



CAMPUS MINISTRIES' CENTER
FOR SERVICE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Information for students about

Community-Based Learning

Contact Information:

Patrician Vaccaro, Director of Campus Ministries' Center for Service and Social Justice

patricia.vaccaro@scranton.edu

(570) 941-7429

900 Mulberry Street

DeNaples Center 205B

900 Mulberry Street, Scranton PA 18510

Community-based learning is a way for students to actively connect their academic work with direct experience in the community. By combining hands-on work in the community with the academic framework provided by course work across the curriculum, students gain a rich experience of social issues. Students learn about the workings of community, encounter differences related to race, class and privilege, gain a deeper understanding about social justice, and are able to do work that is beneficial to others. They also gain a greater understanding of themselves. Community-based learning emphasizes academic rigor, reflection, and developing ongoing community partnerships. All academic disciplines and divisions (humanities, social sciences, sciences and the arts) can integrate community-based learning practices.

Panuska College of Professional Studies

Community based learning is required in the [Panuska College of Professional Studies](#) for graduation. Each major within the college has designated specific classes as Community Based Learning courses. Check with the department for an updated list of courses. [Time sheets](#) must be printed, completed with appropriate signatures, and submitted to your course instructor. Your course instructor will then submit them to the PCPS Dean's Office. Please be sure to make a copy for your records before submitting your sheet. Copies can be made in the library with your Royal Card account.

College of Arts and Sciences

Several courses within the College of Arts and Sciences have a Community Based Learning component as well as courses within the SJLA (Special Jesuit Liberal Arts) Program. Timesheets are available from the instructor of the course.

Student Support

Campus Ministries' Center for Service & Social Justice coordinates service sites for Community Based Learning courses as well as assisting students and faculty in various aspects of the program. Support is offered to students in site selection, and with filling out service learning contracts and timesheets.

Importance of Reflections

A central tenet of community based learning is reflection. It provides the transformative link between the action of serving and the ideas and understanding of learning. Reflection activities usually occur in the context of the classroom. They may include such activities as journals, papers, discussions and case



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studies. The course professor, staff of Campus Ministries' Center for Service & Social Justice or students may lead reflection activities.

Some basic reflection questions to be answered by each student about community based learning experiences include:

- What did I observe?
- How do I feel about what I observed?
- What have I learned about myself, others, and the community?
- Where does this lead me?
- How has this affected my faith life?