



Service Learning Guidelines Spring 2020

Hello, Service Learning Instructors and Students,

The Academic Service Learning Committee (ASLC) understands that we are living in an unprecedented situation due to COVID-19. This time may bring additional stressors but we also recognize that this time can provide us with new perspectives and opportunities on how to best serve our communities. The ASLC, alongside your instructors, have made the decision to be flexible with the University's current Service Learning (SL) guidelines that go along with your courses. Your safety and well-being are our greatest priority therefore we are mandating that no SL hours can be required to be in-person as we know that staying home is one of the greatest solidarity movements we can participate in at this time. However, we also believe that service is an integral part of ensuring that Loma Linda University students live out the mission of Making Man Whole. Our communities need us now more than ever. Your instructors may have already ensured that your SL requirements are met through structured opportunities, if they have not we are encouraging students to use this time to creatively become the helpers they are called to be in their community, whatever that may look like. We encourage, as much as possible, for this creativity to align with your course objectives and how your learning in class can benefit your local community members.

Here are some shared ideas on how you can virtually fulfill your SL hours (if your instructor has not already provided a structured opportunity):

- Prayer or Bible study for community members
- Organizing a drive for food, resources, hygiene items, etc.
- Offering mental health resources for community members
- Mentoring K-12 students (perhaps sharing your profession, why you chose it, and how to follow this path)
- Connecting with and supporting local families
- Tutoring for students - music, art, math, etc.
- Mentoring fellow students on campus
- Regularly calling a neighbor who may live alone
- Making fabric face coverings at home for local community members, volunteers, etc.
- Virtual gardening skill classes to address food insecurity and mental health issues
- Helping your community identify local resources

- Assisting community members who may need translation or interpreter skills
- Check in with your local K-12 schools to offer help with communication, PSAs, informational videos, etc.
- Utilizing social media to highlight community issues and share coping mechanisms or skills
- Using your skills, time, and knowledge to serve your community in the best way possible!

Through COVID-19 we have seen already vulnerable communities face even more difficulties and we are sure that if every one of us does our part, we can help make this time brighter for others.

SL Guidelines Spring 2020

1. Hours will still be required, though they may be accommodated by the instructor.
2. No SL hours can be required to be in-person.
3. If an instructor does not have a structured opportunity available students can be creative in proposing their own SL project to be approved by their SL instructor. If you are stuck and would like to be plugged into existing service projects you can e-mail the CAPS office at caps@llu.edu.
4. Written reflection is still required - Students should additionally reflect on this time of COVID-19 and how different communities are disproportionately impacted in relation to social determinants of health.

If you are a student who is undergoing extreme stress or difficulties due to COVID-19 in your personal or academic life, please contact your professor directly who may waive the SL hour requirement. Written reflection will still be required.

Thank you all for your heart to serve your community.

- Academic Service Learning Committee

