

Wellness 2170 – Community Engagement

Students will select a nonprofit community agency where they will perform 30 hours of community service over the course of the semester, outside of class time. Class sessions deal with placement, communication with project personnel, problem solving, and reflection on issues raised by the volunteer experience. Class sessions will also provide an opportunity for students to report on and discuss the activities that are a part of the out-of-class experience. Students submit weekly journals, present research on social issues in the community, and complete a project evaluation at the end of the semester. Completing the service component of this course is required, as it provides the context for the course content and is the subject of weekly reflection sessions. *This course meets the guidelines for the University Curriculum Community Engagement Proficiencies and Experiences.*

Methods of Evaluation:

- a. 30 Hours of Service with Community Agency
- b. Service-Learning Agreement – two-page agreement between student and community agency detailing expectations and service to be completed with agency
- c. Weekly Journal Entries – one-page weekly reflections on community service completed with agency and course readings.
- d. Class Discussion Facilitation – students are responsible for facilitating one in-class discussion on readings
- e. Group Service Project – students at agencies collaborate to provide a one-time active service opportunity to engage the broader SMU community in service to the agency and to provide awareness about community needs
- f. Social Issue and Group Project Presentation – students present on their experiential learning and working with the community agency, success of the group project component, and analytical findings on the social issue addressed through community agency
- g. Agency Evaluation – community partners submit an evaluation of the service the student did with the agency and verify that hours were completed

Methods of Assessment:

- a. The assessment of Student Learning Outcomes for this course comes from weekly journal entries, social issue and group project presentations, and course evaluations.
- b. Lab/Community Engagement Requirement: There is a lab required for this course, allowing students to complete their required service hours outside of class.