

Seven Elements of High Quality Service-Learning

Integrated Learning

- The service-learning project has clearly articulated knowledge, skill or value goals that arise from broader curriculum goals and outcomes.
- The service informs the academic learning content, and the academic learning content informs the service.
- Life skills learned outside the classroom are integrated back into classroom learning.

High Quality Service

- The service responds to an actual community need that is identified by the community.
- The service is well-organized with on-going communication among the college and the community partner.
- The service is designed to achieve significant benefits for both the students and community.

Student Voice

Students may participate actively in:

- Choosing and planning the service project.
- Planning and implementing the reflection sessions, evaluation, and celebration.

Civic Responsibility

- The service-learning project promotes students' responsibility to care for others and to contribute to their community.
- By participating in the service-learning project, students understand how to transfer their skills to projects outside of a course/campus project.

Collaboration

- The service-learning project is a collaboration among as many of these partners as is feasible: students, community-based organizations staff, faculty, and recipients of service.
- All partners benefit from the project and contribute to its planning, implementation, evaluation and celebration.

Reflection

- Reflection establishes connections between students' service experiences and the academic curriculum.
- Reflection occurs before, during, and after the service-learning project.
- Reflection requires progressively deeper critical thinking, moving from areas of student competency to advanced levels appropriate for the course.

Evaluation

- All the partners, especially students, are involved in evaluating the service-learning project.
- The evaluation seeks to measure progress toward the learning and service goals of the project.