CSLP Overview and Student Agreement

Overview

Community-based learning (also referred to as "service-learning") is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities. It is inherently academic in nature, offering students an opportunity to explore the connections between the theoretical realm of the classroom and the practical needs of the community by learning in a real-world setting. The Center for Community Engagement & Service (CCES) at American University provides an opportunity for students to participate in community-based learning through the Community Service-Learning Program (CSLP) add-on credit option. Through CSLP, students, faculty, and community partners work together in devising a community-based learning project that combines classroom study with active participation in the public or nonprofit sector, allowing students to receive an additional Pass/Fail credit linked to a regular three- or four-credit course, after completing 40 hours of service work, a community-based learning project, and associated reflection.

Student Obligations

The main requirement is that the project you carry out meets both the organization’s needs and the learning objectives of your course. To participate in the CSLP extra credit option, you agree to the following:

- Discuss the nature of your community work as it pertains to course objectives with your professor prior to and during the semester. Your professor must approve your application through EngageNet for you to obtain credit.
- Ensure that the supervisor at the site is aware of your course and how it relates to the work being done.
- Attend an orientation session with the Center for Community Engagement & Service regarding your responsibilities to the program.
- Complete 40 hours of academically-tied service work, related to course work and objectives.
- Keep track of your service hours using the CCES's official CSLP Log Sheet, which must be completed and signed by your supervisor at the placement site. Submit the log to MGC 264 by the last day of classes that semester.
- Attend scheduled reflection sessions, or work with the Community-Based Learning Program Coordinator to develop an alternative assignment, to reflect upon and compare experiences with other students.
• Complete a service-learning assignment agreed upon by your professor, and submit this to your professor and the Community-Based learning Program Coordinator at the end of the semester.

*Note: The Community Service-Learning Program requires an additional cost if taking fewer than 12 or more than 17 credits during the semester, including the Extra Credit Option. It can be completed up to three times while at AU.*

The Center for Community Engagement & Service can assist you in finding an appropriate placement for service-learning work. However, you are ultimately responsible for contacting the organization and setting up the work. After this CSLP application is completed and approved, the Center for Community Engagement & Service will forward it to the Registrar's Office, which is responsible for posting the additional credit at the end of the semester. For additional questions or concerns, please stop by the Center for Community Engagement & Service, located in Mary Graydon Center, Room 273 or contact Meg Rego, Program Coordinator, Community-Based Learning, rego@american.edu, 202.885.3629.

**Student Agreement:**

As a CSLP student, I agree to
- Perform my duties to the best of my ability.
- Adhere to organizational rules and procedures, including record-keeping requirements and confidentiality of organizational and client information.
- Be open to supervision and feedback which will facilitate learning and personal growth.
- Provide 24 hour notice if I am unable to attend service or a CCES sponsored activity.
- Complete at least 40 hours of work with the Community-Based Organization (CBO) or school.
- Attend the required orientation, monthly reflection activities, and complete/submit all required evaluations and paperwork as well as a copy of my final project to the CCES.