General Service-Learning Language for Faculty Syllabi

Required – The Miami University definition of Service-Learning must appear in your syllabus. Please make sure to always capitalize the S and L and hyphenate . When abbreviating Service-Learning, you may use "SL".

Definition of Service-Learning
Miami University defines Service-Learning as "an experiential pedagogical practice that uses action and reflection to meet needs and enhance learning through mutually beneficial, reciprocal partnerships." Service-Learning involves integrating community service or other forms of engagement into course content. As a result, Miami students are able to gain real world skills and enhance their learning while contributing to the community.

Suggested Language – These items should be included in your syllabus in some way, but you may edit them as needed.

Explanation of Service-Learning Component
This course includes a Service-Learning experience. As a result, this course has the SL (Service-Learning) Designation. You will gain valuable experience putting theory into practice into the community. Due to the fact that Service-Learning broadens perspectives, enhances critical thinking skills, and improves communication skills, graduate schools and employers are increasingly seeking students with experience in Service-Learning and community engagement. Below is information about Service-Learning, followed by the assignment description.

Details of Service-Learning Component (Or – Experience, Assignment, Project, Group Project, etc.)
Insert assignment here, with evidence of assessment. Be sure to include the reflection aspect. This could be demonstrated in a reflective writing as well as discussion (or in other ways). Also explain the purpose of reflection to the students. For example, "Reflection asks students to think critically and reflect on their Service-Learning experiences, using course content as a basis for their analysis and understanding. You will be expected to reflect in this course through class discussion and X assignment(s)."

Benefits of Service-Learning
For students, Service-Learning:
- Enables students to see the relevance and importance of academic work in their real life experiences.
- Broadens perspectives and enhances critical thinking skills.
- Improves inter-personal and human relations skills, which are increasingly viewed as the most important skills in achieving success in professional and personal spheres
- Provides guidance and experience for future career choice
- Links critical thinking to real-life situations

For the community, Service-Learning:
- Provides substantial human resources to meet its educational, human, safety and environmental needs
- Results in a renewed sense of community and encourages participative democracy
- Provides the opportunity to participate in an educational partnership
- Expands the breadth and depth of their daily initiatives.

<u>Miami as the Engaged University</u>
Miami University *"empowers its students, faculty, and staff to become engaged citizens who use their knowledge and skills with integrity and compassion to improve the future of our global society."* - Miami University Mission Statement

On March 27, 2009, the United States House voted 321-105, and the United States Senate voted 78-20 to increase National Service Programs. President Obama applauded all those who worked to push this bill through Congress, expressing, 'This legislation will help create new opportunities for millions of Americans at all stages of their lives.' He also noted, '[The] work is not finished...-it has just begun. While our government can provide every opportunity imaginable for us to serve our communities, it is up to us to seize those opportunities.' Obama calls on all Americans to capitalize on the resources they have to serve their communities, enriching their lives and those of others. Miami University aligns with this national agenda, as Service-Learning provides structured opportunities to practice global citizenship.

For more information on Service-Learning, please visit www.miamioh.edu/communityengagement or contact the Office of Community Engagement and Service at communityengagement@miamioh.edu or 513.529.2961.