



**SERVICE LEARNING/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND  
DISTANCE LEARNING CERTIFICATE  
2018-2019**

**Service-Learning Engages Students in Active Learning and Improves Retention.** Service-learning is defined as “a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities”. The content and skills offered in this certificate would allow educators, future educators, and other professionals to be able to model civic engagement as well as develop relationships with community partners. Both of which are ways to demonstrate effective citizenship. An established goal of public education is to prepare students to be engaged and effective citizens this certificate provides professionals the tool kit and support to do so.

This three-course certificate is offered online with courses preparing professionals to effectively teach or support Service Learning and Community Engaged (SL/CE) classes either in person or at a distance. The intended audience includes education students, K-12 educators, college and university instructors, graduate students, instructional designers, community professionals, and campus student life professionals. The curriculum includes providing knowledge, skills, and the practice of high impact strategies for how to teach, support, coordinate, lead, research, and assess service-learning and community-based learning for educational improvement and community enhancement.

**Certificate Learning Goals:**

Those who complete the certificate program will be able to:

- Design and deliver an online (or campus-based) service-learning/civic engagement (SL/CE) class and or project.
- Identify the components of a service learning class and several tools for successful online learning.
- Implement a SL/CE project following the plan of action they have developed.
- Utilize simple evaluation tools/reports to be guided to a helpful assessment and perhaps project redesign.
- Analyze first hand challenges and solutions for teaching an SL/CE project and/or course along with conducting research about SL/CE.

## **Certificate Requirements – Three 3-credit courses = 9 Credits**

### **1. EDU 420 Topics In Education: “Introduction to eService Learning” Fall 2018**

Students in this class will learn the fundamentals of designing and delivering an online service-learning/civic engagement (SL/CE) class. They will master the components of a service learning class and several tools for successful online learning. They will apply what they have learned to designing an online SL/CE class in a subject area of their choosing. They will reflect on their reactions to taking an online class and incorporate this in their course design. Throughout the semester course faculty will guide students to share their progress and final work in a supportive and helpful fashion with their classmates using online tools.

### **2. EDU (420) Topics In Education: “Service Learning Project” Spring 2019**

A course that includes a SL/CE project and potential students\* (teach a class; prep a class for someone else; try out the SL project). Course faculty members and class members will collaboratively support and troubleshoot the roll out of the project following the plan of action developed in the first course. Course design will incorporate simple evaluation tools/reports to enable each student to be guided to a helpful assessment and perhaps project redesign during the third course in this sequence.

-\*For an undergraduate student this may mean working with a teacher in a K-12 class on a SL/CE project with a community partner.

-For a college instructor or graduate student this may mean teaching a college course with a SL/CE component.

-For other professionals (instructional designers, community partners, student life professionals) this may mean working with a faculty member to structure a SL/CE course component that will be taught in the near future or working with the design of a project that could be implemented in either a K-12, college class, or campus setting (student organization, residence project, etc.).

### **3. EDU (420) Topics In Education: “Service Learning Project Assessment” Summer 2019**

Each student will reflect on the online service-learning course they delivered during the middle course of this sequence, including student feedback from along-the-way and final evaluations. Guided by course faculty they will share the strengths and weaknesses of their course with other classmates. Course faculty will enable a helpful and supportive response from these classmates and students will incorporate new ideas and advice as appropriate. Discussions will include challenges and what needs to be overcome to adopt the service learning pedagogy. Other topics around conducting research about service learning community engagement will be addressed.