



Western New York Service-Learning Coalition
4380 Main Street, WC 207
Amherst, NY 14226-3592
(716) 839-8375
(716) 839-8439 fax
www.wnyslc.org

The following is a list of possible service-learning projects by discipline. The list is by no means exhaustive in terms of academic disciplines or project ideas. The list is intended to serve as a tool to help you start thinking about possible service-learning opportunities in your discipline and community.

For ease of use, to find a particular academic discipline or keyword, please use the Find tool, located in the Edit menu of Microsoft Word and type in the keyword you are looking for.

A

Accounting

Project Ideas:

- Work with low-income or refugee families to establish and follow a monthly budget.
- Tax preparation for low-income families, elderly
- Collaborate with nonprofit organizations about how they may streamline their processes, making them more cost efficient.

African American Studies

Project Ideas:

- Tutor immigrants and refugees
- Work at a women's clinic
- Tutor students
- Work with an African-American advocacy group
- Help at a community health center
- Give presentations to community groups

Anthropology

Project ideas:

- Serve food at a local food pantry
- Tutor immigrants and refugees
- Help immigrants and refugees adjust to life in the United States
- Work at a health clinic or in a disease prevention program
- Work with local Native American tribes or advocacy groups

Architecture

Project Ideas:

- Chronicle buildings of architectural history.
- Develop walking tour of city architecture
- Help restore church, temple
- Design and build a playground for visually impaired preschoolers

Art

Project Ideas:

- Consult with local art museums for projects.
- Work with an afterschool program or community organization to design art projects.
- Working with local governments, identify areas that could benefit from public art (temporary or public)
- Design murals, community art.
- Help design a set for a production.
- Design greeting cards for homebound adults.
- Photograph activities in the community, such as senior center events.
- Teach photography to teens, children, refugees, and special needs students as a form of expression.

Art Education
See Art

Art History and Management
See Art

Asian Studies
Project Ideas:

- Give presentations to community groups
- Tutor refugees or students

Athletic Training
Project Ideas:

- Work with or design local afterschool physical fitness program
- Serve as athletic trainer at youth sports events (ex. Youth football program)
- Work with senior citizen center to design or implement age and ability-appropriate activities
- Teach swim lessons
- Develop an inventory of exercise facilities for community
- Teach physical education for home schooled children

Audiology
Project Ideas:

- Contact local agencies that deal with hearing loss. Create documents, programs, website with information.
- Consult with local city planning on noise restrictions, enforcement.
- Assist with hearing screenings for children, seniors, refugees
- Work as a sign language interpreter for an event

Automotive
Project Ideas:

- Service/repair community organization vehicles
- Develop schedule for service recommendations
- Perform basic maintenance for low-income families

B
Biochemistry
See Natural Sciences

Biology
See Natural Sciences

Building Management and Maintenance

Project Ideas;

- Identify and work with nonprofits to streamline their building maintenance processes.

Business

See Business Administration

Business Administration

Project Ideas:

- Audit nonprofits to see what businesses policies they have in place. Make recommendations for new policies/documents. Create new policies/documents
- Design human resource guides, policies or recommendations.
- Contact local chamber of commerce to get involved in a program
- Serve as a mentor for students in business programs
- Design/give presentations through business minded organizations (ex. Junior Achievement)
- Design/give presentations about consumer/senior issues to community
- Teach financial basics class
- Teach job skills
- “Audit” nonprofits to help them streamline their processes
- Work with the economic development corporation

C

Chemistry

See Natural Sciences

Communication

Project Ideas:

- Work with nonprofit public relations kits
- Develop marketing materials for nonprofit organizations
- Create marketing program for nonprofit or nonprofit events
- Create a calendar of community activities
- Design logo for nonprofit organization
- Brainstorm ways to reach out to new target audiences
- Create and publish public service announcements for nonprofit organizations and community events
- Develop presentations for nonprofit events
- Create promotional videos for nonprofits and events

Computer Crimes Investigation

See Information Technology, Criminal Justice

Computer Information Systems

See Information Technology

Computer Network Administration
See Information Technology

Computer Science
See Information Technology

Counseling/School Psychology
See Psychology, Education

Criminal Justice
Project Ideas:

- Establish or work with local teen court
- Conduct workshops to prevent teen incarceration
- Evaluate community to determine factors leading to incarceration – offer solutions
- Map crime patterns in the areas and help propose solutions.
- Work with agencies to create a safety plan.

Culinary Arts
See Hotel and Restaurant Management

D

Dance
Project Ideas:

- Help teach dance to people with disabilities
- Hold dance workshop at senior center
- Work with arts organizations to incorporate dance

Dental
Project Ideas:

- Help at local clinics
- Help design and give presentations on dental health to students, refugees, low-income
- Collect toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash, floss, etc for low-income families and homeless in community

Design
See Art, Interior Design, Architecture

Dietetics and Nutrition
See Nutrition, Hotel and Restaurant Management

E

Earth Sciences and Science Education
See Natural Sciences

Ecology

See Natural Sciences

Economics and Finance

See Business Administration, Accounting

Education Administration

Project Ideas:

- Work with campuses to establish a service-learning program or structure
- Work with middle and high schools on an afterschool or student engagement committee
- Tutor for an afterschool program, GED program
- Serve in college activities offices, residence life or student affairs offices
- Form a focus-group of students to share their experiences about higher education

Education

Project Ideas:

- Tutor at an after-school program, pre-school, school, community center
- Develop fun learning activities for youth programs
- Work with nonprofit organizations on their projects (ex. Girl Scouts patch requirements)
- Help teach non-native English speakers
- Help science nonprofits develop curriculum for student groups
- Plan multi-discipline projects for after-school programs
- Work in community gardening, learning and teaching science, math, labeling plant life
- Read to seniors/preschoolers
- Record books on tape for the visually impaired
- Conduct a book drive for local library, school, classroom, afterschool program
- Catalog existing materials for library, school, classroom, afterschool program
- Help run literacy and reading programs at library
- Serve as a classroom assistant or playground monitor at a school or pre-school
- Be a “read and listen” partner for elementary or preschooler

Emergency Management

Project Ideas:

- Work with community organizations who respond to community crises
- Help families develop disaster kits
- Help nonprofits develop emergency plans
- Work with emergency responders
- Rebuild houses
- Help at a housing organization
- Pass out food, clothing, water at emergency shelter
- Work with organizations to develop a safety plan.

