



Northeastern University

Center of Community Service

MODELS OF SERVICE-LEARNING UTILIZED AT NORTHEASTERN

While there can be many models of service-learning, most courses apply S-L in one of three ways.

1) Direct Service-Learning (aka - Discipline-Based Service-Learning)

Students are expected to provide direct serve in a community-based organization on a weekly basis throughout the semester and engage in ongoing guided reflection on their experiences using course content as a basis for their analysis and understanding.

NEU Examples: Physical Therapy Professional Seminar with PT Team; Interpersonal Communication with Elise Dallimore; Inquiries in Science and Technology: The Microbial World with Gail Begley; Human Services Professionals, and International HS with Lori Gardinier

2) Project-Based Service-Learning (aka - Problem-Based Service-Learning)

Students (in teams) relate to the community much as “consultants” working for a “client” to understand and address a particular community problem or need. Students should be in more advanced courses within their discipline and have some knowledge they can draw upon to make recommendations to the community or develop a solution to the problem.

NEU Examples: Consultations Skills with Elise Dallimore; Strategic Philanthropy & Non-Profit Program Design with Rebecca Riccio

3) Community-Based Research (CBR) or Community-Based Action Research

Small classes or groups of students work closely with faculty members to learn about research methodology in order to answer specific research questions (generated by the community) that will provide the community partner(s) with information to more effectively advocate for themselves, apply for new funding, or broaden their knowledge of an issue in their field.

NEU Examples: Community-Based Research Initiatives with David Rochefort; Human Service Research & Evaluation with Rebecca Riccio

Adapted from Heffernan, Kerrissa. (2001). Fundamentals of Service-Learning Course Construction. RI: Campus Compact.

For more information about how to utilize a model in your course, please contact the

Service-Learning Program

617.373.7883

service-learning@neu.edu

www.neu.edu/servicelearning