What is service learning?
Service learning (SL) is a specially designed learning experience in which students combine reflection with structured participation in community-based projects to achieve specified learning outcomes as part of an academic course and/or program requirement. Through service learning, students develop a more integrated understanding of theory, practice, ideas, values, and community. Service learning projects are created by UC faculty and students working with non-profit and mission-driven organizations. These campus-community partnerships happen on the local, regional, and global stage.

Why should an organization consider a UC service learning partnership?
Service learning provides opportunities for collaboration with gifted young people. By capitalizing on students’ energies and enthusiasm, organizations can enhance their services, create new solutions, and extend their reach. As active participants in the educational process, organizations help improve the quality of future leaders — both for themselves and for the larger community.

Why should faculty incorporate service learning?
Service learning improves student comprehension and encourages academic progress. It increases motivation and creates a more comprehensive understanding of course material. Service learning allows faculty to benefit personally by providing a means for establishing relationships and for gaining support and awareness outside of the university.

Why should students look for service learning opportunities?
Service learning allows students to explore career paths, gain work experience, and strengthen their résumé. It provides exposure to civic-minded personnel, fostering opportunity for mentoring and moral development. Service learning increases student understanding of multicultural values and traditions, making them valuable assets to the community and to potential employers.
Ready to Connect?

Contact the UC Center for Service Learning and Civic Engagement:

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UC Quick Facts & Figures:

- Students participate in more than 6,000 co-op and internship experiences annually, across the US and internationally
- UC is the birthplace of co-op; created the model for cooperative education in 1906
- UC ProPEL is listed as a top-10 experiential program by U.S. News and World Report
- Named “Public University of the Year” by The Washington Center
- Deemed #1 in the nation for “Return on Educational Investment” by PolicyMic
- Named #1 public university in USA for economic impact by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities

- Ranked #3 “Up and Coming” university by U.S. News and World Report
- Home to top-10 programs in Design, Architecture, and Planning
- UC DAAP named #3 design school in the world by Business Insider
- Home to the first International Joint Co-op Institute: Chongqing University in China
- One of America’s top-20 public research institutions, with a student population of more than 40,000