

Service Learning Assignment (75 Points)

Due Date: Week 14

Assignment Submission: This assignment will be submitted through Blackboard, and posted on your e-Portfolio on the "Service Learning" page.

Overview of Service Learning

Definition of Service Learning:

"Service learning is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities" (Learn and Serve America National Service Learning Clearinghouse).

The goal of service-learning at ODU is to educate, engage, and equip our campus community with skills and experiences that connect rigorous academic curriculum with meaningful and tangible community-based work to strengthen our students and communities for a sustainable future.

Through these activities, students will:

1. Develop knowledge of interprofessional core competencies related to health professions, including professional values and ethical standards, roles and responsibilities, communication, and teamwork.
2. Develop cultural sensitivity through interactions with diverse populations.
3. Gain awareness of how socioeconomic factors affect access to and attitudes toward health care and community support services.
4. Develop an understanding of non-profit organizations and health care agencies and how they work together.
5. Critically assess personal and professional strengths and weaknesses that may impact their desire to pursue a career in a health related field and reflect on the impact of service learning experiences on personal attitudes and career goals.
6. Make connections between academic content, real world problems and community issues.

Assignment Instructions/Service Learning Guidelines

Students will be expected to research a health related organization(s) of their choice. This can be an organization in Norfolk, in your hometown, or anywhere! Examples can include:

- a hospital, dental clinic, hospice, or other health office (doctors' offices will not be approved)
- Volunteer with another non-profit or organization that relates to health.

- Here is a great way to find volunteer opportunities with non-profits in the ODU area:
 - www.volunteerhr.org – List of all non-profits in Hampton Roads. Search in the Find a volunteer opportunities to find some awesome non-profits looking for assistance.
 - <https://app.helperhelper.com/login> - Sign in with your ODU email to find additional service opportunities.

You will choose an organization and then answer the following questions:

1. List the Community Partner / Organization you chose
 - a. Provide a brief summary of experiences volunteers can have with the organization

Sentara Norfolk General Hospital

Here volunteers can earn experience in a variety of areas. There are three types of volunteers allowed: adult volunteers, college volunteers, and junior volunteers.

Adult volunteers must be 18 years or older, complete an application and interview, completed occupational health requirements, submit a criminal background check, attend volunteer orientation, complete any needed education, and comply with any annual requirements. These volunteers can work in areas such as: lobbies and waiting rooms, inpatient nursing units, emergency departments, diagnostic and procedural areas, women's health, cancer services, office environments, and customer service. These individuals would commit to volunteering for 6 months.

<https://www.sentara.com/hampton-roads-virginia/hospitalslocations/locations/sentara-norfolk-general-hospital/about-us/volunteers/adult-volunteers.aspx>

College volunteers would have to put in an application to be able to observe or shadow healthcare professionals and wait for an email from Sentara contacting you about any requiremental needs you would have to fulfill. One would expect that they would have to complete and follow some of the requirements adult volunteers would have to complete.

<https://www.sentara.com/hampton-roads-virginia/hospitalslocations/locations/sentara-norfolk-general-hospital/about-us/volunteers/college-volunteers.aspx>

Junior Volunteers must be between the ages of 15 and 18, completed their freshman year in high school, and can only volunteer in the months of June and August, dates may vary depending on the public school year. One can pick up an application in person or through email and must be completed and received by March. Following that would be an interview and more information about the area in which one wants to volunteer. However this is a competitive position so one must be wary of that. Their schedule would only last 6-7 weeks.

<https://www.sentara.com/hampton-roads-virginia/hospitalslocations/locations/sentara-norfolk-general-hospital/about-us/volunteers/junior-volunteers.aspx>

2. Please write a description of the Community Partner(s) by answering these questions:

a. What is their purpose / mission?

The purpose of these volunteer programs is to allow the younger generation a chance to taste what working in a health related area would be like and to grow themselves as a community leader and individual. The volunteer programs also give adults a chance to gather the experience they need to obtain a job in that health related area or just provide adults something to do in their spare time.

b. What services does the partner provide?

Sentara Norfolk General Hospital provides both volunteer services, intern services, and a variety of health services ranging from cancer to weight loss. As it's such a big hospital, it provides services to both Norfolk and close areas of North Carolina. Anything you can think of, they have at the hospital.

c. What needs of the community do they address?

