

Hallmarks of Service Learning at Eastern University

What is service learning?

Through Eastern University's service learning program our students seek to address issues of systemic injustice such as poverty, hunger or food insecurity, homelessness or a lack of stable housing and education inequality in partnership with local nonprofit agencies and in conversation with their professors and peers.

Service learning (SL) is the field study (lab or practicum) component of INST 150: Introduction to Faith, Reason, and Justice. Service learning integrates Eastern's core values (faith, reason, and justice) through active learning in the community. Twenty hours of service constitutes 20% of your INST 150 grade. Reflection assignments and a paper add 15% for a total of over one third of your grade.

Each year first semester Eastern students serve over 7,000 hours in communities of need in the greater Philadelphia region.

Service learning is:

- focused on a social need/justice issue (e.g. poverty, educational inequality, hunger, homelessness) in marginalized areas or vulnerable populations
- service in the local community in a cross-cultural experience
- building relationships by serving over time at a single site
- linked with academic study (INST 150)

Service learning is NOT:

- playing the piano at church, working with the youth group, or going on a mission trip
- tutoring another Eastern student
- painting a professor's office or working on campus
- the same as Federal Work Study community service



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