

What “Counts” as Service?

Engagement in the community serves to fulfill the community engagement commitment and the service requirement when it meets the following criteria:

- 1) The service must be based in addressing a social and/or environmental issue.
- 2) The student must be able to identify the way in which the service contributes to the community in a positive way.
- 3) Service activities may include:
 - Service with a registered 501c (3) non-profit agency.
 - Service with a government agency/school that contributes to the community.
 - Service with a grassroots organization focused on improving community.
 - Service with a for-profit agency that does not focus on increasing profit for the organization, but instead makes a contribution to the community.
 - Engagement with advocacy work or activism that is legal, non-violent, non-destructive to property, and focused on social/environmental issues.
 - Engagement in political activity that is based in a clearly articulated belief that the candidate will contribute to the community in a positive way.
 - Service over breaks with agencies that meet the criteria above.

FAQ's:

Can you be paid for experiences that you record as service?

Yes, students may fulfill the community engagement commitment with work they have been paid for as long as the service meets the criteria above.

Can work with summer camps be counted as service?

If the camp has a provision for providing access to the camp for all income levels through scholarships and the camp program has an educational component that addresses a social/environmental issue, it can be considered service.

Can work with farms be counted as service?

If the farm is not strictly for profit, but does have some educational programming that is accessible to the community and/or donates a portion of the food produced to a food security program then work with a farm can be counted.

Can a student receive academic credit for experiences counted as service?

Yes, as long as it meets the criteria for service.

Can service that is mandated by the courts be counted toward the community engagement commitment?

Service that was originally completed to satisfy a court mandated service requirement may be counted when it is accompanied by a short reflection paper talking about the reactions to and meaning of the service for the student.

For additional questions about what counts as service, please contact the Dean of Service, Cathy Kramer, ckramer@warren-wilson.edu.