

About Academic Service Learning

Academic service learning (ASL) is a method of instruction that allows students to connect – and thus, learn more deeply – concepts, skills, and other course content with needs and goals of community organizations and agencies. While making this connection, students learn from and provide meaningful service to the community organization or agency. Academic service-learning is a part of community and civic engagement. It can take place within a course, program, co-curriculum or student or professional organization under structured guidance.

To participate in the Academic Service Learning Program, the following four elements must be included in your specific ASL project and you must be willing to share information about your ASL project with the greater Ferris community at a poster presentation held near the end of the spring semester:

1. Address a community need that is identified by the community

Faculty and individuals involved in professional academic organizations (i.e. RSOs), may partner with any number of community organizations or agencies, or seek assistance from Steering Committee members to identify community partners.

2. Orient and train students before engaging with the community

Students should know about and engage with the organization or people with whom they will be working before starting the project. This helps develop mutual understanding and shared goals for the collaboration.

3. Engage students in thoughtful and meaningful action

After developing an appreciation and understanding of a community need, students directly address and support that need.

4. Allow students and involved faculty to reflect on their experiences

A hallmark of service learning pedagogy is reflecting on the experience. Students need the opportunity to reflect upon and process their learning, thereby making connections among prior knowledge, new knowledge, and their community service experiences. Example means for reflection include, but are not limited to, journals, essays, blogs, oral reports, speeches, group presentations, open discussion, and academic papers. Faculty should engage students in these discussions and engage community partners in reflection as well.

Ferris State University's Academic Service Learning Program Coordinators and Steering Committee, with support from Retention and Student Success, can provide assistance in the development of any aspect of your ASL project.

To participate in FSU's ASL Program, please complete the application that begins on page 2.

Please complete the application below, completing the table most relevant to the category of project, and submit to ASL Coordinator Kristin Conley at KristinConley@ferris.edu or Sarah Hinkley at SarahHinkley@ferris.edu.

Faculty Course/Curricular Grant Application:

Instructor/Faculty Name	Course Prefix and Number		
College	Course Title		
Department (if applicable)	CRN(s) [Course Reference Number(s)] for each involved section		
Program	(Combined) Expected Enrollment		
E-mail Address	Office Number and Address		
Project Title	Semester and Year		
	Requesting Funds:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

OR

Faculty Advisor of Professional Academic Organization/RSO/Co-Curriculum Grant Application

Contact Person Name	Professional Academic Organization/ RSO (if applicable)		
College/Program Affiliation	Department Affiliation (if applicable)		
E-mail Address	Office Number and Address		
Project Title	(Combined) Expected Enrollment		
Semester and Year	Requesting Funds:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Community Partner	Contact Person	E-mail Address and Phone Number
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

1. Please describe in one paragraph the academic service-learning project or activity you plan to undertake. Include how you have identified the community need and how it will benefit the community.

2. Please list either the **course outcomes** or **program outcomes** which will be accomplished through this service-learning project or activity.

3. Please describe the method(s) you will use to give students the opportunity to reflect on their personal and professional growth as a result of participating in the academic service-learning project or activity. Please include how you will seek community feedback after the event.

4. Approved academic service-learning projects and activities are eligible to receive up to \$500 per course for expenses associated with the project or activity. Examples of typical expenses are supplies, printing, food, and mileage or Motor Pool car. **Priority will be given to funding projects where, without ASL funding, the project would not be possible.** For example, projects requesting funding for student transportation will be more likely funded than projects requesting food unnecessary to the project itself. Please provide an itemized budget and budget rationale below.

Item	Cost	Rationale
Total (maximum request of \$500, all other expenses must be covered by other funding sources)		

Note: More information about the spring semester ASL poster session will be given in the spring semester.