



Below is an explanation of the state requirement of Service-Learning Hours. Service-Learning/Core Hours are different from "community service", "service" or "volunteering." The following is right directly from the State of Maryland web site. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Beth Allen at [beth.allen@smrhs.org](mailto:beth.allen@smrhs.org).

**Service-learning is not the same as:**

**Volunteerism: (does not meet the requirement)**

Volunteers engage in service for a variety of personal reasons. They do not necessarily link their service to academic studies nor do they receive academic credit for their efforts.

**Community Service: (does not meet the requirement)**

People engaging in community service do so for a variety of reasons. This is a broad term that can encompass court ordered, stipend or volunteer service. It also does not necessarily link to academic studies.

**Work Study Internship: (does not meet the requirement)**

Student interns frequently work at for-profit business to benefit the financial standing of that business. They are not necessarily working to improve their communities through these internship experiences. There can be overlap between work study internships and service-learning. Students are engaged in service-learning if through their internship experiences they work to improve the health or welfare of their community while linking this to their academic studies.

**Service learning is the requirement:**

Service-learning is an instructional strategy that combines meaningful service to the community with curriculum-based learning. Students improve their academic and civic skills by applying what they learn in school to the real world. Students then reflect on their experiences to reinforce the link between their service and their learning.

The curriculum portion is taught through SMR Theology Classes and is based on Catholic Social Teachings: Preference for the Poor and Vulnerable, Care for God's Creation, Life and Dignity of the Human Person, Rights and Responsibilities.

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