

Leadership Backpack

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Service Learning

Service-learning is a teaching method that integrates service to the community with classroom curricula. It is more than community service. It is a reciprocal, hands-on approach to mastering subject material while fostering civic responsibility. It provides a context for talking about learning in terms of not only what students know but also what they are able to do. Reflection is a key step in this process and helps students make the connection between classroom and community learning.

Benefits of Service Learning

Some of the courses offered at Gustavus include service learning components. Let's consider how service learning can benefit you!

Students who participate in service learning can benefit you academically, professionally, and personally. These are just a few of the ways:

- Increase understanding of the class topic
- Gain hands-on experience possibly leading to an internship or job
- Explore values and beliefs
- Have opportunities to act on what you believe is right
- Develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Grow your understanding of diverse cultures and communities
- Learn more about social issues, their causes and how to affect change
- Identify strengths, skills and talents while applying them in real world settings
- Develop or enhance communication, collaboration, and leadership skills
- Test your skills, interests, and values in a potential career path, or learn more about a field that interests you
- Connect with professionals and community members with whom you will learn
- Grow a professional network of people you might connect with again later for jobs or internships
- Satisfy your urge toward public service or civic participation

Ready to get started?

Visit the Community-Based Service & Learning website (<https://gustavus.edu/communityservice/>) or office to learn more about the service learning opportunities at Gustavus.

The website contains many links to become active in the St. Peter community in a service-learning capacity.