# Benefits and Challenges of Service Learning

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<tr>
<th><strong>Student Benefits</strong></th>
<th><strong>Student Challenges</strong></th>
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| • Working with unfamiliar populations reduces stereotypes and promotes tolerance  
  • Promotes personal development, self efficacy, and leadership  
  • Increases feeling of community connection and civic responsibility  
  • Deepens understanding of subject matter and complexity of social issues | • Lack of time given the demands of school, work, and family  
  • Fear of working with unfamiliar populations and issues  
  • Lack of convenient transportation  
  • Inability to relate service with their coursework and/or the work of the organization |

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| • Expands role of educator from giver of knowledge to facilitator of learning  
  • Inspires and innovates teaching methods  
  • Broadens areas for research and publication related to current trends and issues  
  • Promotes democratic citizenship and leadership and expands critical thinking and problem solving  
  • Connects the community with curriculum and increases awareness of current societal issues as they relate to academic areas of interest | • Preparation work with the community partner and coordination of service activities requires time  
  • Fear of unknown and letting go of control of the classroom when the impact of service learning is not easy to quantify in short term  
  • Lack of institutional and departmental support given to faculty  
  • Lack of time to adequately revise and restructure course in order to fully integrate service learning  
  • Viewing service learning as soft, non-rigorous, non-academic learning or as an add-on, not an integral aspect of the course |

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<th><strong>Community Benefits</strong></th>
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| • Opportunity to tap under-utilized volunteer base  
  • Students often continue to volunteer beyond the end of the quarter  
  • Students are enthusiastic and motivated to learn and bring with them new insights, perspectives, and knowledge  
  • Extends community organization’s ability to address unmet needs  
  • Creates opportunities for community organizations to shape student learning | • Lack of time for preparation, training and supervision  
  • Lack of benefit or even possible detriment resulting from short term volunteers  
  • Difficulty recruiting students to work with organization due to location or type of work needed  
  • Difficulty defining opportunities that meet student, faculty, and community goals |