

Community-Based Learning

Definition

Service-Learning connects students to meaningful community service with academic learning through guided reflection. This approach illustrates for students that community connection is an important outcome of higher education and preparation for future work/life endeavors as well as robust citizenship.

Experiential learning including internships and clinicals, provides students with direct experience in a work setting with coaching experiences by professionals in the field that augment and further develop student learning. This approach affords students a hands-on opportunity to pursue a career interest while still pursuing a degree.

Research

Service-learning benefits include **positive academic performance**, **increased sense of social responsibility**, and **mutually beneficial partnerships sharing knowledge**, **resources**, **and civic values**. (Bringle, Clayton, & Hatcher 2012, Felten & Clayton, 2011; Bringle & Hatcher, 2009)

GCC Teacher Education Program has an 85% completion rate. Upon reflection, the data reveals the **success of the relationships we have developed with local schools**, which **help to place students in a timely manner**, allowing them to complete course requirements, and **see the complexities of education that informs their career choice**, and **completion of state certification**. (GCC Institutional Effectiveness, 2019)

Examples



Volunteering at St. Mary's Food Bank



Alt Spring Break Service Day with sister colleges



One day community service event



Implementation Ideas



- Dance
- Digital Cinema Arts
- Small Business

Please go home and think about how you can insert hands-on experiences into your courses to enrich and enhance student learning and community engagement.

Here are some ideas and resources from sister colleges and Campus Compact.org:

https://www.estrellamountain.edu/students/service-learning/service-learning-ideas https://www.mesacc.edu/community-civic-engagement/resources https://compact.org/resources-for-faculty/