



SERVICE-LEARNING DEFINITION & CRITERIA

Definition: King's College defines service-learning as a course-based, credit-bearing educational experience in which students (a) participate in an organized service activity that meets identified community needs and complements classroom studies; and (b) reflect on service activity as a means of gaining a deeper understanding of course content, a broader appreciation of the discipline, and an enhanced sense of civic responsibility.¹

Criteria: The Service-Learning Project Team will designate courses as “service-learning” that fit the definition above and meet the following standards:

1. The course's service component is related to the academic course work, and is used to achieve course objectives.
2. The service placements' quality and relative duration are adequate to achieve course objectives.
3. There is sufficient and meaningful reflection on the service work.
4. The service work meets a demonstrated community need and represents a collaborative effort with the community partner.
5. There is cohesion among the learning objectives, service-learning component, and assessment criteria.
6. The course promotes social awareness and civic responsibility.

¹Adopted from Robert Bringle and Julie Hatcher. “A Service Learning Curriculum for Faculty,” *Michigan Journal of Community Service Learning*, 2.1 (1995), 112-122, with modifications from the Alliance for Service Learning in Educational Reform's definition of service-learning.