



Service-Learning: A Balanced Approach to Experiential Learning

Adapted from the work of Andrew Furco, 1996

What is Service-Learning?

- *“A pedagogy in which students learn and develop through active participation in thoughtfully organized service experiences that meet actual community needs, that are integrated into the students’ academic curriculum and provide structured time for reflection and enhance what is taught in school by extending student learning beyond the classroom and into the community.”*
- *“Service-Learning occurs only when both the providers and recipients of the service benefit from the activities.”*

What is Experiential Education?

- *Some educators view “service-learning” as a new term that reveals a rich, innovative, pedagogical approach for more effective teaching, others view it as simply another term for a well established **experiential education program**.*
- *How and why is it necessary to distinguish “service-learning” from cooperative education, internship programs, field study and other forms of experiential education?*

<u>Field Experiences</u>	<u>Volunteerism</u>	<u>Internships</u>	<u>Community Service</u>
Field Experiences provide students with co-curricular service opportunities that are related, but not fully integrated, with their formal academic studies. Students perform the service as part of a program that is designed primarily to enhance students' understanding of a field of study, while also providing substantial emphasis on the service being provided.	Volunteerism is the engagement of students in activities where the primary emphasis is on the service being provided and the primary intended beneficiary is clearly the service recipient. <i>“People who perform some service or good work of their own free will and without pay”</i>	Internships programs engage students in service activities primarily for the purpose of providing students with hands-on experiences that enhance their learning or understanding of issues relevant to a particular area of study.	Community service is the engagement of students in activities that primarily focus on the service being provided as well as the benefits the service activities have on the recipients (e.g., providing food to the homeless during the holidays). The students receive some benefits by learning more about how their service makes a difference.

The typology is determined by the primary intended beneficiary