**What is service-learning?**
Service-learning provides a unique experience to connect coursework with engagement in and with the local community. Offered as an integral part of many University of Washington courses, service-learning provides students an opportunity to reflect on their in-class learning in tandem with an on-going commitment to a local non-profit or community-based organization. Service-learning opportunities address concerns that are identified and articulated by community partner organizations. Service-learning combines community-based service with structured preparation and reflection opportunities.

The Carlson Leadership & Public Service Center coordinates service-learning opportunities for undergraduate students and is a resource as you connect to community-based opportunities.

**Commitment expectations**
Service-learning opportunities generally expect a minimum weekly commitment of at least three hours. Students are expected to commit from the second week of the quarter through the last week of classes.

Service-learning is seen as an essential “text” of your class – you are expected to regularly engage with, reflect on, and integrate the service-learning into your classroom experience through structured classroom reflection and assignments. Building authentic relationships and consistent, weekly engagement with your community organization are essential components of successfully completing your service-learning.

**How do I select a service-learning position?**
Instructions for reviewing a list of service-learning opportunities matched with this course will be presented during the first day of classes. You can also visit uw.edu/carlson and follow the service-learning link on the website.

Registration for a service-learning position takes place online. Please check the Carlson Center web site for the specific date and time registration will open for this class. Most courses will register for service-learning positions during the latter half of the first week of classes.

**Service-learning orientations**
All students are expected to complete an orientation with their selected service-learning organization as soon as possible after registering for service-learning. As soon as you register for your position online and receive a confirmation email from the Carlson Center, contact your organization by phone and email to either 1) confirm your attendance at an already scheduled orientation or 2) to schedule an orientation if no specific date/time was listed in your position description. Ideally, orientations should occur during the second week of the quarter and no later than the third week.

**Service-learning workshops**
The Carlson Center offers the following workshops for service-learning students:

- **Service-learning workshop for International Students**
  - Geared toward international students with limited experience with volunteering or service-learning in the U.S. Focused on exploring the concept of service, expectations for engaging in service-learning, and how to make the most of your experience.

- **Pre-Service Workshops**
  - Focused on engaging in critical self-reflection, utilizing a strengths-based perspective in service, exploring motivations for service and building authentic relationships

Workshops are offered at the Carlson Center in Mary Gates Hall 171. Check the Carlson Center’s website for specific dates and times.
Questions
The staff of the Carlson Center is available to answer any questions about service-learning or assist you in registering or connecting with an organization. Stop by the Carlson Center weekdays between 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM to speak with a member of our team. You may also email at serve@uw.edu or call (206)543-4282.