

# Richland College

## Service Learning



### Will it take much class time?

Time demands vary. It will take time to include a service learning project, but the service learning office can minimize some of this for you. Include a reflection component. Research indicates that time devoted to reflection heightens learning experiences, increases student satisfaction and enriches your class.

### How do I evaluate?

Service Learning is defined with the emphasis on learning. You will not have to change your evaluation system. But, you will probably want to focus one of your existing assignments on making the connections between the service and the subject matter of your class.

### How will it strengthen my professional development?

Professional academic associations now often include sessions on experiential education strategies such as Service learning at both national and regional conferences. Service learning can also contribute to research by engaging students in action research and applied research projects.

### What institutional support can I expect?

Richland provides you with support from the Service Learning Office, housed in the Academic Enrichment area. The office will provide you with student orientations, community

Service Learning at Richland College is one of the programs included in the Academic Enrichment area. The Service Learning Office staff provides student orientations, faculty workshops and acts as a liaison between our community agency partners and the college. Our students serve in many community agencies in the Dallas area. Projects are varied and designed to fit course curriculum. Campus-wide reflection sessions reveal that students are forming life-long habits of service and community involvement that make them examples of Richland's teaching, learning and community-building.

### What is Service Learning?

Service Learning is an instructional strategy that combines service in the community with academic instruction which focuses on critical thinking, value clarification, social development and civic responsibility.

## Faculty FAQ's

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agency lists, workshops and connections to national organizations and data bases.

### **How do I include service learning in my syllabus?**

You can include service learning in your class syllabus as either an option or a requirement. Students will need to know how many hours you require, and the method of reflection that makes the connection between the class and the service. The service learning office can help you develop your syllabus to include service learning. Ask for the Service Learning Curriculum Checklist.

### **What kind of assignments work with service learning?**

You can design a variety of assignments that incorporate service learning: Writing assignments such as journal, critiques, short essays and research papers; group projects and in-class presentations based on the service experience. Class reflection discussions can make classroom learning more personal. Other assignments such as art projects or photo essays are also a possibility.

### **Why will students do service learning?**

Other than the requirements of your syllabus, students will do service learning for a variety of reasons:

- Some transfer degrees are requiring it.
- Service experience strengthens a job resume.

- It is necessary for some scholarships.
- Demonstrates positive experience in some employment fields and can lead to paid internships and/or employment.

### **How do students sign-up for service learning?**

Contact the service learning office and we will provide an in-class student orientation to service learning and a student registration packet. At the end of the semester you will receive a printout indicating hours student has completed. You will also be able to receive a copy of student and agency evaluation forms if you want them.

### **Who do I call if I need more information now?**

Call - **Academic Enrichment - Service Learning:**

972-238-6975, 6110, 6223

Or on the **World Wide Web:**

<http://www.rlc.dcccd.edu/enrich/servlern/servlern.htm>



"Everyone can be great ...  
because any body can serve."  
--- Martin Luther King, Jr.

