

A service-learning internship combines service-learning – the integration of relevant community service, course work, and critical reflection – with a traditional internship program in order to produce the best outcomes of both forms of experiential education.

This semester-long, supervised, career-related work experience is characterized by elements of service-learning-- notably a civic dimension, reciprocity, and reflection.

■ A *civic dimension* is the element of the experience that is focused on the knowledge, skills, and values that students need in order to play their roles as active citizens in a participatory democracy.

■ *Reciprocity* is the notion that the community (or community agency) and the student benefit equally, or at least mutually, from the experience. Reciprocity also indicates that everyone involved in service-learning, including student peers and community partners, functions as both teachers and learners.

■ *Reflection* should occur regularly and may be done individually with the faculty member/facilitator or as a small-group exercise.

Ideas for Service-Learning Internship Projects

- Students in the BS in Administration program evaluate the strategic plans and administrative systems of nonprofit organizations and submit reports
- Broadcast Communication students write scripts and produce documentaries on the programs and services of selected social service agencies
- Education majors develop tutoring and mentoring projects for inner-city communities; organize community outreach programs for public libraries; design lesson plans that integrate service-learning components into public school curricula
- Exercise Science students create a Fitness Program for a Parks and Recreation Department to combat obesity and promote health
- BFA (Graphic Design) students create or redesign Web sites for community-based organizations
- Law students create a Community Legal Aid Clinic
- BSBA (Marketing) majors develop and deliver marketing plans to small businesses
- BS in Nursing students coordinate community health assessment projects
- Political Science students organize and conduct voter registration drives
- Public Relations students prepare and produce publications (e.g., manuals, brochures, and newsletters) for local not-for-profit organizations
- Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) students promote domestic abuse awareness programs; write grant proposals for HIV-AIDS education projects; conduct oral history projects at nursing homes

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