



# MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™

## MAROON VOLUNTEER CENTER

### Navigating Service Experiences on Cowbell Connect

This serves as a guideline on how to identify logging service experiences on Cowbell Connect. Below, you will find a detailed description of how we, in Student Leadership and Community Engagement & Maroon Volunteer Center, define service and examples of what that could look like for students, faculty, and staff. This is the guideline we follow when approving or denying service experiences on Cowbell Connect - and we want to ensure that your MSU co-curricular transcript accurately reflects your service experiences!

**Service:** Providing direct services in communities intended to benefit others and is synonymous with volunteering like providing food, clothing, shelter, or other actions to relieve immediate needs or enhance assets in a community - often more short-term.

**Service - Leadership:** Serving a community in a leadership role (as an individual or group) - this includes, site leader, project manager, organization board member

**Service - Training:** Facilitating or participating in a volunteer orientation/training that provides more information about a service project, a community partner, or how to engage with a community

**Social Justice:** Promoting social change to create a more equitable distribution of power and resources to all groups and to meet each group's unique needs-- often more long-term.

**Organization Hours:** Any required hours for a student organization or department that are **NON-SERVICE RELATED**

Service Related Examples	
Food Drive	Community Development (healthcare or education)
Volunteering at a nonprofit	Nonprofit internships
Co-curricular Service	Community Outreach
Disseminating Information (or Research)	Service/Volunteer Consultations (trainings/orientations)
Service projects	Donation of goods = 1 hour (subject to review)
Advocacy (political activism, environmentalism)	Issuing food to the community
Cleaning up a neighborhood park	Working with a food pantry
Mentoring at a nonprofit or school	Creating content for a non-profit organization
Making plan for clients at shelters	Virtual volunteering/service (subject to review)
Natural disaster relief efforts	Aiding individuals within a vulnerable population
Service abroad	Making and giving care packages
Tutoring/Mentoring	*all service submissions must provide some form of proof for approval*
Providing career preparation services (not for profit)	

## Other helpful definitions:

**Community Engagement** describes collaboration between MSU and partnering communities for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in the context of partnership and reciprocity while fulfilling MSU's mission of scholarly teaching, research, and service.

**Community-Engaged Service** defines collaboration between members of MSU and a community or community-based group that results in beneficial services. Community service may, or may not, be related to an academic program and can be performed by students, faculty, and staff. Community service includes co-curricular service and civic engagement.

**Community-Engaged Research** refers to a research partnership between MSU and communities that is mutually beneficial and includes some degree of shared decision making and leadership between communities and MSU.

**Community-Engaged Learning** denotes academically-based community engaged courses that may integrate a range of teaching and learning strategies, including, but not limited to: service-learning, Co-op, externship, internship, practicum, clinical, capstone, research project, public service, practice-based learning, experiential education, and experiential learning.

**Scholarship of Engagement or Engaged Scholarship** is scholarship resulting from the collaborative and mutually beneficial partnership between university member(s) (i.e. faculty, staff, and/or student) and external non-higher education partner(s). Engaged scholarship is typically created and communicated through any of the following activities: discovery of new knowledge, development of new knowledge, dissemination of new knowledge, change in learning, change in behavior and/or change in conditions[1].

**Civic Engagement** is a type of community service that fosters citizenship through engagement in issues of public interest and/or participation in governance activities.

**Co-curricular Service** is a type of community service performed by students that is not formally linked to an academic curriculum, but fosters student learning.

**Service-learning** is a teaching and learning strategy that uses reflection to link community service with academic course objectives to enrich the educational experience of students, teach civic responsibility, and meet the needs of a community

### Websites:

[mvc.msstate.edu](http://mvc.msstate.edu)

[ccel.msstate.edu](http://ccel.msstate.edu)

[slce.msstate.edu](http://slce.msstate.edu)

Franz, N. (2009). A holistic model of engaged scholarship: Telling the story across higher education's missions. *Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement*, 13(4), 31-49.

Weiser, C. J. and Houglum, L. (1998). Scholarship unbound for the 21st Century. *Journal of Extension*, 36(4). Retrieved from <https://www.joe.org/joe/1998august/a1.php>

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