



# SERVICE-LEARNING AND COMMUNITY BASED RESEARCH



This **Service-Learning/Community Based Research Fact Sheet** will provide you with valuable information about service-learning and community-based research in general, as well as details and processes at the UW-Madison. We hope this information helps you understand our reasons for supporting service-learning /community-based research and why we are excited to work collaboratively with you on this effort.

## **What is Service-Learning?**

The Morgridge Center for Public Service defines service-learning (S-L) as “**A method of joining academic theory with service to enhance student learning.**” It is an intentional teaching strategy that engages students in organized service activities and guided reflection. The service activities both benefit the client or community and enhance the academic curriculum of participating students.

## **What is Community-Based Research?**

Unlike traditional academic research, CBR is collaborative and change-oriented and finds its research questions in the needs of communities with the purpose of solving a pressing community problem or effecting social change. Each CBR project will differ in time, scope, and method of research depending on the specific research topic.

## **Service-Learning v.s. Volunteerism:**

Typically, volunteerism benefits are focused on the service recipients. While students receive some benefits by learning more about how their service makes a difference in the lives of the service recipients, there are no specific learning objectives with measurable goals. Every service-learning activity has carefully spelled out learning objectives that are tied to a specific course.

## **Service-Learning is *NOT*:**

- An sporadic volunteer program.
- Logging a set number of community service hours in order to graduate.
- Only for high school or college students.
- One-sided: benefiting only students or only the community.

## **Examples:**

- A health education course in which students practice the health concepts they've studied by teaching stress management skills to a community group
- An engineering course in which students work to design adaptive devices for people with specific disabilities
- A Spanish course in which students practice their speaking skills by providing recreational programs for children in the Latino community

## **Benefits to Community**

- Helps meet unmet community needs and connects them with University resources.
- Exposes and teaches communities about emerging generations of students
- Helps establish access and connections to other resources available at the University.
- Provides an opportunity for a community to shape students' values and to prepare students for community participation during and after college.



## Morgridge Center for Public Service Resources

Visit our website [www.morgridge.wisc.edu](http://www.morgridge.wisc.edu) for an electronic version of our detailed Service-Learning/CBR manual as well as other resources.

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## Service-Learning/CBR Web Resources

[www.servicelearning.org](http://www.servicelearning.org)

[www.lsa.org](http://www.lsa.org)

[www.pointsoflight.org](http://www.pointsoflight.org)

[www.compact.org](http://www.compact.org)

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# SERVICE-LEARNING AND COMMUNITY BASED RESEARCH

**Wisconsin Idea Undergraduate Fellowships:** These fellowships provide undergraduate students with the opportunity to use and expand their knowledge through service-learning or community based research projects with community organizations. Agencies can submit project ideas to our office during the fall to Randy Wallar, [jrwallar@wisc.edu](mailto:jrwallar@wisc.edu). Students, faculty, and community partners receive a stipend of \$1000 for each project.

**Connecting with Faculty:** We have a listserv that is sent to faculty interested or currently utilizing service-learning/community based research. If you have a specific idea for a service-learning/community based research project, we can distribute it to these faculty for you. However, we also encourage you to contact a faculty member directly, if you have a relationship with them or other connections on campus.

**Current Service-Learning Courses:** We have a list on our website of service-learning courses offered each semester. This is a great resource to see what types of courses and what faculty are interested in service-learning.

## Departments, and Colleges Currently Utilizing Service-Learning/CBR

*\*\*Please note that this list may change each semester.*

- Accounting and Info Systems
- Afro Am Studies
- Agricultural and Applied Economics
- Art
- Communicative Disorders
- Consumer Science
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Engineering Mechanics and Astronautics
- English
- Environment, Textiles, and Design
- Environmental Studies
- General Business
- Horticulture
- Human Development and Family Studies
- Industrial and Systems Engineering
- Interdisciplinary Courses (CALs, English, SoHE)
- Journalism and Mass Communication
- Landscape Architecture
- Life Sciences Communication
- Management and Human Resources
- Marketing
- Material Science and Engineering
- Operations and Information Management
- Pharmacy Practice
- Rehab Psych and Special Education
- Rural Sociology
- Social Work
- Spanish
- Theatre and Drama
- Zoology