

Student Procedures and Resource Guide for Service Learning

Student Procedures and Resource Guide for Service Learning

There are a range of experiential learning activities available at Kwantlen Polytechnic University, including internships, practica and cooperative education.

Service learning is a form of experiential education in which students engage in activities that address human & community needs together with structured opportunities intentionally designed to promote student learning & development.

Service learning emphasizes a reciprocal and balanced emphasis on both student learning and addressing real needs in the community. Service experience is typically brought back to the classroom to enhance course learning objectives and academic dialogue.

Types of Service Learning Projects²:

Direct Service – Students provide service directly to the clients of a community-based organization. This may include tutoring children, assisting elderly residents in a nursing home, serving meals at a homeless shelter, etc.

Indirect Service – Students serve at an organization and/or on behalf of an issue/population by providing administrative assistance, developing fundraising programs, creating marketing plans, participating in construction projects, etc.

Social Action Research – Students conduct research on a particular issue identified by a community organization. The research project is designed to address the informational needs of the organization and to apply classroom theory/knowledge and enable them to integrate theory in practice.

Please do the following –

1. Complete Project Work Agreement with Course Instructor and Agency/Company (if applicable). Retain for your records.
2. Complete Service-Learning timesheet and be prepared to submit it to course instructor and/or Agency/Company.

Useful Tips for Students in Service Learning

1. Try to learn one thing each day (i.e. can you salvage even a bad experience somehow?).
2. Ask for help, and communicate as much as possible. Be flexible and forward-thinking.
3. Find one downtime, 'go-to' activity to do when you are not being given instruction about specific tasks.
4. Avoid any use of drugs or alcohol. Do not loan money or goods to clients or project leaders.
5. Do not make promises or commitments that an Agency/Company is unable to keep.
6. Do not tolerate unsafe conditions. Give a phone number to a friend, or relative so that they know where you are going to be at all times during service learning activities. Be sure to have a safe way home.
7. Communicate any concerns immediately to project leader and/or course instructor.

¹ Tessa Hicks Peterson. 2009. *Engaged scholarship; reflection and research on the pedagogy of social change. Teaching in Higher Education*, 14(5): 541-552.

² *Student Procedures and Resource Guide for Service Learning, Fayetteville State University, Office of Civic Engagement and Service Learning*
<www.unctsu.edu/Documents/CivicEngagement/resource_guide/Student_Resource_Guide.pdf>