

HONR 300- Service Learning Project (1 credit hour)

Instructions

The goal of the HONR 300- Service Learning Project is to provide Honors students with an opportunity to take on a leadership role in service learning. Students are asked to determine a community or University need and to take steps to address that need by organizing an opportunity for themselves and others to engage in community service and then for the student to reflect on what has been accomplished. It is this second part that takes this project beyond simply volunteering for community service. This project will build in time for the student to reflect on what they are doing, why they are doing it, and how what they are trying to accomplish reflects the central mission of the University and the Honors Program by fostering the Franciscan values.

For the student

To receive permission to register for HONR 300, students need to complete a project request form and return it to the Honors Council before the last meeting of each semester. Approval of the Honors Council is necessary to receive credit for the project. Permission will not be given for projects already completed or underway. To qualify, a project must receive prior approval.

- The project must:
- Result in 50 hours of community service. You may count up to 10 hours for planning and organization. The total can and should include time volunteered by others who are not mentoring the project. For example, a project that focused on cleaning up a park might be a community event where others participate in the effort. If one spends ten hours planning the clean-up day and ten people (including the student organizer) spend 4 hours picking up trash in the park, then the project will have resulted in 50 hours of community service. The project plan needs to explicitly detail how these fifty hours will be achieved.
 - The project plan also needs to explain how the project will reflect one or more of the Franciscan Values.

Course Requirements

- weekly meetings with the faculty member to discuss project planning and implementation and to help the student reflect on how the project or project process further illuminates the Franciscan values the project addresses.
- complete a final reflection on the overall planning, implementation, and results of the project (minimum 5 pages). This report is turned into the faculty member and along with the regular meetings constitutes the basis for grades in this course. A copy of the final reflection should be forwarded to the Honors Director and Honors Council.

The final reflection should address the following questions:

What did you do? Describe the project and your experience putting it together as well as the outcome.

What does it mean? Reflect on the personal and social growth of both yourself and the participants throughout the project. Describe what you learned about yourself and others.

How did you live and what did you learn about the Franciscan values?

Now what? Describe what happens once the project ends.

If the need you filled is still there, did the project set in motion a long term attempt by others to address this need?

What is needed to keep meeting the need your project identified?

How can or should things change to better meet this need?

Faculty

- weekly meetings with the student to discuss project planning or implementation and to help the student reflect on how the project or project process further illuminates the Franciscan values the project addresses.
- determine a grade for the student project based on the discussions, final reflection, and overall project outcome.
- present an overall report to the Honors Council once the project is completed that includes the final student reflection and your overall assessment of the project.
- in general, maintain contact with the Honors Council/Honors Director during course of the project to resolve difficulties or conflicts that might arise.