FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is service learning required?

- The Nutrition & Dietetics Department made the decision to require service learning for all of its’ majors for several reasons:
  - Service learning is consistent with the mission of our University
  - It provides opportunities to meet new people with common interests
  - Service learning provides a unique level of learning and growing beyond the classroom
  - It is consistent with the Nutrition and Dietetics professions, which are service-based professions
  - It exposes you to potential career opportunities
  - It helps you identify where your interests related to nutrition & dietetics are
  - It provides opportunities for you to network with people in the community, which is beneficial when seeking jobs within the profession
  - It helps develop skills that make you marketable in your profession

Can my volunteering in church and for other organizations on campus count toward service learning hours?

- Volunteer activities done for church and for other organizations can be counted toward service learning hours. However, you are urged to strike a balanced approach. For example, if teaching Bible school is something that has been part of your normal routine for some time, consider adding something else that is service oriented yet self-initiated and outside the realm of usual.

Can my sorority/fraternity service count for service learning hours?

- Many skills and abilities are developed through sorority and fraternity activity. If your activity meets the competencies listed in the N&D department (ie, must encompass non-paid community service plus at least one other competency including career development or personal attributes such as leadership, communication, organization, team player or diversity) you may count it as service learning. However, we would like to see you consider activities other than those surrounding membership in Greek organizations for part of your requirements.

Do I have to complete my hours during the school year?

- You may complete your hours at any time of the year that is convenient for you. The summer months may work better for your own personal circumstance, and you may count the activities you do in the summer toward your service learning requirements.
**Do the experiences I do have to be related to nutrition?**

- It is a good idea to spend some of your service learning hours in nutrition-related activities. At the same time, many skills you hone outside of nutrition programs can be easily applied to the profession of nutrition and dietetics. Take a look again at the section discussing developing your learning goals in the document entitled: “Service Learning in Nutrition & Dietetics”.

**Is there a dress code?**

- The appropriateness of attire depends on the environment you are in. Check with your contact person at each experience to learn what expectations they may have in relation to your personal appearance.

**Does the volunteering have to be done in Grand Forks?**

- Not at all. In fact, we encourage you to look beyond the Grand Forks community.

**Where can I find places to volunteer at?**

- Faculty in the N&D department will post opportunities they become aware of
- SAND may be a resource for service learning opportunities
- Several N&D classes include a service learning component. The instructor for each class will indicate how many service learning hours you may claim for class activities
- Using the Volunteer Bridge at the Student Involvement Center in the Memorial Union is a good place to start with opportunities in the Grand Forks area. [http://www.union.und.edu/involvement](http://www.union.und.edu/involvement)
- You may also be familiar with organizations in your own community that would benefit from your services. Check out organizations such as local chapters of the American Diabetes Association or American Heart Association. Your academic advisor may have some suggestions for you as well.

**If I'm being paid to work, can it count toward my service learning hours?**

- No, it cannot. One of the criteria that must be common to all of your experiences that are counted is that is must be of service to the community (ie volunteer).

**Will I need to complete service learning requirements if I am a transfer student?**

- It is a goal of the Department for all graduates to possess the skills and abilities developed through service learning activities. This means all applicants to the Coordinated Program or to CN supervised practice must show evidence of service learning hours. If you are in a unique situation, the best suggestion is to work with your advisor to come up with a reasonable plan.
Why does the required number of service learning hours differ between community nutrition majors and dietetic majors?

- Students apply to the professional phase of the dietetic program in their sophomore year. Community nutrition majors typically complete their supervised practice after their junior or senior year; therefore, students majoring in community nutrition have at least one extra year to accumulate hours.

If you choose to make your own contacts, here are a couple of questions you might consider asking the facility or agency:

- First of all, make sure to contact the agency ahead of time; don’t assume you can just show up unannounced to volunteer.
- Ask a general question about any requirements necessary to volunteer at that organization
- Check to see what their dress code is
- Ask if there is any training required before you can provide service at that agency
- Ask if they require a criminal background check

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