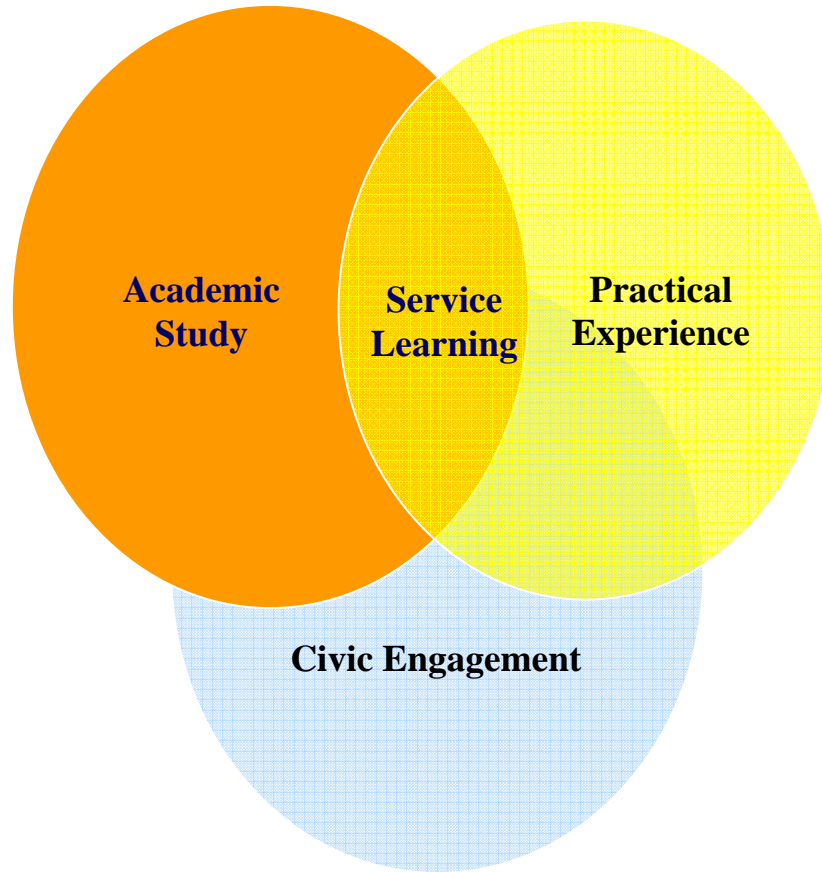


**University of Delaware**  
**Department of Physical Therapy**  
**Service Learning**



## Definition/Purpose of Service Learning (SL)

**Service Learning:** In service learning, one experiences a broad spectrum of experiences ranging from volunteerism to reflective social change. Your individual experience(s) will fall at different points of this spectrum. Service learning differs from traditional clinical education in the health professions in that:

- Service learning strives to achieve a balance between service and didactic course learning objectives.
- Service learning partners must negotiate the differences in their needs and expectations.
- Service learning places an emphasis on addressing community concerns and broad determinants of health.
- Service learning involves a partnership between communities and health professions schools.
- Service learning emphasizes reciprocal learning where traditional definitions of “faculty,” “teacher” and “learner” are intentionally blurred. We all learn from each other.
- Service learning emphasizes reflective practice facilitating the connection between practice and theory while fostering critical thinking.
- Service learning allows students to place their roles as health professionals and citizens in a larger societal context where the provision of health services is not often the most important factor.

**Volunteerism:** This category reflects performing community service but does not necessarily involve your didactic training with the service in which you are participating. Examples of volunteerism include performing registration duties at an event that is dedicated to a charity, performing duties in a homeless shelter that do not include any aspect of physical therapy, volunteering at a community event (i.e., distributing information not related to physical therapy), organizing a food or toy drive. Volunteerism is not a requirement but can be utilized for up to 5 hours of the SL requirement.

### Requirements:

- A. The students are required to participate in a minimum of 30 hours of service learning and/or volunteerism activities by the end of summer session in year three. No more than five hours in the Volunteerism category can be included in the 30 hour requirement.
- B. Students will complete journal entries to document their experiences in the Service Learning activities. A minimum of one journal entry is required after the completion of each service learning experience. An entry is required every 10 hours if the experience is long-term.
- C. The end product of the service learning/volunteerism experiences will culminate in a reaction paper of 2-4 pages on your different experiences. This paper should contain items such as what you have learned from your experiences, how your didactic preparation intertwined with the activities, how your opinions have changed over time and what future impact these experiences might have on you. In your discussion, address each of the major areas below and how you met the objectives in each area

## ***Service Learning/Volunteer Opportunities***

A list of Service Learning opportunities will be posted on the web at (*insert web address*). Some experiences may require a longer time commitment than others. The list will be updated as soon as new opportunities become available or if existing ones are no longer applicable. An e-mail will alert you to any changes or additions. Students and faculty are welcome to initiate new service/volunteer experiences but all new opportunities must be approved by the Service Learning Director. Students must have each experience pre-approved by the Service Learning Director by filling out the Service Learning/Volunteer Request Form. It is not uncommon for a service learning activity to cross borders within the different categories. For example you may be involved in a health and wellness activity involving a Native American population. The total time spent on this activity is then eligible to be included in the two categories Cultural Diversity and Health and Wellness Promotion. How it is divided can be decided by your supervisor at the activity site, or one of any Faculty or Staff that generated this opportunity, or The Director of Service Learning.

### ***The goals and objectives of this experience are as follows:***

#### ***Goal 1 - To encourage diversity (a minimum of 5 hours is required in this category)***

**1a.** The student will provide physical therapy related services to those having a variety of pathological conditions that may affect diverse psychological, socio/economic, ethnic, age, religious and cultural populations.

**1b.** Students will interact with clients in a culturally competent way that reflects a respect for the diversity of health beliefs and individual differences

#### ***Goal 2 - To promote the Physical Therapy profession (a minimum of five hours are required for this category)***

**2a.** The student will educate patient populations as to the various aspects of the physical therapy profession.

**2b.** Students will provide education on the physical therapy profession to the community in general.

#### ***Goal 3 - To promote primary and secondary prevention in health and wellness (a minimum of 5 hours are required in this category).***

**3a.** The student will educate individuals, families, caretakers, etc. on strategies for primary and secondary prevention, utilize ancillary medical personnel and other services/resources that may be available to assist the individual.

**University of Delaware**  
**Department of Physical Therapy**  
**Service Learning/Volunteer Request Form**

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Categories of Service (circle one):** Volunteerism, Health and Wellness Promotion, Diversity, Promotion of the Physical Therapy Profession

**Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dates (if known):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Estimate of amount of time in hours you will devote to this service or volunteer work:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Briefly describe and justify the nature of the service or volunteer experience:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please list the course/s *Name* and the objectives of a particular course which you have completed or are presently taking that you feel will be applicable to your proposed experience (courses and objectives can be found on our web-site)

Course\_\_\_\_\_ Applicable Objectives \_\_\_\_\_

Course\_\_\_\_\_ Applicable Objectives \_\_\_\_\_

Course\_\_\_\_\_ Applicable Objectives \_\_\_\_\_

Course\_\_\_\_\_ Applicable Objectives \_\_\_\_\_

Course\_\_\_\_\_ Applicable Objectives \_\_\_\_\_

**Approvers Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Approvers Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

