Service Learning

Mission: Following in the Jesuit tradition of faithful service, the Service Learning Program facilitates student academic learning through meaningful service experiences which encourage and enable Marquette’s faculty and students to positively impact the community.

- Service learning is an academic experience vs. a volunteer experience
- Service as Pedagogy, Service as your text book
Why Do Service Learning?

- **Hands-on experience** that you cannot get from a classroom setting alone.
- Gain a better understanding of **social justice**, **inequality**, and **different cultures**.
- Grow and develop **professional skills** that can help you in your future **vocation**. Service Learning is a “mini” internship!
- Positively impact the Milwaukee community and your own education. It is a **mutually beneficial relationship** between Marquette and the community.
- It’s a **transformational learning experience** that allows you to learn about your class content, your community and yourself.
What is transformational learning?

- Being pushed beyond your comfort zone allows you to learn and grow holistically.
- Immersing yourself within the community gives you an opportunity to approach learning from an entirely different direction and allows you to evolve personally and academically.
- We want your service learning to be one of the most transformational and impactful experiences of your Marquette education and we are here to support you throughout the semester.
1. **Content Knowledge**: We want you to learn more thoroughly about your course material. Through service learning you can observe, test, question, and demonstrate course theories and concepts in real life situations which will help you better understand and retain the information.

2. **Skill Development**: We want you to refine skills that will be important in any workplace, like problem-solving, critical thinking, leadership, and professionalism…. and even skills that are particular to your professional goals like working with children and cultural competency.

3. **Values Development**: We want you to think about how this experience will shape YOU! Your values, beliefs, vocational plan, and understanding of the world around you should be shaped by this experience.
What is expected of you...

• The majority of the sites and faculty expect students to complete between **18-20 hours** of service throughout the semester, (about 2-3 hours per week).

• You must complete the **entire semester** through the last week of classes (week of April 28th), even if you meet your hours requirement early.

• Keep your **course learning objectives** in mind to make the most of your experience. If you are having a hard time making connections ASK your professor or site contact.

• Be **consistent in your attendance** & think of your service as a job. Understand that the clients and staff at your agency are counting on you. If you have a true emergency or are ill, be sure to call your site contact. You should not miss service “because you have to study.” **Plan ahead**.

• Follow the **rules and expectations of the sites**. This includes dressing appropriately, completing necessary trainings and or background checks, etc.
Tips for Success

* Take control of your own learning!
* Think critically and reflect throughout this experience.
* Seek out additional opportunities at your site by asking questions and volunteering to assist in different activities that hold your interest.
* Utilize the community members, agency staff, and other people you meet as a learning resource.
* Maintain contact with your Student Coordinator as the semester progresses. We are here to help you address any questions or concerns you may have.
Transportation and Safety

- Site directions are provided on the QuickGuide that you will receive on Sign-up Night.

- L.I.M.O. will not take you anywhere outside their usual route.

- More resources for directions to your site:
  - www.ridemcts.com
  - http://maps.google.com

- Students are required to sign up with a buddy if serving after 5:00 pm if they are taking the bus or walking. Your Student Coordinator can also help to arrange carpools.

- Whenever you travel in an unfamiliar part of the city, be aware of your surroundings and know how to get back. Watch the Service Learning Safety Video prior to your site orientation at: http://www.marquette.edu/servicelearning/safety.shtml

- Safety resources:
  - DPS Non-Emergency 414-288-6800
  - DPS Emergency 414-288-1911
Reflections

- As part of Ignatian pedagogy, reflection both allows students to **discuss** their experiences and challenges them to “dig deeper” and **recognize social injustices**.

- Reflection sessions are planned and facilitated by Service Learning student staff.

- All reflection details can be found on our website at: [http://www.marquette.edu/servicelearning/ReflectionSessions.shtml](http://www.marquette.edu/servicelearning/ReflectionSessions.shtml)

- **New this semester:** The first session, Service Learning 1001, was created especially for students that are new to Service Learning. In this first session you will be introduced to the program and have a chance to ask questions that you may still have after Sign-Up Night.
This semester’s sessions:

Service Learning 1001
Examine: How do stereotypes affect our experience?
Expose: When does gender create barriers?
Identify: How do we contribute to a consumer culture?
Discern: Where will your path take you?
Analyze: Is justice achievable?
Reveal: How has service learning impacted your education?

* Please remember to RSVP to your choice of sessions at: http://www.marquette.edu/servicelearning/service-learning-reflection-form.php
Important People

Professor

Student Coordinator

Site Contact
Important Dates

Registration

Sign-Up Night

Mandatory Site Orientations