

What is Service-Learning? It is a method of teaching that engages students in direct service as an essential part of the course to help meet its learning objectives.

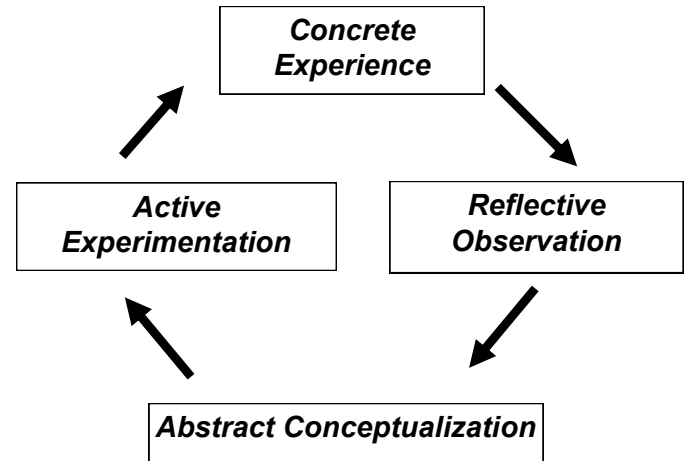
Why Service-Learning? Catherine McAuley and Ignatius of Loyola, the Mercy and Jesuit founders, knew that we are *changed* by service that puts us in company with those who lack what we have; we approach our true selves. At UDM, an urban school in the traditions of the Jesuits and Sisters of Mercy, ours is a Vision for graduates who lead and serve in their communities. Service-Learning engages us in our Mission.

Essentials of Service-Learning: **Direct service experience** is not just volunteering, but working WITH other people directly, so that we come to know them as persons just as we ourselves are.

Reflection on your experience is a matter of awareness!
 Before service, it's preparing to really show up, open to experience.
 During service, it's paying attention, to the other person, the situation, and what's happening inside you. After service, it's looking back at the things that moved you most.

Integration of this experience and the other parts of the course is a matter of teacher and student finding a relationships between this service and the classroom learning.

Service-Learning includes *trying things* after processing your experience through reflection and integration. Here's Kolb's Learning Cycle:



ILS's Service Awareness Model:

The key to learning from direct service to those in need is to be aware. We live amid preoccupation . . . are you still with me? Here are the steps in our Awareness Model, Howard Gray, S.J.'s analysis of the Good Samaritan story.

See: everything we do starts with our senses. Seeing, hearing, touching, smelling, and tasting. If we're not sensing anything, we're "absent-minded", we're unaware. *If we pay attention to what's happening inside us while we see, we . . .*

Feel. We feel compassion; we feel the hurt that we imagine in the other person. It comes from our human nature. It's wired in, although we may have insulated it. *If we pay attention to what's happening inside us while we feel, we . . .*

Help. Just as we have a natural aversion to pain in ourselves, we naturally respond to ease pain in others, if we are aware. And (this is the big one for college students) *if we pay attention to what's happening inside us as we help, we demand . . .*

Change. Rather than settling for our "charity fix" and going away happy, we are moved to get at the cause of the suffering, and work toward building a more just society.

Getting in: Do it...

ILS presents an introduction in every Service-Learning course, and provides all needed information. ILS's website www.udmercy.edu/institute has a Service-Learning link that will help you find what's not in that introduction: agency information, forms, etc.

...Week 1 & 2!

1. Students contact the Volunteer Coordinator at the agency of their choice;
2. Describe their need for service, and ask if it would serve that agency; if so, do what is needed to plan to start.

3. By the end of week 2

or 3, students should have begun performing their service at the agency. Note: some faculty require that students turn in an SL2 Service Agreement Form after the first visit to the agency. Students need to check with their teacher to see if that is required for a given class.

ILS's Learning Model:

