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.

At UC, service learning is coordinated within the Center for Service Learning and Civic Engagement (CSLCE), part of the Division of Professional Practice. The CSLCE promotes service learning opportunities as a way to improve the overall student experience as well as to position UC as a valuable and accessible community partner.

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 resume. 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.

How can organizations get the most out of a UC service learning partnership?
- Remember that service learners are students first!
- Plan ahead. Prepare clear descriptions outlining tasks, responsibilities, and required skills.
- Orient, train and supervise. Introduce them to staff, give them a tour of the facility, and make sure they feel welcome.
- Be selective. Not every student will be the right fit for your organization.
- Be realistic of your expectations of students.
- Be an involved teacher and mentor.
- Say thanks. Ask students how they’re doing and what else they need to do their best.
- Talk to us. Let us help you ensure the best possible outcome – a mutually beneficial experience.

What is the first step?
Contact the UC Center for Service Learning and Civic Engagement.
uc.edu/sl
Michael Sharp, director, michael.sharp@uc.edu
8th Floor, Steger Student Life Center
A few quick facts about the University of Cincinnati:

- The University of Cincinnati is one of America’s top 20 public research institutions and the region’s largest employer, with a student population of more than 40,000.

- The University of Cincinnati is among America’s Best National Universities, according to *U.S. News & World Report*’s influential Best Colleges’ guide and has been noted as an “up and comer” for having the most promising and innovative changes in the areas of academics, faculty, student life, campus, or facilities.

- UC was also cited by *U.S. News & World Report* for “stellar” internships.

- For the fourth year in a row, the University of Cincinnati is listed among the *Princeton Review*’s best institutions for an undergraduate education.

- *Forbes Magazine* named UC one of the world’s most beautiful campuses.

- G.I. Jobs lists UC among America’s “military-friendly” campuses for our efforts on behalf of veterans.

- The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching names UC among 115 American colleges and universities for its 2010 Community Engagement Classification.

  - UC is the only public institution in Ohio named a “green university” by *Princeton Review*.

  - For two years in a row, UC has been listed among the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

  - UC was recently ranked among the top 200 universities in the world by the prestigious *Times Higher Education* magazine.

  - UC is ranked as one of America’s top 25 public research universities by the National Science Foundation.