



Summary of 2014-2015 Curricular & Co-Curricular Community Engagement Experiences

Purpose

This document is an annual review of curricular and co-curricular community engagement practices across North Dakota State University (NDSU). The Student Activities Office (SAO) uses this data to track the university's progress toward meeting the land-grant mission of institution as well as generates accurate information for research, grants and national recognition. Additionally, this information is used to assess the impact of community engagement opportunities on student learning as well as grow relationships with community partners in order to address community needs and strengthen partnerships.

Semesters Reported: The information provided below includes service completed during the Summer 2014, Fall 2014, and Spring 2015 semesters.

Service Categories

Information was divided into two main categories for reporting: curricular service-learning and co-curricular service.

1. Curricular Service-Learning:

Students partner with community agencies to meet the requirements of the course and the

needs of the community. The service is directly related to the learning objectives of the course and involves intentional reflection.

- 2. Co-Curricular Service:** Students voluntarily engage in service opportunities either independently or with student groups (i.e. athletics, student organizations, etc.). This may also include participating in a campus-wide service event.

Curricular Service-Learning:

Reporting: All NDSU faculty were sent an email notification at the end of the semester encouraging them to document any service-learning experiences they may have implemented in their course(s) by filling out a short survey.

Results: The following are the results reported from faculty whom completed the service-learning survey. Results combine all semesters. Monetary impact is the amount of money a community agency saves by utilizing volunteers and is based off of the Independent Sector's 2014 report of North Dakota's hourly rate (\$25.13/hour).

College	# of Courses*	# of Students	Hours	Monetary Impact
Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences	9	683	8,858	\$222,601.54
Business	3	55	270	\$6,785.10
Human Development & Education	13	251	32,297	\$811,623.61
College of Health Professions	12	290	13,190	\$331,464.70
TOTALS	36	1,279	54,615	\$1,372,474.95

* Some courses may be offered multiple times throughout the year

Course Level	Number of SL Courses*
100	2
200	2
300	9
400	13
500	0
600	1
700	1
800	0

* Unduplicated count

Types of Service-Learning

Instructors were asked to identify the type of service-learning experience implemented in his/her course. Below is a description of the types of service-learning NDSU highlights.

1. Direct/Indirect Service-Learning:

Students directly or indirectly engage in a service activity relevant to a course and reflect on their experiences using course content. Examples of direct service include sorting food at a food pantry, tutoring children, “adopting” a grandparent at a retirement home, etc. Examples of indirect service include developing a social media strategy, planning a fundraising or awareness event, grant writing, etc.

2. Problem-based Service-Learning:

Students act as “consultants” working for a “client”. They work closely with community partners to understand a particular problem/need that exists. Students apply course content to address a problem/need and make recommendations to the community partner.

3. Service-Learning Internships or Fieldwork: Similar to traditional

internships/fieldwork but are done for nonprofit agencies, hospitals, and/or schools. Additionally, students have regular and on-going opportunities for reflection about social issues and the need for the service he/she is providing.

4. Community-Based Action Research:

Students complete research for community partners based on a community-identified need. Students learn research methodology and typically share findings with the agency after analysis is complete.

Course Models*	# of Courses
Problem-Based SL	13
Direct/Indirect SL	24
Community Based Research	2
SL Internship/fieldwork	15

* Instructors could select more than one course model

Co- Curricular Service

Reporting: Co-curricular service hours were tracked in two ways: the Bison Service Challenge and campus-wide service events.

1. **Bison Service Challenge (BSC):** The BSC is a friendly competition among campus groups including athletic teams, fraternity and sorority chapters, residence halls, and student organizations. Throughout the year, members in each category compete to complete the most service hours. After a service project, groups submit their hours. Winning groups receive grant money from Dakota Medical Foundation to donate to the nonprofit of their choice.

2. **Campus-wide service events:** The Volunteer Network (VN) is the “hub” for service at NDSU, connecting students to service opportunities and planning campus-wide service events throughout the year. Hours are recorded based on the number of volunteers in attendance and the amount of time spent serving the community.

