



Faculty Guide

Service-Learning at St. Catherine University

WHAT IS SERVICE-LEARNING?

Service-learning is the integration of student community engagement with course curriculum. There are multiple terms used to describe this type of experiential learning that vary across institutions and departments (i.e., civic engagement, community engaged learning, community-based clinicals, etc.). St. Kate's Center for Community Work and Learning uses the term 'service-learning' to describe course-based community engagement completed by students.

Service-learning is designed to deepen student understanding of course concepts and meet the expressed needs of our community partner organizations. Some key tenets of the pedagogy of service-learning are:

- **Mutual benefit:** The community engagement must be designed to enhance students' understanding of course concepts while meeting the needs of partner organizations. The relationship should not be viewed as hierarchical, and it is important for students to enter organizations with humility and appreciation for the opportunity to learn from community. Faculty should view community partners as co-educators with unique assets and perspectives that benefit student learning.
- **Connection to course learning:** Community engagement experiences must relate to course learning and concepts. The experiences will be perceived as an unnecessary "add on" by students without strategic connecting between their experiences and course content. Student learning outcomes should guide the design of the community experiences. It is also important that faculty facilitate connections and meaning-making of service-learning in course discussions and assignments.
- **Critical reflection:** Discussion and assignment reflection activities must be incorporated into the course curriculum to create a space for students to process their experiences and bridge their learning.

WHY INCLUDE SERVICE-LEARNING IN YOUR COURSE?

St. Kate's students and faculty report that service-learning:

- Deepens student understanding of course concepts
- Increases student commitment to civic engagement, community, and social justice
- Provides valuable career and resume building experience
- Can meet teaching, service and research requirements for faculty

THE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY WORK AND LEARNING

St. Catherine University's Center for Community Work and Learning (CWL) facilitates meaningful community engagement through service-learning and student employment. Each year, we connect more than 125 Twin Cities organizations with students and faculty from across disciplines and degree levels. Through curriculum, scholarship and student employment opportunities, we live out St. Kate's values of collaboration and commitment to community.



SERVICE-LEARNING MODELS AT ST. KATE'S

For all courses, service-learning has to fit course objectives and goals, and have introduction and reflection elements embedded. Whatever model fits best, it needs to be clearly integrated - just as readings and writing assignments are integrated into a course.

One-time large group

Good fit for courses with a lot of material to cover with a clear connection to social justice issue(s). Can be scheduled during class time or at a separate time built into the course syllabus.

Examples:

- *GSI: The Immigrant Experience.* Class engages in an "ELL Social" at a Minnesota Literacy Council (MLC) site. St. Kate's students engage in conversation with adult non-native English speaking students who identify as immigrants through MLC-organized activities and discussion.
- *The Reflective Woman.* Class completes garden/farm work for Frogtown Farm to better understand local approaches to food and environmental justice.

Multiple, small team

Good fit for courses where student understanding of course concepts will benefit from engaging with their peers in ongoing interpersonal experiences with specific issues or populations. Service-learning hours are completed outside of class time.

Examples:

- *Introduction to Communication Studies: Suffrage Movement.* Students practice communication skills working on voter access issues with The League of Women Voters.
- *IPE Opportunities and Challenges of Aging:* Student teams of 4-5 engage in activities with elder populations for 2 hours/week for 7 weeks.

Ongoing Individual

Good fit for courses where deeper student involvement with an organization will increase understanding of course concepts. Service-learning hours are completed weekly outside of class time (typically 2-3 hours/week, 20-24 hours total).

Examples:

- *Psychology Engages the World:* Students complete 24 hours at a nonprofit. Activities and nonprofit focuses/clients vary, but all students have opportunity to engage in direct interactions.
- *Advanced ASL:* Students complete 20 hours at a single organization working with Deaf individuals. Activities and nonprofit focuses vary, but all students have opportunity for direct communication in ASL.

Project- based

Good fit for advanced major courses or graduate level courses where students are able to offer their discipline skillsets/expertise to a nonprofit organization. Service-learning hours are completed outside of class time, and students typically work in teams of 2-5.

