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## Service-Learning at Dominican: Education in Action

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# SERVICE-LEARNING EDUCATION IN ACTION AT DOMINICAN



  
**DOMINICAN**  
UNIVERSITY  
of CALIFORNIA

1890



## WHAT IS SERVICE-LEARNING AT DOMINICAN?

Service-Learning (SL) puts education into action by engaging with the community and experiencing the relevance of coursework first-hand.

“Being a part of the SL Program and working with a community partner is such an essential experience for personal and professional advancement. Many employers want to see that you are involved in the community. SL is an amazing opportunity to build your resume and personal skills as well.”

- **Madison Ekin**  
*Business Major,  
SL Student Leader*

SL expands the classroom into the local community, providing the opportunity to apply classroom content to work with local community organizations and schools, learning about the lives of others, developing awareness, enhancing one’s understanding of how we can contribute to social justice issues that ultimately impact us all.

Through SL, students develop practical, transferable skills, explore career and personal interests, and expand their networks and sense of self while connecting with other students, faculty, and community mentors.



**STARTING THIS FALL** *you can minor in Community Action and Social Change. For more information, contact CASC advisor, [julia.vanderryn@dominican.edu](mailto:julia.vanderryn@dominican.edu). [dominican.edu/casc](http://dominican.edu/casc)*

# HOW CAN SERVICE-LEARNING BENEFIT YOU?

- Explore personal interests, values, and career choices
- Develop connections on campus and with the local community
- Cultivate interpersonal, collaborative, and leadership skills
- Hands-on learning with community leaders
- Increase ability to apply diverse views and information to problem-solve
- Obtain experience to strengthen your resume and graduate school applications
- Reflect and act on civic values
- Take action on issues you care about

## Leadership Opportunities

- Eligibility for SL fellowships and community-engaged work-study positions
- Work as colleagues with SL staff, faculty and community agencies
- References and letters of recommendation
- Pathways to employment and internships

# YOU ARE IN GOOD COMPANY ENROLLING IN AN SL CLASS

Over the Past 10 Years:

TAKING AN SL CLASS IN YOUR FIRST YEAR MAKES YOU **12%** & **11%** MORE LIKELY TO GRADUATE ON TIME (4 YEARS) MORE LIKELY TO RETURN SOPHOMORE YEAR

DID YOU FEEL THE SERVICE ENHANCED YOUR LEARNING OF CLASS CONTENT/THEORIES?  
*of 249 students surveyed*

**92%**  
YES



**81,157**

Learning through service HOURS

**3,705**



STUDENTS

# WHAT IS AN SL COURSE?

**Q: What is an SL course and how do I find them?**

A: SL is a teaching approach used in courses across the curriculum. There are various SL designated courses, especially in General Education courses. Look for the “SL:” in front of the course name and #.

**Q: What is an SL course like?**

A: SL courses vary greatly. You might find yourself collaborating with community members on a large-scale art project highlighting social issues, mentoring youth who dream of college but have many challenges to overcome, learning traditional Korean dance and drumming with local senior citizens.

**Q: How much extra time does an SL course take?**

A: Community engagement is fully integrated into each course. Students typically commit 2 hours a week to work with a specific community partner.

**Q: Will I be able to fit an SL course into my schedule, and is there transportation?**

A: We offer a variety of partners and schedules to accommodate students. We also connect students with one another for carpooling, and have many community partners that are within walking distance.

**Q: I've already volunteered or done community service —how is this different?**

A: SL is directly tied to academic coursework and the community experience is integrated into assignments. Through critical thinking and reflection, students explore social justice issues while building relationships and deepening their understanding through weekly engagement in the community.

## FOR A LIST OF CURRENT SL COURSES

[dominican.edu/sl-courses](https://dominican.edu/sl-courses)



## Career Opportunities

Through SL, students gain many of the top job skills employers are looking for: the ability to work as a team; creatively problem solve; communicate effectively; and the flexibility to adapt to changing work conditions. Many SL students go on to work for community partner organizations and related careers.

“With increasingly insistent calls being made for college degrees to be practical and relevant, Service-Learning helps students develop the skills and capacities that employers value most highly: critical thinking, collaborative problem-solving in diverse environments, and the ability to reflect and articulate persuasively.”

**-Nicola Pitchford**  
*Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dominican University of California*

“Service-Learning at Dominican is relevant to my work today. It taught me to look at my context and how it relates to the people around me. This has proven invaluable when working with patients from various social, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds. Within patient rapport, are the core values I gained from Service-Learning.”

**-Tasha Kahn, BS '11**  
*Biology with Molecular Emphasis, Medical resident at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Washington, D.C.*



2008–2016



2010 and 2015

**“As an OT major, changing my perspective from hypothetical to real-world situations truly helped me understand the material better and is a viewpoint I can carry on into my career.”**

**-Salwa Yaser**  
*SL Student Leader*

**“SL confirmed my decision to go into public health. My connections with students in the community has enabled me to see the world around me from different perspectives. They shape my thinking in larger ways, sharing ideas with one another creates community.”**

**-Elaine Anne Arciaga**  
*SL Student Leader*

## Community Partners List

[dominican.edu/sl-partners](http://dominican.edu/sl-partners)

**“SL students provide crucial one-on-one academic and literacy support to our students after school and serve as direct positive role models of what it means to go to college.”**

**-Carlos Garcia**  
*Senior Program Director,  
Catholic Charities Canal Family Support*

## CONTACT

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