that only service options the professor has pre-approved are offered.
- CSSA provides Zoom links and organizes participation and dialogue between students and partners.
- CSSA tracks hours for all students who are registered for service. We record these hours in the online platform.

What are the Expectations for Community Partners?

- Community partners will identify a main point of contact to coordinate needs, times, and activities.
- Community partners will orient students to the organization, sharing the history, mission, and scope of the organization's work.
- Community partners will create a safe and supportive environment for students and provide any training required.
- JCU students will serve in online weekly or virtual project-based structured activities identified by the community partner for approximately ten weeks in a given semester.
- JCU students will work directly with the people who are being served by the community partner in the activity.
- Community partner staff will supervise the activity.
- Community partners will communicate clearly and in a timely manner with CSSA staff about all issues, concerns, or cancellations that may arise in relation to the service activity.

Which JCU Academic Departments Participate in Service-Learning?

Accountancy • Arts & Sciences • Biology • Education & School Psychology • English
Entrepreneurship • Bocan French and Francophone Studies • Management & Human Resources
Marketing • Peace, Justice, and Human Rights • Philosophy • Psychology
Sociology & Criminology • Spanish and Hispanic Studies • Theology & Religious Studies



Questions?

Contact John Jackson, Assistant Director, Community Partnerships, at:

216.397.1662 or jnjackson@jcu.edu

Your primary point of contact for questions, coordination of activities, and ongoing support.