

FGCU Service-Learning Curriculum Proposal

The Service-Learning Transition Committee has developed a framework to move from an hour-based to a course-based service-learning graduation requirement. This recommendation is based on service-learning literature and best practice in the field. A timeline for the transition anticipates phasing in the new requirement beginning with the freshman class of 2009-10.

Vision: To learn to participate effectively as engaged citizens in a diverse and changing world.

Mission: The FGCU service-learning program facilitates education in civic engagement; encourages community responsibility through active, reciprocal, and reflective learning; and promotes sensitivity to cultural, economic, and social needs and differences.

Goals: The service-learning curriculum will be reflective and developmental in nature and will be course, program, and project based.

- Students are formally introduced to service-learning and to civic and community engagement. (Lower division outcome)
- Students adopt personal service-learning visions and goals that guide their development as engaged citizens. (Lower division outcome)
- In upper division courses, students will interpret and analyze the impact of service-learning activities. (Upper division outcome)
- At the highest level, students participate in self-directed service-learning projects that connect their personal goals and academic programs to community needs.

Implementation:

Through service-learning courses and projects, FGCU students will gain direct experience working with community partners. Pursuing these activities within an academic setting creates a meaningful connection between service and learning.

These are the minimum service-learning requirements for graduation from Florida Gulf Coast University:

1. Students matriculating below Junior status (without having completed General Education requirements or an Associate of Arts degree):
 - a. Two lower division general education service-learning courses; and
 - b. IDS 3920 – University Colloquium; and
 - c. One service-learning course from within the student's major or program, or
 - d. An extended service-learning project contracted with an approved service-learning supervisor
2. Students matriculating at Junior status or above (with completion of General Education requirements or an Associate of Arts degree):

- a. IDS 3920 – University Colloquium, and
- b. One service-learning course from within the student's major or program, or
- c. An extended service-learning project contracted with an approved service-learning supervisor

Assistance Requested from the Provost's Office:

1. Acknowledgement and public support for service-learning as an integral part of the mission in any appropriate venue.
2. Recognition and support for the guidelines developed for community-based participatory research.
3. Support within the FGCU academic structure for the recognition of the scholarship of engagement for promotion.
4. Minimal financial support for travel for exemplary s-l faculty each year.

Encouraging Students to Exceed Minimum Requirement:

1. Offer graduation honors
2. Offer scholarships
3. Offer research support
4. Offer minors in civic leadership and/or nonprofit management
5. Recognize student groups at Celebration of Excellence
6. "Honors" plaque in Student Union recognizing one outstanding student group per year
7. Incentives for group service projects (SG)

Encouraging Faculty to Teach S-L Courses:

1. Recognition
2. Research support
3. Grant support
4. Publication/presentation support
5. Professional development opportunities – workshops, networking, conference travel