COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING

Community Service Learning takes many forms; including participating in community service, conducting action research, or developing and offering courses that incorporate a service component. The University's commitment to this philosophy is evident in the 2001 Plan. Action 1.d states that "USM will institute service learning throughout the curriculum, both as a learning methodology and for the intrinsic value of learning civic responsibility.

USM is a member of Maine Campus Compact, an organization whose mission is to foster civic engagement activities at higher education institutions in Maine. USM is also participating in the American Democracy Project led by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, which aims to increase the number of undergraduate students who understand and are committed to engaging in meaningful civic actions." The Goals and Outcomes for General Education at USM include specific civic learning outcomes that are often best served by civically engaged teaching and learning strategies, sometimes called service learning or community engaged learning.

Faculty members are encouraged to pursue community service and action research related to their teaching and research interests and to include information about their involvement in community and civic life in their personnel action reports. Faculty members who are interested in developing service learning courses may find resources and logistical and technical support through the Office of Community Service Learning at 228-8091. Please visit www.usm.maine.edu/community for more information.