

## EDU 282AC Volunteerism for Education: A Service Learning Experience

Section #41072 3 credit hours Spring 2010 Mesa Community College

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### Course Description:

Service learning field experience within educational systems, citizen advocacy groups, and human service organizations/agency. May be repeated for a total of six (6) EDU282 credit hours; may not repeat specific agency assignment for more than three (3) credit hours. Standard grading available according to procedures outlined in catalog. Prerequisites: Permission of instructor.

EDU282 courses are open entry/open exit (OE/OE) and therefore highly individualized. Each credit hour requires fifty (50) hours of service.

### Course Competencies:

During this course, the student will be expected to:

- complete an individual educational plan for the student and sponsoring agency;
- demonstrate both oral and written communications skills through reflective journal and group discussions;
- report on service-learning experience with assigned agency;
- provide written analysis and critique of the service-learning experience.

### Student Responsibility:

- All provisions in this syllabus are subject to change by the instructor. You responsible for making note of any announced changes, and in the case of absence or tardiness, to contact a class peer for missed information.
- As a student enrolled in this service learning course, you serve as a representative of the College and are expected to conduct yourself in a manner which reflects the values of the College. (See Statement of Values in college catalog.)
- Students are expected to:
  - \* read and accept responsibility for all information in the syllabus.
  - \* adhere to college policies as outlined in the MCC College Catalog and MCC Student Handbook.
  - \* assume as part of their obligation to the College the responsibility to exhibit in their academic performance the qualities of honesty and integrity. All forms of student dishonesty are subject to disciplinary action.

### Grades:

#### **In order to receive a grade of A, you must:**

- meet with your faculty and site supervisors to discuss your **learning plan** as soon as you have registered for the class and prior to beginning fieldwork;
- approach your service placement with enthusiasm and dedication which results in favorable reports from your site supervisor;
- log your hours in the **Service Learning Contact Log** throughout your experience, meeting with your cooperating teacher at the end of your service hours to discuss their evaluation of your performance (which is part of the contact log).
- maintain a **reflective journal** about your experience, documenting and reflecting on your service after each site visit;
- contact and meet with faculty supervisor at least two (2) times during each semester of enrollment in the course for **journal reviews and updates on your service activities** after 20, 60, 100 and 140 hours of service with no more than 6 weeks between contacts;
- attend **three (3) reflective sessions** and include entries for these in your reflective journal;
- submit **final analytical paper** and **student checksheet** within two weeks of completing your service hours;
- submit **student evaluation form** to the Service Learning Office within two weeks of completing your service hours;
- schedule and meet with faculty supervisor for **final feedback** on your experience and analytical paper within one week after you submit your paper.

#### **You will receive a grade of B or C if you complete the above but one or more of the following apply:**

- I have to call you due to not having heard from you in six weeks or more;
- you fail to attend the minimum number of reflective sessions;
- your journaling constitutes a chronicle of what you did but does not show any depth of reflection about your service;

- the majority of the core requirements are met but, due to extenuating circumstances, you cannot complete all requirements [e.g. if you attend only two reflective sessions or if changes at your site beyond your control make total completion of hours untenable];
- you submit your analytical paper more than 2 weeks after your service hours have been completed;
- you fail to meet with your faculty supervisor within two weeks of submitting your analytical paper.
- your analytical paper does not reflect your volunteer experiences with connection to your learning objectives.

**You will receive a grade of D or F under the following circumstances:**

- you fail to complete a majority of the core requirements;
- you demonstrate some irresponsibility [e.g. failing to fulfill commitments to me or to your site].
- your analytical paper is of poor quality.

**Assignments**

**Reflective Journal:**

The purpose of the reflective journal is to encourage thoughtful reflection about your service experiences in order to maximize your learning. After each site visit, you are expected to reflect upon your experiences using the following format:

1. **Daily log.** This section should be brief and include the date and hours worked along with a list of activities you engaged in that day. This is to be an objective account. What did you do? What did you see and hear?
2. **Reflection.** This section is where you describe your feelings, perceptions, and thoughts about what happened during the time you spent at your site. Include discussion of any knowledge and/or skill you acquired as well as any connections you made between your experience and your coursework. This is your subjective account of the day and should constitute the bulk of your journal entry.
3. **Ideas.** Note ideas for future reference that you implemented, observed, or developed through your service.
4. **Questions.** State any questions you have as a result of your experience. What do you want to know or find out more about?

Note: 1 and 2 must be included in all entries. 3 and 4 should be included when applicable.

**Final Analytical Paper**

In 4-6 pages, describe your service learning experience, including the following:

- description of your site;
- identification and role of your site supervisor;
- teacher's responsibilities and approach to teaching and learning;
- your role as a volunteer;
- connections between your volunteer experiences and your learning objectives.

Also, be sure to address such questions as the following:

- What did you gain from your volunteer experience?
- What did you contribute from your volunteer experience?
- What strengths/weaknesses did you discover about yourself?
- What do you want to learn more about?
- How has this experience helped you integrate knowledge gained in your coursework?
- How has this experience impacted the goals you have for your professional and educational choices?

**Service Learning Project** *Required only for students enrolled in honors section.*

Your project may be tailored to your individual interests/needs and must be approved by course instructor. Creation of a resource binder or portfolio of your service learning experience is encouraged.

**Services and Programs:**

**Disability Resources and Services**

The college will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities, including learning disabilities. Students should notify Disability Resources & Services (461-7447) and their instructors as soon as possible of any special needs.

**Xalapa Study Abroad Program**

The Xalapa Study Abroad Program offers an opportunity to participate in an international learning experience in the tropical city of Xalapa, Veracruz, México. Participants earn 7 college credits in Education and Spanish to complement their service learning in Mexican classrooms, home-stay, and cultural immersion. For more information, visit

<<http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/xalapa>> or call Nora Reyes (480-461-7781).

**Advisement**

Education majors are encouraged to meet with our designated Education Advisor for updates on curriculum, scholarships, and program opportunities. Call 480-461-7890 or e-mail <julie.garner@mccmail.maricopa.edu> for an appointment.

School of Education website: [www.mesacc.edu/education](http://www.mesacc.edu/education)