Potential Student Learning Outcomes for Service-Learning Courses

Understanding Course Content
- Improve student learning through obtaining, analyzing and synthesizing data and using it to evaluate the community problem in light of concepts and theories presented in class
- Demonstrate relevance of community experience to course content

Awareness of Community
- Increase students' knowledge of community issues, needs, strengths, problems and resources
- Increase sensitivity to major aspects and characteristics of issues, causal and correlative factors, associated issues, and the nature of public and private organizations addressing the issues
- Understand relationship between democracy, politics, and civic participation
- Identify and analyze composition of off-campus community, including social, cultural, demographic, life-style, religious and other factors
- Identify community-based public and private programs that provide assistance and advocacy

Involvement with Community
- Increase quantity and quality of student interactions
- Improve students' attitudes toward involvement
- Gain meaningful feedback from community
- Improve reciprocity and interdependence between community and students

Commitment to Service
- Improve students' attitude toward service
- Make life-long commitment to social responsibility, especially when holding future leadership position
- Remove barriers to future service
- Instill positive reactions to students' demands and the challenges of service
- Learn to value personal involvement in community for socially constructive purposes
- Demonstrate concern for welfare of others in broader community

Career Development
- Help students make career decisions
- Expose students to career opportunities
- Match students with career-building service opportunities
- Develop professional skills related to prospective careers
- Use leadership skills
- Develop personal leadership style
- Improve self-esteem, sense of personal worth, competence and confidence in one's ability to make a difference

Self-Awareness
- Improve students' awareness of individual strengths
- Help students set limits, goals, decrease fears.
- Help them to change preconceived understandings
- Expose them to options and points of view other than their own
- Understand their own values and skills
- Take responsibility for consequences of one's own actions

Sensitivity to Diversity
- Improve students' attitudes
- Improve understanding of diversity
- Increase students' knowledge of new communities

- Respect and appreciate different perspectives within diverse populations
- Understand cultural traditions and their relationship with American and world societies

Sense of Ownership
- Help students develop autonomy and independence from faculty
- Improve students' comfort with their roles as learners
- Have students assume responsibility for community projects
- Help students develop a sense of their own role in the community partnership
- Enhance appreciation of value of course content
- Develop commitment to life-long learning
- Explore altruistic and social justice motivations for community participation

Communication
- Develop students' oral and/or written communication skills
- Improve student recognition of importance of communication
- Use variety of ways to articulate information (written, verbal, art, media, etc)
- Learn to collaborate and negotiate to resolve conflict

Critical Thinking
- Improve students' ability to think, apply information to problem solving, and analyze information data and concepts
- Students formulate plans within contextual constraints
- Apply theoretical concepts
- Increase complex problem-solving ability

Valuing Pedagogy of Multiple Teachers
- Help students realize roles of various participants in learning: student peers, community members, faculty and community at-large

Improving Life Skills
- Demonstrate skills and attitudes needed for learning from experience (observing, interviewing, asking questions, thinking for one's self)
- Learn to gather information
- Have new experiences: take risks, accept challenges, assume new roles
- Demonstrate necessary leadership skills such as those needed to plan, recruit, orient, train, motivate, evaluate, assess needs and create budgets
- Formulate or clarify personal values, attitudes, ethics and beliefs
- Demonstrate independence, autonomy, assertiveness
- Take responsibility for one's own actions
- Demonstrate perseverance in the face of difficulty

Source: Service-learning workshop materials developed by the Center for Community Service-Learning at CSU-Northridge.

http://academic.csupomona.edu/ccsl/course/learningoutcomes.htm