

Academic Service-learning

The Basics

WHAT: Service-Learning is a stagey which allows you to become active in learning by using what you're learning in the classroom in real world situations, while being a part of meaningful service.

You will work with a community partner and reflect on your experience within class and/or through assignments.

Service-learning is different from volunteering or an internship because the relationship between the students and the sites is mutually beneficial. The sites benefit from your knowledge & you benefit from the experience of working and learning new skills. In the case of volunteering, typically, the sites benefit more from the labor or contribution of the students. In the case of an internship, typically, the students benefit more from the experience.

In a true service-learning environment, everyone benefits from the relationship.

WHO: Four parties contribute to the SL relationship:

1. **YOU** (the students)
2. **Community Partners** (e.g. after-school sites, nursing homes, youth organizations, etc.)
3. **The Faculty** (you're professors)
4. **The Service-Learning Team** here to make sure you're Service-learning is a meaningful part of your college experience.

WHERE: KCC students are placed at various sites throughout the city, the greater majority in the Brooklyn area. The site for you will be based on your project and course curriculum.

WHEN: SL students typically work **1 ½ -2 hours per week** over the course of **10-12 weeks** in order to complete **20** or more hours of service a semester. Taking the time over the semester lets you get a feel for your community, the organization you'll be working with and will allow you to make connections with the people around you for a more meaningful experience. The amount of hours also depends on your course requirements. If you have a question regarding hours please ask your professor, it is important you complete the requirements asked of you for your course.

WHY: Service-learning:

- Gives you an opportunity to gain knowledge and experience from your service site and gives you workforce or service experience that looks great on your resume.
- Allows you to make connections with organizations that could lead to job and/or reference opportunities.
- Allows exploration of career options and gives you the tool to make educated decisions regarding your career goals and aspirations.
- Strengthens scholarship applications.

Need More Reasons, Just Ask ☺

The Office of Career Development, Transfer/New Start, Scholarship, Service- Learning & Internship Opportunities

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