Service Learning and Professional Development Badge Program for Graduate Studies

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GRADUATE STUDIES

Overview

What: A recognition program for Graduate Studies students for their participation in *service-learning* and *professional development* activities.
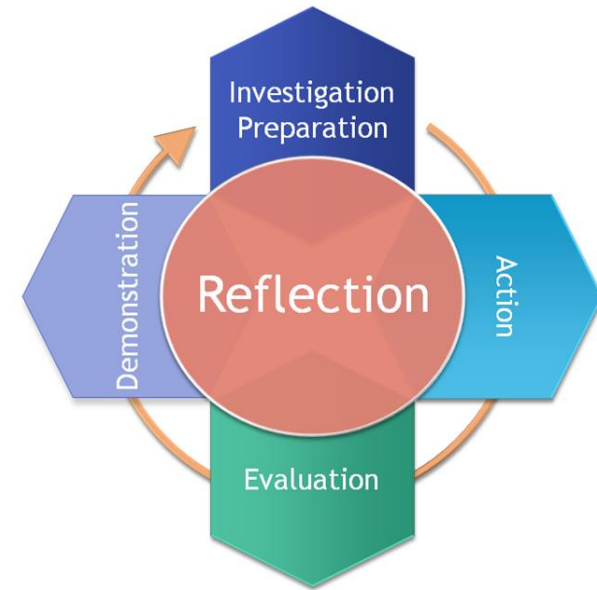
Why: This opportunity is available to other colleges on campus (CON, COM), and we are adapting it for the unique needs of Graduate Studies.

How: You will participate in recognized activities that include a *service-learning* *and/*or *professional development* component. You will compose a reflection of the activities and have it reviewed.

Students completing a defined amount of participation will earn a *Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum Badge* that you can include on your CV and will be acknowledged when you graduate.
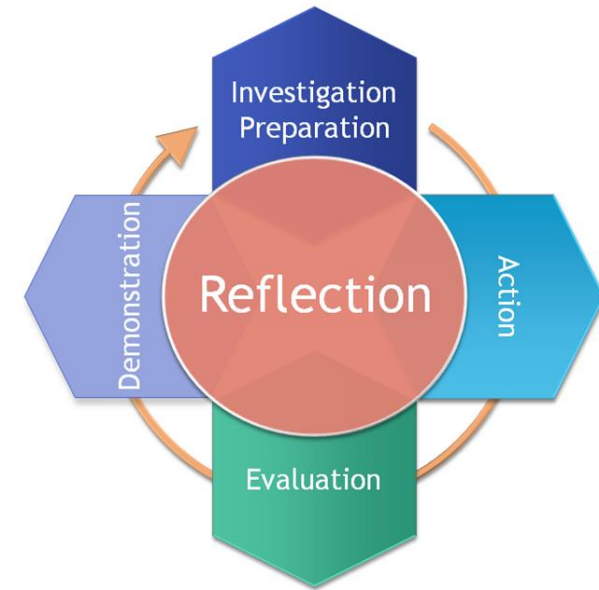
What is Service Learning?

Service-Learning:

"A method in which students learn and develop through active participation in thoughtfully organized service that is conducted and meets the needs of a community and is coordinated with an institute of higher education and with the community; helps to foster civic responsibility and is integrated into and enhances academic curriculum of the students and ***includes structured time for the students to reflect on the service experience***"

National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993

What is Professional Development?

Professional Development:

Activities including talks, workshops, panels, and events that can help students identify and develop transferable skills to prepare for careers in academia, industry, government, nonprofit, and entrepreneurship.

Service-Learning and Professional Development skills synergistically enhance each other.

Service Learning and Professional Development Opportunities at UNMC

- Service Learning Legacy Organizations (EMPOWER, Bridge to Care, Do JuSTIce, DDD)
- UNMC organizations (Legislative group, iExcel)
- Student organizations (UNMC Student Senate, Graduate Student Association, Maker's Club)
- Professional organizations (National Science Foundation, American Heart Association)
- Departmental/program/committee Representative
- Workshop participation (transferable skills, Grant Writing)
- UNeMed Technology Transfer Boot Camp
- Learn@Lunch Series
- Grand Rounds and Special Seminars (McIntyre award)
- Center for Healthy Living activities
- Community outreach (Physiology PhuN Day outreach, Science fairs)
- Tutoring/Teaching
- NO DOUBLE DIPPING

Badge Recognition

Badge levels (hours of service/development):

- **Bronze** 80 hours
- **Silver** 100 hours
- **Gold** 120 hours

   Reflections must be submitted no later than one month after the completion of the activity.

Platinum:
-    Gold level badge ***PLUS*** service for at least a year as
 President or Vice President of a recognized student organization ***OR*** additional exceptional contribution (program development, participation, etc). This badge level will require review and acceptance on a case-by-case basis.

-    *If approved, individual public presentation (poster or oral presentation) is required.*

Special Considerations and Incentives

Students beyond their third year of study as of the Fall 2016 semester will have their reflection hour requirements decreased by 30%.

- **Bronze** 80 hours (56 hours)
- **Silver** 100 hours (90 hours)
- **Gold** 120 hours (84 hours)

Reflections from activities from the entire fall 2016 semester will be accepted

Reflection Guidelines

- To receive recognition for service-learning and professional skills development activities, you must submit a reflection:

    1) *for every 10 hours of continuous service or development* (ex: leadership position in GSA or planning and executing an outreach project)

    2) *for every 5 hours of non-continuous activity* (attendance of seminars/workshops).

- Attendance validation will be required for seminars

- General recommendation is 300-500 words (more if needed) for each reflection.

- *It is important in your reflection to help the reviewer understand what you gained from the experience.*

Documentation of Experiences using the Online Portal

- **Documentation:** date, hours, and type of activity are required

- **Reflection:** required if would like to qualify for recognition or awards

- You are able to review previous reflections and print a summary of activities with hours. This is great for your portfolio when you graduate!

- You will be notified of acceptance of each submitted reflection

- Record any activities that you want to be considered for awards and recognition

- You will need to "apply" for your badge prior to graduation to be recognized

Let's get started!

- http://app1.unmc.edu/slice/

- You must register the first time you log on (name, college, and class/year of graduation).

- Your first reflection can be of today's workshop!

- If you encounter errors, please copy/paste the error message and send right away to Alicia (Diener) Schiller at adiener@unmc.edu

What is a reflection?

"Reflections are the hyphen in service-learning; it is the process that helps students connect what they observe and experience in the community with their academic study…students are engaged in worthwhile activity in the community, observe, make sense of their observations, ask new questions, relate what they are observing to what they are studying in class, form theories and plans of action, and try out their ideas."

- **What?**
  - Did you do, see, experience?

- **So what?**
  - What were the results of your interaction at this event?

- **Now what?**
  - How will this effect your future actions?

Reflection: What?

What? Reporting what happened, objectively.
•   Without judgment or interpretation, describe in detail the facts and event(s) of the experience.

So **What?** What did you learn? What difference did the event make?
•   Discuss your thoughts, ideas, and analysis of the service-learning or professional development experience.
•   Reflect on the meaning or importance of the activity to:
1. The Participant
2. The Recipient
3. The Community

Now **What?** How will you think or act in the future as a result of this experience?
•   Consider broader implications of the service experience and apply learning.

Questions?

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