

## **SERVICE LEARNING IN THE COMMUNITY (SLIC)**

### **Course Description**

Students will participate in forty hours of a structured learning experience that combines community service with preparation and reflection.

### **Context**

The College of Human Medicine has adopted the SCRIPT competencies as its set of organizing curricular goals. These are Service, Care of Patients, Rationality, Integration, Professionalism, and Transformation.

The SCRIPT competencies, the land-grant mission of Michigan State University and the “Serving the People” focus of the College of Human Medicine all provide the context within which this new requirement was mandated by the Curriculum Committee. In addition, the LCME has created a new Standard on Service Learning. It states that “medical schools should make available sufficient opportunities for medical students to participate in service-learning activities, and should encourage and support student participation.” It further annotates and defines “service learning” as “a structured learning experience that combines community service with preparation and reflection” and that “students engaged in service-learning provide community service in response to community-identified concerns and learn about the context in which service is provided, the connection between their service and their academic coursework, and their roles as citizens and professionals.”

### **Overview of the Service Learning requirement**

1. The LCME standard definition will be utilized
  - a. Service will take place with community organization
  - b. Student will provide evidence of preparation (communication with organization, project/activity description, bibliography or other evidence)
  - c. Reflective element will be required (essay most likely, other possible)
2. Students will be required to engage in 40 hours of service by graduation
3. Required courses or activities cannot count towards the Service Learning hours
4. Professional service (such as student organization leadership) cannot count towards the requirement
5. Extra elective credit is acceptable
6. CHM will offer listings of community resources
7. Service learning for a certificate program may count towards Service Learning hours

### **Course Goal**

By participating in service learning in the community, students will demonstrate acquisition of the CHM Service competencies.

### **Specific Course Objectives**

1. Students will demonstrate preparation and planning to provide services which respond to community need.

2. Students will participate in the provision of 40 hours of beneficial services within the community.
3. Students will demonstrate reflectivity on their participation in service learning in the community.

**Instructional Methods**

1. Students will be provided with lists of community organizations and contacts.
2. Students will identify desired organization(s), determine each organization’s identified needs for service, and make appropriate contact(s).  
 NOTE: Organizations or agencies may have their own requirements for participation.
3. Students will be provided with lists of potential faculty project advisors. Students may, alternatively, obtain agreement from other faculty they have worked with, or who have special expertise or interest in the student’s organization or project.
4. Students will be provided with a form to fill out with the following information:
  - a. Service project description
  - b. Sign off from appropriate organizational contact
  - c. Sign off from faculty advisor
  - d. Description of preparatory activity(ies), ie., research on organization, meeting with organizational contact and advisor, project plan (if applicable).
5. Student will present completed form for approval by course director
6. Over the course of the service learning experience, students will accumulate/record/document evidence of the following:
  - a. Hours spent on service learning project signed by organizational contact
  - b. Products created as a result of experience (survey, materials, video, other if applicable). There may be no products from the service learning experience.
  - c. Records of advisor interactions if significant
  - d. Personal reflection on the service learning experience with sign off from faculty advisor
7. Student will enroll in the Angel course in the semester when the student plans to turn in the reflective essay.
8. Reflection will be written essay (or other product) that communicates the following:
  - a. Student’s ability to show understanding of their own assumptions, biases, values, perspectives, and how these may have changed.
  - b. Student’s ability to demonstrate an understanding of how social issues relate to medicine/health.
  - c. Student’s ability to communicate an approach to reflective practice.
  - d. Student’s consciousness of their responsibility to respond to community/national/global needs and issues.
9. Faculty advisors will evaluate essay or other product using the following grid:

	Yes	No	Overall Rating (Pass or No Pass)	Second Review requested
Shows understanding of assumptions, etc., and any changes				
Shows understanding of				

social issues and relationship to medicine				
Communicates approach to reflective practice				
Communicates consciousness of responsibilities to respond to community/national/global needs				

Faculty with questions as to the acceptability of the essay or other product will ask for second review by course director or other faculty person.

10. Student will receive grade from the course director based on successful completion of the 40 hours of service and reflection essay.

### Evaluation

In order to successfully complete this requirement, students will document evidence of

1. Preparatory activity prior to experience(s) (will be documented before the start of any service learning project).
2. 40 hours of service learning in the community with sign off from organizational contact(s). There may be multiple shorter experiences.
3. Personal reflection given overall acceptable rating by faculty advisor and/or second evaluator.

	Pass	No Pass	Second Review requested	Final determination
Preparation and sign off				
40 hours of service provided				
Reflection (essay or other)				

Any 1 portion not completed satisfactorily will result in a CP and require remediation of that portion determined by course director

Any 2 portions not completed will result in an N and require remediation determined by course director.

### Resources

Five web-based modules in the MSU "Tool of Engagement" will help prepare students and faculty advisors for learning and thinking about service-learning and community engagement.

[http://www.outreach.msu.edu/tools/Curriculum\\_Modules.aspx](http://www.outreach.msu.edu/tools/Curriculum_Modules.aspx)

Each module contains reflection questions. These modules can be done individually, collectively, in sequence, or out of sequence. Students should review modules 1, 2, and 3 prior to or very early in the engagement, and look at module 4 and 5 mid-way

For service-learning opportunities, see [www.servicelearning.msu.edu/](http://www.servicelearning.msu.edu/)

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