

## Service Learning Requirement for Philosophy and Religion Studies Major

### I. Description and Purpose of Service Learning

Service learning provides an opportunity for you to combine your theoretical studies with community service. Service learning differs from other volunteer work and charity service you may have done. Your service learning project will relate to your Philosophy and Religion Studies courses. There are four main types of service learning: 1. Direct Service (for example, tutoring children, working with elders) 2. Indirect Service (no direct action with those who will benefit from the service, e.g., preparing kits for hospitalized patients) 3. Advocacy (letter writing campaigns, petitions) and 4. Research (develop surveys, do experiments, conduct interviews). Of course, all four types involve some level of research and content specific knowledge.<sup>1</sup> Since your service learning is part of your academic experience in the Philosophy and Religion Studies department, we hope your work will help you critically examine your beliefs, theoretical commitments, and help you become even more aware about global and social issues.

The first part of your service learning involves your service, advocacy or research. Each student should complete at least 10 hours for this component. The second part of your project is what will distinguish service learning from other volunteer activities. For this part, we ask that you reflect on your service and prepare a written response (approximately 3 pages). You can choose from the wide range of approved service learning organizations listed below and/or request a different organization through the service learning coordinator of the Philosophy and Religion Department (Ellen Miller—2010-2011).

Ideally, students should not wait until their senior year to develop a service learning project, especially since projects require time for research and reflection.

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Cathryn Berger-Kaye, *The Complete Guide to Service Learning*, Minneapolis: Free Spirit Publishing, 2004.

## II. Approved Activities

- **Mentoring, Homework Assistance, Tutoring** (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Big Brothers/Big Sisters First Mentors, St. John of God's, Robin's Nest, Tri-County Head Start Program, Literacy Volunteers of American Gloucester County, Clayton Place, Glassboro Child Development Centers Before and/or After School Program, Junior Achievement of NJ, Hollybush Gardens, Housing Authority of the Borough of Glassboro, NJ Gear Up, Ranch Hope, Together, Inc.)
- **Web-design for approved organizations** (Habitat for Humanity in Pitman or other branch, Robin's Nest, St. John of God's, and see Rowan's Center for Volunteerism for more options)
- **Public relations work** (Glassboro's Economic Development Corporation and Neighborhood Preservation Program, Save the Animals Foundation)
- **Fundraising activities/ Writing and publishing newsletters** (Caring Hearts Ministry, Histiocytosis Association of American, Salvation Army, Robin's Nest)
- **Coordinate Blood drive** (American Red Cross)
- **Participate in an activity with Engineers without Borders (research, advocacy, direct service)**
- **Run a food drive** (Samaritan Center of Glassboro)
- **Helpline assistance** (Help Hotline/Counseling Center)
- **Use your musical/artistic/theatrical skills in the community** (Trinity Youth Project, Robin's Nest, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Pitman Children's Theater)
- **Internships** (Aids Coalition)

## III. Where can I volunteer?

For a list of community service organizations, please visit **Rowan's Office of Service Learning and Volunteerism in the Student Center** or click below for more information:

<http://www.rowan.edu/open/studentaffairs2/cslv/partners.cfm>

## IV. Written Reflection

In your written reflection, you may address the following questions:

*Briefly describe your service project. How does your service project relate to your philosophy and religion department classes? More specifically, relate your service experience to readings/discussions/concepts/ideas from some of your Philosophy and Religion Studies courses. How does your service relate to your career plans?*

The questions listed below can also be incorporated into your reflection along with any additional insights you would like to include:

*Have you become more responsive to your community through your volunteering (in what ways?) If not, why do you think this did not occur? What were some of the most challenging aspects of your work? Explain what you learned about privilege and equality during your experiences...*

#### **V. Checklist**

1. Complete at least 10 hours of service (direct, indirect, advocacy or research)
2. Verify your activities each time you work on your project (document your activities)
3. Complete a reflection on your activities (about 3 pages)

#### **VI. Additional Information:**

##### **Stages of Service Learning**

##### **Four Stages of Service Learning**

##### **1. Preparation**

- Identify a need
- Draw upon previously acquired skills and knowledge
- Acquire new information
- Analyze underlying problem
- Collaborate with community partners
- Develop a plan that encourages responsibility
- Recognize the integration of service and learning
- Become ready to provide meaningful service

##### **2. Action**

- Perform direct service, indirect service, research or advocacy
- Your actions have value, purpose and meaning
- Your actions offer unique learning experiences
- Your actions have consequences

##### **3. Reflection**

- Describe what happened
- Examine the difference it made
- Discuss thoughts and feelings
- Place experience in a larger context
- Identify questions
- Receive feedback

##### **4. Demonstration**

- Report to peers, faculty, parents, and/or community members
- Write articles or letters to local newspaper regarding issues of public concern
- Create a publication or web site that helps others learn from your experiences
- Make a presentation/performance
- Create visual art form/mural

- **VERIFICATION OF SERVICE LEARNING ACITIVIES**

Student Name:

Rowan email:

Organization Name and Location:

Organization Mission:

Contact Name (Supervisor/Contact Person)

Contact Phone Number

Contact Email:

**Service Learning Participation Log**

Date

Amount of hours

Signature of supervisor

Description of service activities/duties/responsibilities