SERVICE LEARNING

(See IDS 106)

Service Learning is a graduation requirement for all college students. Each full-time undergraduate student is required to fulfill two Trinity Service Learning units while at Trinity College. Transfer students are required to complete only one Service Learning Unit if they transfer 58 or more approved credit hours.

Service learning has the following learning outcomes:

1. Students will develop their ethic of service, sense of social responsibility, and commitment to civic engagement.
2. Students will grow in their capacity to love and serve individuals and communities, within and outside of Trinity, both locally and globally.
3. Students will use their skills and abilities to make a difference in real-world settings.
4. Students will put their faith into action. (“Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.” James 2:17 TNIV)

A student will earn one completion for each Service Learning project when all of the following guidelines are met:

• The Service Learning project must be a minimum of twelve hours over a period of at least 12 weeks, or be an intensive supervised ministry trip, as detailed below.
• The Service Learning project must demonstrate faithfulness over time.
• Acceptable options include:
  • Weekly service for one hour
  • Semi-weekly service of two hours, in alternate weeks
  • Monthly service of at least three hours on four different occasions
  • Intensive one or two week supervised ministry trips. [A mission trip of seven to thirteen days qualifies for one Service Learning completion, and a mission trip of fourteen days or longer may qualify for two Service Learning completions. (This would include working at an overnight summer camp if it demonstrates a level of commitment and service similar to a fourteen-day mission trip.)]
  • Short-term activities, such as leading a weekend retreat for a high school youth group or leading a five-day VBS, do not qualify, even though they may result in more than twelve hours of service, because they do not meet the requirement of faithfulness over time.
• The Service Learning project must have accountability through a ministry/service supervisor.
• The Service Learning project must involve serving others.
• At least one Service Learning project must be done off campus; off campus service may be repeated in a second semester for a second Service Learning completion.

There are a variety of opportunities posted online if assistance is needed in finding an appropriate activity or specific project.

To receive credit for a Service Learning project, the student must register for IDS 106 Trinity Service Learning, submit the planning form early in the semester of service, submit the Student Reflection Form and ensure that the Supervisor Evaluation Form is completed and submitted by the last day of class during the fall and spring semester or two weeks prior to the first day of the fall semester if the service-learning project was done over the summer.

• Note: All Service Learning projects must be done while the student is enrolled at Trinity College. All forms and additional information can be found on MyTIU (http://my.tiu.edu).