

Brief Descriptions of Community Service Learning Terms

POSITIONS	DEFINITIONS	CREDIT/ UNITS	RELATED TO COURSE WORK	STRUCTURED REFLECTION	NUMBER OF HOURS
Volunteer	student participates for the common good	0	variable	rarely	variable
Field Work or Thesis Student	student conducts an independent study; research	graded; pass/fail variable	variable	rarely	4 to 40 hours per week
Practicum/ Student Intern	student gains on-the-job experience related to major field of study; often credential-based	graded; pass/fail variable	variable	sometimes	8 to 40 hours per week
Service Learner	student combines meaningful community service and in-class learning through a process of structured reflections	graded; pass/fail variable	yes - embedded or an extra option	yes; individually and in small groups, students abstract meaning from the community experience and integrate it with in-class concepts	2 to 4 hours per week
Student Enrolled in Co-Curricular Activity	student participates in a short term activity, often as a part of class project	0	variable	rarely	one time event
Student Enrolled in Cooperative Education	student participates in a paid, off-campus work experience in private industry or government agency	graded; pass/fail; variable	related to major not necessarily a specific course	no	10 to 40 hours per week
Student Completing a Community-based Assignment for a Course	student participates in a short term activity or specific project or task, sometimes completed as a class but more often individually	graded as part of class require- ments	yes - embedded	variable; usually there is discussion in class and/or student writes about the experience	1 to 10 hours per semester