

Service Learning Faculty Packet 2002

SECTION 5

HOW DO I MEASURE SERVICE-LEARNING OUTCOMES?

Preferred methods of record-keeping and assessment vary widely among disciplines, courses and professors. The same is true whether a course has a service-learning component or not. There is no one way, or right way, to keep track of service-learning obligations or to measure service-learning outcomes. However, we have enclosed some sample documents used by USF instructors in service-learning courses, in case these might be helpful to you in thinking about what methods to use for your own course. All direct references to specific courses have been removed from the following samples, so that these documents may easily be used as templates for other courses. Feel free to modify them to suit your own purposes.

SECTION 5a: Samples from O'Sullivan

The following documents are used by Maureen O'Sullivan in her Psychology 396 course, a service-learning psychology practicum. Professor O'Sullivan uses a detailed syllabus coupled with a Letter of Understanding (included) to ensure that students understand the service-learning requirements of the course. She keeps track of student placements through a Placement Information Sheet (included). At the end of the course she assesses student experiences through a Student Course Evaluation (included).

SECTION 5b: Samples from Murphy/Prion

The following surveys are used by Patrick Murphy in his Politics 365 course, a service-learning applied policy analysis course. Professor Murphy and Professor Prion designed the enclosed surveys which students complete at the beginning and end of the semester. The Pre-Course Survey (included) and the Post-Course Survey (included) are virtually identical, and intended primarily to track any changes in student opinion on the value of the course and its service-learning component.

SECTION 5c: Placement-Partner Survey

In addition to assessing student experiences with service-learning, it is also helpful to gather feedback on the experiences of the placement-partners. For that purpose, we have enclosed a survey modeled on the surveys above, but for completion by the supervisor at the student's service-learning placement site.