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## Why Service-Learning?

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# Why Service-Learning?

**Abstract**

Data from VCU's "High Impact Practices (HIPS) Assessment Model: 2015-16 Pilot Mid-Year Report" offers three compelling reasons for why service-learning matters for student success.

**Keywords**

service-learning, higher education, community engagement, community, high impact practices, diversity, graduation, retention

**Disciplines**

Higher Education



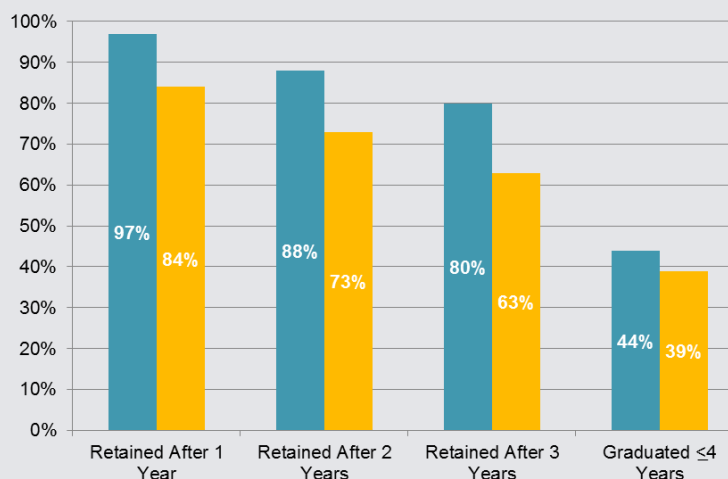
# VCU

## Community Engagement

# WHY SERVICE-LEARNING?

Service-learning is a course-based educational experience in which students participate in organized service activities that address community-identified needs. In addition to service, students complete guided reflections that increase their understanding of course content and build a sense of civic responsibility.

**Data from VCU's "High Impact Practices (HIPS) Assessment Model: 2015-16 Pilot Mid-Year Report" offers three compelling reasons for why service-learning matters for student success:**

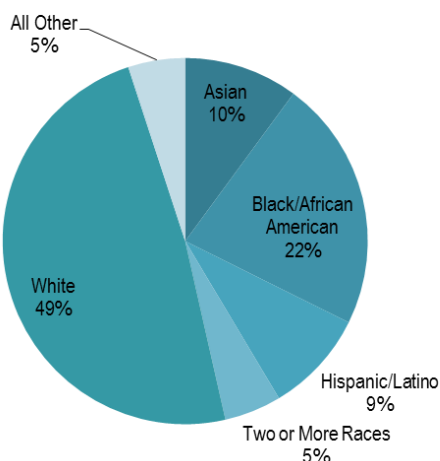


## GRADUATION AND RETENTION

Students who take at least one service-learning course in the first two years are retained and graduate at higher rates than students who do not take a service-learning course in their first two years.

## DIVERSITY

Underrepresented and diverse student groups are well represented in VCU service-learning classes.



## QUALITY OF EDUCATION

According to the National Survey of Student Engagement, VCU students who take service-learning courses benefit from increased faculty-student interactions and have more opportunities for integrative and reflective learning than VCU students who do not take service-learning courses.

**"Our professor made this service-learning class one to remember. Wow...These teachings connected with my service outside the classroom so perfectly. I would take it again if I could!"**