Sentara Norfolk General completes Community Health Assessments to better understand what exactly they need to focus on in the community. These assessments take into account one's demographics such as age, education, race/ethnicity, obesity, smoking, infant mortality, and preventable hospitalizations.

<https://www.sentara.com/hampton-roads-virginia/aboutus/community-outreach/community-health-needs-assessments.aspx>

d. Why is this organization important to the community?

This organization is important to the community because it gathers information from not just its own patients, but patients that have reached out to other hospitals and surgery centers. It is also important because it tries to focus on what the community needs as a whole and ways on how they can get better efficiently and effectively.

e. Find one article / video about the organization and the work they are doing in the community.

Sentara continuously provides for the community whether it be investments, flu shots, grants and sponsorships, uncompensated patient care, or education and training. Below are some of the articles that detail what Sentara has been doing to work with the community.

<https://www.sentara.com/hampton-roads-virginia/aboutus/community-outreach.aspx>

- Lauren Patton. "Sentara Healthcare and Hampton University School of Nursing Partner to Provide Free Flu and Shingles Vaccines to Senior Living Community in Newport News". *Sentara in the Community*, 23 Nov., 2020.

<https://www.sentara.com/hampton-roads-virginia/aboutus/news/news-articles/sentara-and-hampton-university-to-provide-flu-and-shingles-vaccines.aspx>

- Kennedy, Kelly. "Sentara Healthcare joins Virginia's OneLab Network to expand COVID-19 testing capacity." *Sentara*, 16 November 2020, <https://www.sentara.com/hampton-roads-virginia/aboutus/news/news-articles/sentara-joins-virginias-onelab-network-to-expand-covid-19-testing-capacity.aspx>

[les/sentara-healthcare-joins-virginias-onelab-network-to-expand-covid-19-testing-capacity.aspx](https://www.sentara.com/hampton-roads-virginia/aboutus/news/news-articles/sentara-healthcare-joins-virginias-onelab-network-to-expand-covid-19-testing-capacity.aspx). Accessed 2 December 2020.

- Kennedy, Kelly. "Sentara Healthcare focuses on reducing health disparities in prostate cancer." *Sentara*, 16 September 2020, <https://www.sentara.com/hampton-roads-virginia/aboutus/news/news-articles/sentara-healthcare-focuses-on-reducing-health-disparities-in-prostate-cancer.aspx>. Accessed 2 December 2020.
- For more articles, don't be afraid to visit their website <https://www.sentara.com/hampton-roads-virginia/aboutus/community-outreach.aspx>

3. After reflecting on the organization's goals and mission, have your values, opinions, and/or beliefs about the importance of health changed or grown? Be specific.

I feel that my values and beliefs of the importance of health have grown a little more than before as this little project opened my eyes to what is happening in my community and what the hospital is trying to do to help it in these troubling times. Prior to this, I knew that the importance of health is a major key in future development of the human race and the factors the environment plays on that, however, after I realized that there are a multitude of factors and demographics that affect this development. I understood that some of the health battles that are being fought have been going on for years on end and it doesn't look like it's going to change anytime soon. But that thinking is what we have to push through to see the change that we need to see. Yes, the world is constantly changing and we are fighting to help the environment grow, but we can't completely do that until we fix ourselves.

4. Thinking about the community partner:

- a. How do these services relate to your intended career field?

These services relate to my career because it is in a medical field with multiple different areas and will allow me the chance to delve into each section that I may be interested in in the future. As a health science major, this will give me a chance to view all the areas in which I can develop a career and if I decide that's not for me, I will be able to venture out and see what other choices I may be interested in.

- b. What Degree Program (other than your current major) could it relate to?

This could relate to the Nursing program as one would be able to shadow the different types of nurses that are available at the hospital.

- c. Would you choose to pursue that major as your parallel major?

If possible, I would choose Nursing as my parallel major because it can be closely related to the area in which I might pursue in the healthcare field.

- d. Why or why not?

Because health sciences prepares you for little trade jobs that only require a specific education and clinical experience, being a nurse wouldn't be so bad as I would still be in the field that I had hoped to be in, just doing it a little bit different than what I thought it would be.