

What is Service Learning?

Service learning enables students to apply course concepts to a real life experience that meets a community need and to reflect upon all aspects. Course objectives and student community work are fundamentally integrated throughout the semester. The basic aim of service learning is two-fold: first, that students' service will heighten the understanding of central academic themes, goals, or subject matter in their courses; second, that the academic course content will facilitate students' ability to reflect in deep. In service learning students learn how to apply ideas, theories, and models to social issues in a practical context while gaining insights from practitioners in community-based organizations.

Students participate in direct service to their community within an academic experience, at Villa students enroll in a service learning course.

Is Service Learning a requirement for students at Villa Maria College?

Yes, service learning is mandatory and all hours must be completed before a student may graduate from Villa Maria College.

When should a student enroll in a service learning course?

Students may begin service learning during their first semester at Villa if enrolled in a service learning course. It is recommended that students meet with their Academic Advisor to explore service learning courses and the most appropriate semesters to enroll in them.

Are students able to participate in a Service Learning experience over the summer or semester break?

Yes. This arrangement must be approved by the professor of the course students will be enrolled in the next semester.

Is there a fee for Service Learning?

No, except for transportation costs and appropriate clothing.

Do the community agencies have requirements for student volunteers?

Yes. Students are to adhere to the requirements set forth by the agency including number of hours required by the agency and/or perhaps a NYS background check.

What are the benefits of Service Learning?

Villa Maria College Service Learning Q and A

There are many benefits to students on many levels; helps you clarify a career choice, develop self-efficacy, research skills, collaboration, and gain a sense of fulfillment and accomplishment.