

successful Service-Learning for nursing students

What Does My Professor Want Me To Learn?

Learning Objectives:

1. Provide opportunities for enhanced awareness of community needs, problems, and interventions
2. Increase appreciation of potential roles for nurses in the community and society
3. Incorporate (appreciate) certain inherent values of nursing, including **integrity, empathy, self-motivation, self-confidence, teamwork and diplomacy, respect, and client advocacy**
4. Assume responsibility and accountability for providing quality care with indirect supervision by faculty and direct supervision by others in a community setting

What Can I Expect At a Community Agency?

The connection between what you are doing at the community partner agency may or may not seem directly connected to what you are learning as a nurse in this course. However, all activities are valid experiences that can help you better understand your relationship as a citizen and nurse with the community and the people in it. Also the "inherent values of nursing", as described above in learning objective 3, can be better understood and experienced more deeply by service with a community agency.

The actual tasks that you complete at the partner agency may range from hands-on things like working with clients, painting, cleaning, planning projects, and in some cases installing drywall. On the other hand your assigned tasks may be related to office work, filing, working with materials, or answering phones. Please understand that as a volunteer you are providing a needed service to agencies and everything you do, no matter how mundane it may seem, contributes to the agencies goals and objectives.

What Should I Do To Have A Successful Experience?

1. Ask Questions

Try to learn as much about the agency as you can. The best way to do this is ask questions.

What is your mission?

How is your agency funded?

How does your agency fulfill a community need?

How does my work here today help you complete your mission?

2. Own your Experience

Service-Learning is largely about attitude. Having a positive attitude and scheduling your service with a variety of agencies will contribute to better experience. The Service-Learning component of your course is included because "service" is a core value for your profession. Just like care-plans and clinicals it is part of the process and part of your journey to a degree.

3. Plan Ahead, Plan Ahead, Plan Ahead

Service-Learning isn't something extra. It is an integrated part of your course expectations and should be treated just like any other assignment.



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What Do My Classmates Think of Service-Learning?

The overwhelming majority of students enjoy and understand the importance of Service-Learning in their courses. In fact most students indicate that they will continue working as a volunteer after their Service-Learning project is completed. To date more than 800 students have completed Service-Learning as a component of their coursework.

QUESTION 1:

The service increased my awareness of the larger community.

MEAN: 3.9

QUESTION 2:

The service helped me better understand community needs.

MEAN: 3.9

QUESTION 3:

The service helped me reflect on my life and goals.

MEAN: 3.4

QUESTION 4:

The service helped me decide on career and life goals.

MEAN: 2.8

QUESTION 5:

The service has increased my interest in doing further service.

MEAN: 3.6

QUESTION 6:

I would recommend this activity to my friends.

MEAN: 3.6

QUESTION 7:

My experience with the community agency was positive.

MEAN: 4.2

QUESTION 8:

My experience with Service-Learning has been positive.

MEAN: 4.0

Student Comments

- "It was good to experience different types of nursing or volunteer work to improve your community."
- "It really made me aware of the need for tutors at schools even though the teacher is there, different ways of explaining really helps kids."
- "It was good and it helped me understand the need for people to take part in their community."
- "It was a rewarding experience. I enjoyed being part of the volunteering community. It is amazing how many young people do volunteer work."
- "It was a positive experience. I was introduced to a population of people at the Salvation Army that are truly in need and I now have a strong desire to help."
- "There is so much that we can do. My experience not only benefits my community but myself and I am planning to go back in the summer with my daughter."
- "I became more aware of what it is like to be an illegal immigrant, political refugee, or simply be a family without anything and all of a sudden have a helping hand that until things get better."
- "It is a wonderful opportunity to see the needs of people in your community and how there are many ways to help."
- "This opportunity has helped me become aware of my own communities activity and involvement with children's schools."
- "It changed my outlook on life."
- "I brought my oldest child with me the second time because I want her to learn that it takes everyone pitching in to make a difference."
- "It gave me an opportunity to act as an ambassador of my profession outside the typical work setting. I enjoyed the agency and will go back. I am trying to get other family members involved as well."

For more information contact

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