

SERVICE-LEARNING ADVANTAGE GLOSSARY AND DEFINITIONS

Service-Learning: A teaching methodology that utilizes community service to help students gain a deeper understanding of course content, acquire new knowledge and engage in civic activity (as defined by Truman).

Service-Learning Advantage: A program unique to Truman that provides an opportunity for students to engage in cocurricular service-learning by providing the link to learning objectives and reflection on action. Cocurricular means that it takes place outside of the classroom either in a student organization or by an individual. It is another opportunity for students to participate in service-learning and community-engaged leadership and to capture the educational value of cocurricular experiences.

Cocurricular Record: Official University documentation and recognition of valuable cocurricular learning experiences for students. Documented experiences must meet University learning objectives, allow for reflection and feedback, and be approved by the Dean of Student Affairs.

Community Partner: A non-profit, government-run, or faith-based agency in the Northeast Missouri Area that has agreed to work with Truman on a service-learning project.

Learning Objectives: Statements about what a student will gain from a course or activity. These are specific statements about exactly what a student should know, be able to do, or value as a result of accomplishing a learning goal [or experience]. (Reed, 2005)

Reflection: In relation to service-learning, reflection is an on-going process that requires students to step back, think about, and evaluate their experience. During reflection, students actually take the time to consider what was learned from an experience. Reflection can be written, verbal, public, or private.

Project Facilitator: Primary contact and organizer for the project. There are usually one or two project facilitators per organization/project. The project facilitators agree to submit important documentation and the final Project Portfolio, make sure student participants complete the online surveys and attend a STAR Session, serve as the primary contact to the SERVE Center and Community Partners, and to look after the overall well-being of the project.

Student Participants: Any students participating in the project, who must submit a signed student consent form, complete the pre- and post-project surveys, complete the project, and attend a STAR Reflection Session in order to receive credit on their Cocurricular Record.