Event	Hours	# of Students	Monetary Impact
Bison Service Challenge	27,680	3982	\$695,608.95
MLK Day of Service	1179	313	\$29,628.27
Boo! at NDSU	165	55	\$4,146.45
Serve with the Herd (2)	56	22	\$1,407.28
The Big Event	832	417	\$20,908.16
TOTALS	29,912	4951	\$751,688.56

Community Partnerships

NDSU partners with hundreds of nonprofits, hospitals, schools, government agencies, and individuals throughout the school year to assist in addressing community needs through curricular and

co-curricular service experiences. In order to track the number of partnerships, instructors were asked to report the agencies their courses partnered with. Additionally, co-curricular service partnerships were based off of campus-wide service events and individual reports from the Bison Service Challenge. Please note, a single partnership is based off of one service experience and agencies may be duplicated.

Service Experience	# of Partnerships
Curricular Service Learning	181
Co-Curricular: Campus-Wide Events	411
Co-Curricular: Bison Service Challenge	497
TOTAL	1,089

Requests: In order to ensure NDSU is continually addressing needs in the community as well as finding quality service opportunities for students, both nonprofits and student volunteers can submit requests to the NDSU Volunteer Network (VN) regarding volunteer needs. This is done through student Intake Forms and Community Volunteer Request Forms.

1. **Intake Forms:** Intake forms are used to match students with volunteer opportunities. These forms can be submitted individually or for groups through an online survey or a paper form. Once submitted, the VN staff searches opportunities and emails the individual a minimum of three service opportunities that align with his/her preferences.
2. **Community Volunteer Requests:** Nonprofits can complete a Community Volunteer Request form or email the VN to request volunteers for a specific event or as a general request for ongoing volunteers. Once the VN receives the request, the information is compiled and shared through weekly emails, the VN Facebook page, and promoted to students filling out intake forms.

Student Intake Form Format	# Processed
Online/electronic	164
Paper/in-person	71
TOTAL	235

Community Perception: At the end of each academic year, a Community Perception Survey is sent out to area nonprofits in order to gain feedback and ensure reciprocal partnerships between NDSU and the community.

The 2014-2015 Community Perception Survey received 38 responses. Of the 38 respondents, 84% had worked with NDSU in the past and 16% either had not or were unsure. The following results provide a summary of the Community Perception Survey.

Engagement: Of the 28 respondents to the question, “Do you perceive NDSU as an institution engaged in the community,” 100% responded yes. When asked to explain their response, one participant stated, “NDSU is always looking for

Community Volunteer Request- Format	# Processed
Online form	75
Email requests	47
TOTAL	122

more ways to engage the community and partner with nonprofits.”

NDSU’s community engagement efforts are noticeable in our community.

Answer	Response	%
Strongly Agree	14	47%
Agree	16	53%
Disagree	0	0%
Strongly Disagree	0	0%
TOTAL	30	

Student volunteers: Community Partners were asked to evaluate their interactions with NDSU student volunteers. The information is used to strengthen student understanding of addressing community needs.

Question:	Strongly agree /agree	Neither agree/ disagree	Strongly disagree/ disagree
NDSU students were an asset to our organization.	28	1	1
NDSU students understood our mission.	22	7	1
NDSU students had an impact on our efforts to meet community needs.	17	3	0
We enjoy having NDSU students work with us.	28	2	0
NDSU students benefit our clients and are sensitive to the diversity of our clients.	24	6	0
We want to continue having NDSU students.	28	2	0

Summary of Report

An estimated **84,527 hours of service** occurred during the Summer 2014, Fall 2014, and Spring 2015 semesters and **engaged 6,230 students** in service through **1,089 partnerships**. This estimate includes both curricular and co-curricular service experiences. Based on the number of hours served, the monetary impact on community

partners (amount saved through volunteer work) was **\$2,124,163.51**. In addition, **100% of community partners** surveyed believe NDSU’s engagement efforts are noticeable in the community.

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