COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

As a UNO student, community engagement activities provide you with diverse ways to achieve your education while building your resume and networking in the community. Some examples include volunteering, taking a class that brings you out into the community to complete your coursework, capstone projects and research involving a community organization, and much more.

Office of Civic and Social Responsibility

The Office of Civic and Social Responsibility (OCSR) is dedicated to developing engaged, civic-minded citizens and leaders for our communities. UNO believes service and engagement are vital components for the educational development of all students and for a sustainable, healthy community. Learn more on the Civic and Social Responsibility website (https://www.unomaha.edu/student-life/civic-and-social-responsibility/).

Service Learning Academy

Service learning is an experiential, collaborative method of teaching that incorporates community projects that promote academic learning. These projects are directly linked to academic curriculum and meet community-identified needs while engaging students in their community and provide real-world context to coursework. As such, service learning course "classrooms" often exist in the community and engage community partners as co-teachers. Throughout the course students reflect on their experiences, consider the relationship to their reading and research, relevance to community growth, and impact on their personal values, development, and professional skills.

Every semester, there are a variety of courses in all UNO colleges that use service learning as a method of instruction. By choosing a service learning course, students are able to:

• Apply textbook knowledge to the real world and engage with homework
• Use and develop strengths
• Discover new skills & talents
• Explore their leadership style
• Learn to communicate with others and work in teams
• Sharpen skills that employers want such as problem solving, critical thinking, innovation, and creativity
• Explore the assets in the community
• Build their résumé

To search for service learning courses, choose service learning under the Program tab in the class search function.

To explore service learning course options and project examples, please visit the Service Learning Academy (http://www.unomaha.edu/servicelearning/) website.

Community Engaged Scholarship Transcript Designation (CESTD)

The CESTD is a transcript designation that documents and recognizes undergraduate students for their community engagement experiences. This designation offers incentive and competitive edge for students who choose to tailor their involvement and academic work in a way that capitalizes on UNO’s comparative advantage.

• Completion of 1 community based-learning experience (3 credit hours)
• Completion of 6 hours of service-learning coursework
• Completion of 135 volunteer/community service hours (outside of the classroom)
• Completion of written reflection piece (one for each category along with a final reflection).
• Minimum 3.0 Cumulative GPA at graduation

Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center (CEC)

As a metropolitan university, UNO encourages its students to be active and civically engaged members and leaders in a diverse and evolving society. The CEC is a unique place where UNO students can access volunteer opportunities, service events, service learning inquiries, service learning projects and events, student jobs and internships, and community engagement-based events. The CEC is home to over 35 university and community building partner organizations that work side by side in flexible office spaces to improve the quality of life for those they serve.

Learn more about the CEC (https://www.unomaha.edu/community-engagement-center/).