SBU 104: General Education Service

Course Syllabus

Academic Credit

The General Education Service course will be worth zero to three credit hours. Credit value will be granted by the Associate Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences in light of hours worked, responsibilities, and duration of the service, with a rough guide of 40 hours of service equivalent to the credit hour. Service may be undertaken during the summer or during the academic year.

[Service need not be in one site; however, it is up to student to articulate in their proposal how the proposed service is unified and beneficial.]

University General Education Learning Goals: to provide students with foundational knowledge that aligns with the University's six student learning goals:

1. Basic knowledge of the liberal arts and sciences, specialized knowledge in a particular area of study, and the ability to integrate knowledge from different academic disciplines.
2. The ability to think constructively, critically, and creatively, including competencies in analytic inquiry, quantitative literacy, information literacy, evidential reasoning, and problem solving.
3. Competence in multimodal communication with special emphasis on oral, written, and digital communication, including an understanding of key issues relating to their use.
4. A disposition to understand societal issues, seek solutions, and become responsible citizens.
5. An ability to engage with ultimate questions of a metaphysical, theological, and philosophical nature.
6. A basic understanding of the Catholic tradition and an appreciation of the intellectual and moral virtues expressed in the Franciscan movement (e.g., humility, compassion, justice with peace, love of wisdom, and the inherent goodness of all creation).

Objectives

The General Service course is an elective course that will allow students to apply the skills and proficiencies they develop through the General Education curriculum to serving the needs of a defined community. Students provide service in their community that is directly connected to their academic coursework, and the community provides an educational experience for the student while receiving support for their work. The collaboration between student and community ought to be one that is mutually beneficial—while the student develops definable skills and meets learning goals, the primary beneficiary ought to be the community the student is serving; sustainable, demonstrated benefits that contribute to meaningful positive change for the community should be an ideal. The community itself should be, in addition, in control of determining the nature and basis of these benefits.

As students draw on the ideas and skills developed though their General Education courses, they will through this service experience combine academic theory with real-life experience, giving students a broader and deeper understanding of course content, fostering their sense of civic engagement, and sharpening their insights into themselves and their place in the community.

It allows students then to gain academic credit for service work undertaken outside of that prescribed as part of a major or program requirement. It should enable students to demonstrate progress towards General Education Learning Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4 above.

The service also addresses the following University Learning Objectives/Indicators, found here https://www.sbu.edu/academics/university-learning-goals

- Learning Goal 3: Communication
    - Exhibit effective oral, written, non-verbal, and technological skills
- Learning Goal 4: Community Participation and Service
    - Demonstrate Franciscan values such as social action and sensitivity to diverse populations.
    - Manifest a spirit of community and respect for others.

Grading

Grading will be pass/fail based on meeting the requirements of the course.

Requirements

- Student will attend a pre-service CPRC(career and Professional Readiness Center) workshop
- Student will submit a post-internship reflection via Big Interview
- Student will provide a one-page description of the service to be undertaken. This should be coordinated with the service agency and/or community beneficiaries before registering for the service course.
- Student will provide a one-page proposal of how the service aligns with their educational goals
- Student are encouraged to keep a weekly journal analyzing and reflecting on their internship experience.
    - What did you do this week? What concrete things did you do? What new things did you learn?
    - What was its role in or effect on the organization or community? Why was it important or helpful?
    - How did it relate to knowledge or skills you have developed in GenEd courses, or to the learning goals thereof?
- Student will obtain a post-service evaluation form completed by the agency or community served (service coordinator will provide the form for this through the CPRC/FCSC-Franciscan center for Social Concerns-)
- Student will write a report upon completion of their service. Report will describe the community served, assess its needs and the collaboration through which those needs were determined, explain how their service helped address those needs in a sustainable way, and provide their own self-reflection of the impact of the experience (with reference to the goals outlined in their proposal), and the way that the experience contributed to their own development in the terms of General Education Learning Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4.
- Student will meet at intervals (beginning and midterm of semester) with faculty to review their journals and for guidance and feedback in writing the final report.

Process:

Students will register for the zero-credit hour option for the time when they are actually doing the service—this will also account for their pre-internship work and the keeping of a journal. If the service experience is for credit, they will then register for the correct number of hours when they return, which will be granted upon submission of journals and final report. A committee will evaluate the final report and journal entries in the last month of the semester.

- Before Service:
    - Meet with FCSC
    - Provide a one-page description of the service to be undertaken. This should be coordinated with the service agency and/or community beneficiaries before registering for the service course.
    - Register for SBU 104 0 CH
- During Service
    - Provide one-page statement of how the internship aligns with your educational goals
    - Keep journal on service experience
    - Complete all required paperwork for CPRC and FCSC
    - Provide post-service evaluation
- After Service (For 1-3 credits option):
    - Register for 1-3 CH
    - Meet with CPRC and FCSC
    - Meet with faculty beginning of semester; review journals and plan paper
    - Meet at midterm; review paper draft
    - Submit final draft one month before end of semester