

Service-Learning Definitions

Service-learning means a method under which students learn and develop through thoughtfully organized service that:

- Is conducted in and meets the needs of a community
- Is coordinated with an institution of higher education and with the community
- Helps foster civic responsibility
- Is integrated into and enhances the academic curriculum of the students enrolled
- Includes structured time for students to reflect on the service experience

American Association for Higher Education (AAHE): Series on Service-Learning in the Disciplines

Service-learning is a teaching method which combines community service with academic instruction as it focuses on critical, reflective thinking and civic responsibility. Service-learning programs involve students in organized community service that addresses local needs, while developing their academic skills, sense of civic responsibility and commitment to the community

Learn and Serve America

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.

The core concept driving this educational strategy is that by combining service objectives and learning objectives, along with the intent to show measurable change in both the recipient and the provider of the service, the result is a radically effective transformative method of teaching students.

Learning Through Service: A Student Guidebook for Service-Learning Across the Disciplines

Service-Learning: Students engage in community service activities with intentional academic and learning goals and opportunities for reflection that connect to their academic disciplines.