

Service-Learning (SL) in Math Classes

What is SL? Education is more than lectures and textbooks. Service-learning combines community service with academic instruction, focusing on critical reflective thinking and personal and civic responsibility. (American Association of Community Colleges)

My Vision: Math is a sequential subject. Students need to complete college algebra and trigonometry before taking calculus I; calculus I before calculus II, etc. It is my hope that students will grasp the subject well enough that when they are taking calculus II, they can tutor calculus I students. If that is not possible, then, hopefully, calculus III students can tutor calculus I students.

3 Kinds of SL Designations and My Experience They are as follows:

Designated Class: SL is part of the class requirements; students have to do it. So far, Math 1050 and 1220 have been designated. I taught these classes a few years ago. The designation means any one teaches these courses can choose to incorporate the SL project. The project includes students spending 15 hours to tutor math at SLCC math lab, learning center, or local elementary, junior high or high schools. In addition, after doing the service, students complete a reflection paper requirement. This project constitutes 3% of their grade.

Designated Course: SL is part of the course requirements; students have to do it no matter which instructor they take the class from. I never taught that before. Lisa Walz of Thayne Center can provide more information on it.

Component: Students may choose to do SL project or do another “equivalent” component of the course, e.g. Elisa Stone of the English Department may give you more information. I never done this before either.

SL as Extra Credit: Students may earn extra credit by doing a SL project. This project is similar to the one with the designated classes except when students do the project, they earn 3% of extra credit. For the Math 1020 class, students may serve in local hospitals and clinics for 15 hours and complete the reflection assignment. For Math 1050 and higher, students can do a project similar to the designated class.