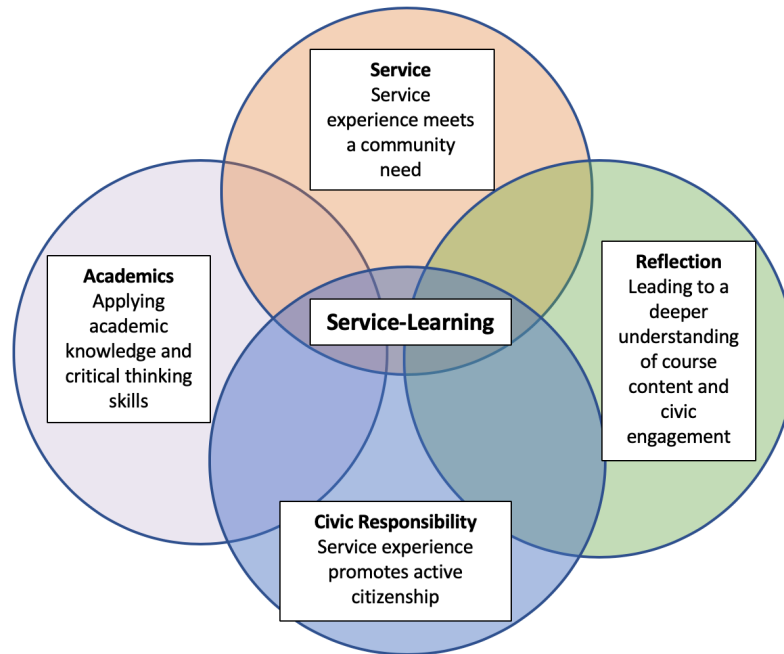


West Chester University
Center for Civic Engagement & Social Impact
www.wcupa.edu/impact



What is Service-Learning?

West Chester University and the Center for Civic Engagement & Social Impact defines academic service-learning as a teaching method that combines community service with curricular goals as it focuses on critical, reflective thinking and civic responsibility. Service-learning differs from other forms of experiential education because it benefits both the service providers (students and faculty) and the recipients (community members).

How students benefit:

- Creates academic, professional and personal opportunities
- Increases understanding of academic topics
- Provides hands-on experience
- Develops critical thinking and problem-solving skills

How faculty benefit:

- Encourages interactive teaching and reciprocal learning between students and faculty
- Adds new insights and dimensions to class discussions
- Provides opportunities to tap into expertise of community agencies as co-teachers
- Helps identify areas for research and publication related to current trends and issues

How the community benefits:

- Gains access to university skill, knowledge and resources
- Opportunity to contribute to the educational process
- The community plays a strong role in solving pressing local needs

How the University benefits:

- Enhances teaching, research and outreach activities
- Faculty and staff become active participants in the community
- Promotes positive community relationships and collaborations
- Equips university graduates to develop creative solutions to today's most pressing issues

Getting started: Creating a Service-Learning Course

The Center for Civic Engagement & Social Impact offers resources to assist faculty with the creation of service-learning courses through:

- ❖ One-on-one consulting around implementing and designing service-learning projects
- ❖ Assistance in identifying community partners interested in collaborating with students and faculty
- ❖ Workshops and professional development opportunities
- ❖ A service-learning resource library of journals, books, articles, sample syllabi, practitioner guides, etc.
- ❖ The Service-Learning Faculty Work Group, comprised of faculty from a range of disciplines who promote service-learning by engaging with new faculty who are interested in this teaching method
- ❖ The Service-Learning Faculty Associate, who coordinates service-learning efforts while educating faculty on the benefits of service-learning. The 2021-2022 Faculty Associate is Dr. Linda Stevenson (LStevenson@wcupa.edu).
- ❖ Associate Director for Civic Engagement & Social Impact, Ella Guimond, is available to support faculty interested in the pedagogy of service-learning (EGuimond@wcupa.edu).