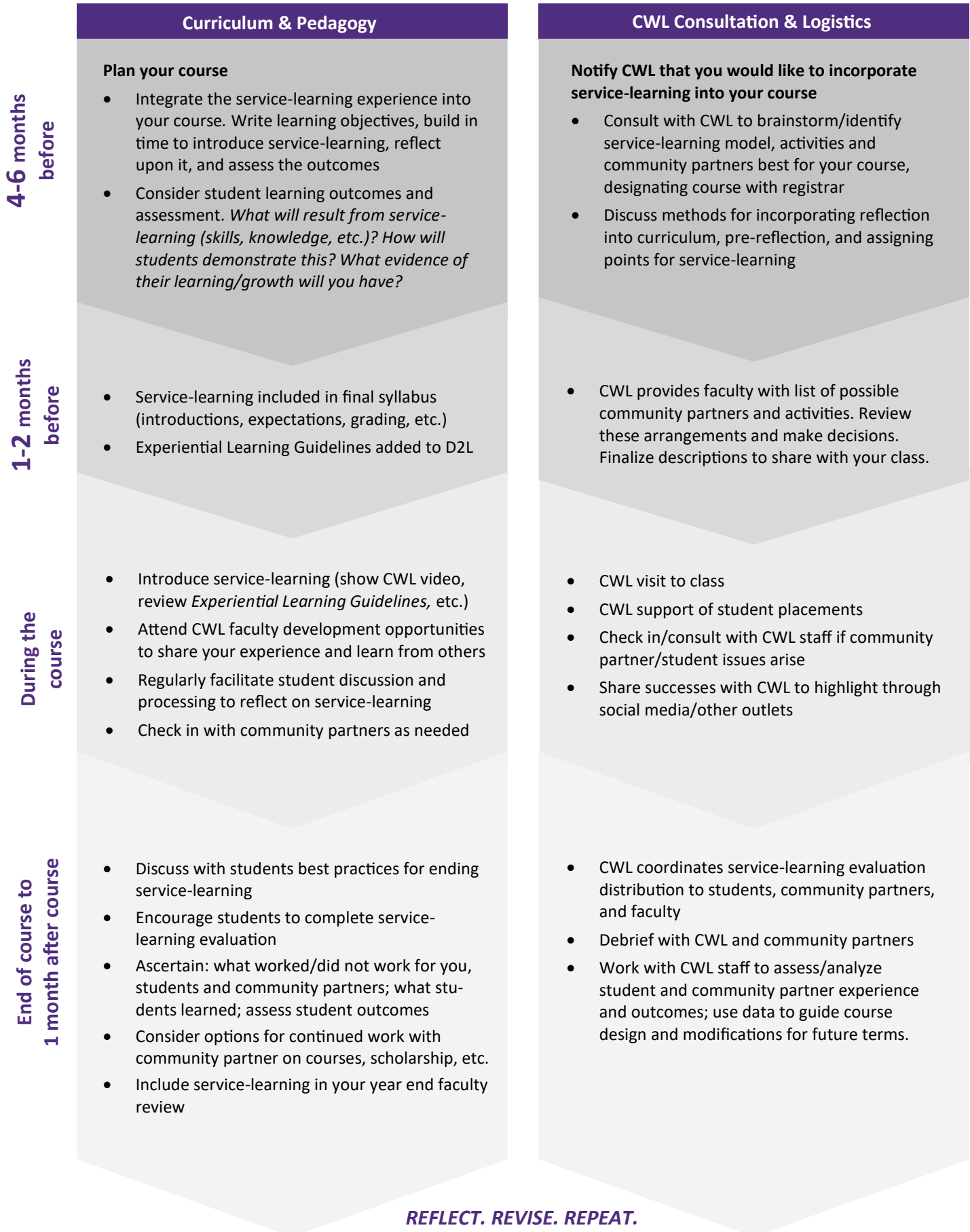
Example:

- *Buyer Behavior and Market Research:* Student teams partner with a nonprofit organization to answer a market research question through primary and secondary data collection and analysis. Students share raw data with organization and present their findings and recommendations.

Hybrid

Hybrid of any of the models above; courses can have multiple, one time course experiences at different organizations, ongoing team work at an organization that culminates in a final project/presentation to the organization, among other combinations. CWL staff are happy to work with you to develop the ideal service-learning format to meet your course learning objectives and student population.

TIMELINE FOR SERVICE-LEARNING



REFLECT. REVISE. REPEAT.

RESOURCES



CWL produced short videos about service-learning and community engagement at St. Kate's
tinyurl.com/CWLvideos



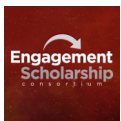
St. Kate's library guide with latest publications on service-learning, including discipline-specific pieces.
libguides.stkate.edu/service-learning
Librarian: Sue Gray, sagray@stkate.edu

ASSOCIATIONS



Minnesota Campus Compact is a local chapter of national organization focused on community engagement in higher education.

MNcampuscompact.org



The Engagement Scholarship Consortium aims to work collaboratively to build strong university-community partnerships anchored in the rigor of scholarship, and designed to help build community capacity.

engagementscholarship.org



CCPH is a nonprofit membership organization that promotes health equity and social justice through partnerships between communities and academic institutions.

ccphealth.org



The International Association for Research on Service-Learning & Community Engagement is dedicated to promoting research and discussion about service-learning and community engagement. Annual conference, presentation and publication opportunities.

researchslce.org



Comprised of a network of college and university members and community partners, IA's annual programming includes convening a national conference and cultural organizing institutes, and collaborative research and action projects.

imaginingamerica.org

JOURNALS

- *Community-Engaged Scholarship for Health* | ces4health.info
- *International Journal of Research on Service-Learning & Community Engagement* | journals.sfu.ca/iarslce/index.php/journal/issue/archive
- *Journal of Service-Learning in Higher Education* | journal.sfu.ca/jslhe/index.php/jslhe
- *Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement* | openjournals.libs.uga.edu
- *Michigan Journal of Community Service Learning (MJCSL)* | quod.lib.umich.edu/m/mjcsl

Questions?

Call, email or
set up a meeting
with us!

D'Ann Urbaniak Lesch, Director
dulesch@stkate.edu | (651) 690 - 6922

Elizabeth Dunens, Associate Director
eadunens@stkate.edu | (651) 690 - 8706

Sarah Gerdes, Program Coordinator
spgerdes@stkate.edu | (651) 690 - 6909

Center for Community Work and Learning
Coeur de Catherine 233

stkate.edu/cwl | fb: [communityworkandlearning](https://www.facebook.com/communityworkandlearning) | Twitter: [stkatescwl](https://twitter.com/stkatescwl)