How can Service-Learning be incorporated into the curriculum?

Service-Learning can be incorporated into the curriculum in the following ways:

Additive
A service-learning experience functions as a value-added supplement to fulfill course objectives (i.e. extra credit opportunities).

Substitutionary
A service-learning experience is substituted for a course requirement with the assumption that course objectives will be met through an experiential strategy that also meets community goals.

Integrated
A service-learning experience functions as a "text" and is compared and contrasted through the semester with course readings, conversation, and other materials.

Pure
Service-learning is the content, objective, and the pedagogy used to fulfill the course requirements.

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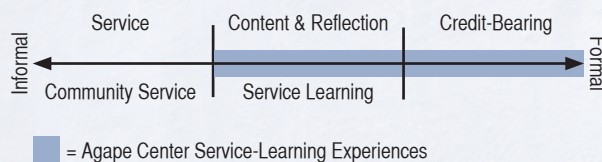717.796.5221 Fax
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WHAT IS SERVICE-LEARNING?

What is Service-Learning?

Why is Service-Learning important?

Service-Learning is a pedagogical model that intentionally integrates academic learning with community service in a credit-bearing course. In the service-learning model, students participate in an authentic service activity which meets goals identified by the community (designed within the framework of a mutually beneficial relationship), and critically reflect on that activity. As a result of their experiences, students gain a deep understanding of course content, a commitment to socially responsible citizenship, and develop skills and understandings needed to contribute to civic well-being.

What are the main components of Service-Learning?

Service-Learning is comprised of three distinctive components:

1) A content component of readings and discussions that prepares the student for service and connects service to educational objectives.

2) A service experience component that addresses a significant goal/objective of the community partner.

3) A designed reflection component that relates the student's academic and service experience to Christian discipleship and vocation.
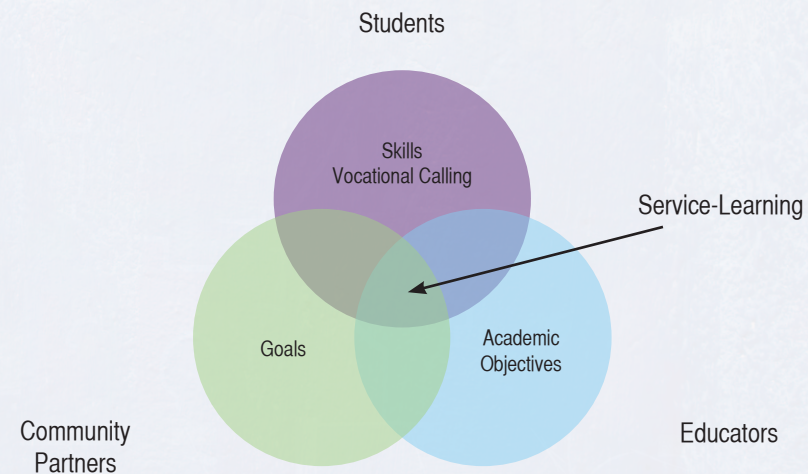
Service-Learning experiences are best articulated through the **Integrative Development Model for Contextual Learning**. The **Contextual Learning Model** facilitates the creation of contextual settings that serve as catalysts for student reflection on personal commitment, core values, and vocational calling.

Contextual Learning Model

Foundational World View: *Basic Beliefs, Values and Assumptions*
Our Christian world view becomes the primary filter or lens that informs our work.

Contextual Learning: *Experiential Education in Authentic Settings*
Student learning in our program happens primarily off-campus, in authentic real-life settings that are intimately intertwined with the subject matter under study.

Awareness of Self: *Discovering Who I Am*
External program settings provide unique opportunities for students to test and clarify personal identity and giftedness. By expanding former boundaries of personal and cultural identity, students are typically empowered to tackle new challenges and life goals.

Knowledge of the World: *Exploring the World, its Needs and Opportunities*
Perhaps the most effective way to appreciate the complexities of life beyond a traditional college campus is to become immersed in the world beyond its gates. Structured and reflective learning aids students in better understanding and responding to needs and opportunities outside their comfort zones.

Decision and Action: *Clarifying and Acting on a Sense of Vocational Purpose, Service and Social Responsibility*
Testing gifts and interests while still in college through a variety of venues like externships, community service or study at a foreign university aids students in clarifying long-term vocational goals. Such opportunities can help deepen their sense of vocational purpose and social and civic responsibility.

Students

Service-Learning

Skills
Vocational Calling

Goals

Academic
Objectives

Community
Partners

Educators

Next Steps? Contact servicelearning@messiah.edu for additional service-learning resources

Informal ← → Formal

Service — Content & Reflection — Credit-Bearing

Community Service — Service Learning

= Agape Center Service-Learning Experiences