Engineering

Project Ideas:

- Work with community youth group on designing cars/bridges/buildings to support certain pressure or a performance standard. (ex. Boy Scouts soap box derby)
- Work with low-income families to suggest moderate changes to improve the safety of their home
- Analyze the structural integrity of bridges with local transportation departments

English

Project Ideas:

- Tutoring afterschool program, reading to seniors, preschoolers.
- Work with literacy programs, libraries to develop curriculum, reading skills
- Trace themes (ex. urban plight, poverty, basic needs, African American culture) into community
- Conduct a poetry workshop at senior and community centers
- Plan and host a book drive
- Collect and compose a history of area through interviews, research, etc.
- Help at a writing center
- Tutor, teach literacy at libraries, community centers
- Read to seniors/preschoolers
- Record books on tape for the visually impaired
- Conduct a book drive for local library, school, classroom, afterschool program
- Catalog existing materials for library, school, classroom, afterschool program
- Help run literacy and reading programs at library

English as a Second Language

See English or Foreign Languages

Environmental Science

See Natural Sciences

Exercise Science

See Nutrition, Sports and Leisure Studies, Sports Management or Athletic Training

F

Fashion Merchandising

Project Ideas:

- Contact local theatre groups to help with costuming.
- Help coordinate fashion show for women's agency.
- Shop at thrift stores with families in need.
- Organize a clothing drive.

Film Studies

Project Ideas:

- Work with local library district to develop film showing and discussion
- Write articles about film adaptations of books for library

Finance

See Business Administration or Accounting

Fine Arts

See Art

Foreign Languages

Project Ideas:

- Design brochures, documents, forms for agencies into proper languages for the populations they serve.
- Serve as a mentor/tutor/friend to newly arrived refugees

G

Geography and Planning

Project ideas:

- Serve food at a local food pantry
- Tutor
- Help immigrants and refugees adjust to life in the United States
- Work at a health clinic or in a disease prevention program
- Work with local Native American tribes or advocacy groups
- Trace the history of a particular area of the region and how the use has changed
- Plot points of interest on an interactive geographic map
- Help plot trail markers and signs for a trail project

Geology

See Natural Sciences

Gerontology

Project Ideas:

- Adopt a grandparent at local senior centers, nursing homes
- Help senior with basic activities, such as shopping, cleaning
- Serve meals to seniors
- Propose new activities at senior centers/nursing homes

Graphic Arts/ Digital Media

See Art, Marketing, Information Technology

H

Health and Wellness

See Nursing, Nutrition, Sports and Leisure Studies, Athletic Training, Sports Management

Health Care Studies

See Nursing, Nutrition

Higher Education

Project Ideas:

- Work with campus activity offices, residence life and student affairs to design programs to get more students engaged
- Identify problems or gaps in higher education and suggest solutions
- Organize and conduct a campus-wide discussion on a critical topic

History and Government

Project Ideas:

- Interview seniors, locals, members of the local veterans administration, etc for oral history project
- Research buildings, landmarks, etc
- Work with local tour companies on history walks
- Attend local chamber of commerce and city council meetings; participate in community process
- Research veterans that are buried in local cemeteries to share with local veterans groups, historical societies
- Develop a code of responsibilities for campus student government campaigns, touching on issues of ethics and morality
- Help conduct voter education and voter registration campaigns
- Bring local history to a campus by arranging and hosting a workshop or creating a display about historical events
- Work with the local historical society to research a local building and apply to get it on the National Registry of Historical Places.

Hospitality and Tourism

Project Ideas:

- Serve as an ambassador for local visitors bureau
- Design outreach programs targeted at college students
- Visit local hotels to see what information is available
- Inventory the facilities in the community

Hotel and Restaurant Management

Project Ideas:

- Teach a cooking/etiquette/food appreciation class to seniors/students/youth
- Organize a formal dinner for senior citizens

Human Resources Management

Project Ideas:

- Help community organizations develop human resource policies

I

Information Systems

See Information Technology

Information Technology

Project Ideas:

- Database development
- Website design and development
- Design e-news and social networking tools
- Link or upgrade computer systems for nonprofit organizations
- Run virus protection or de-fragment computers
- Refurbish computers for donation to youth organizations or low-income families

International Business

See Business Administration, International Relations, Foreign Languages

International Relations

Project Ideas:

- Help or organize “Mock U.N.” councils at local high schools
- Contact Chamber of Commerce to help welcome international business travelers
- Work with Study Abroad program to “adopt” a student studying from abroad

International Studies

See International Relations, Foreign Languages

Interior Design

Project Ideas:

- Perform a “office makeover” for nonprofit organizations
- Collect/rehabilitate household goods to donate to low income families
- Help organizations with organizing offices, files, space

J

Journalism

Project Ideas:

- Write articles for community organization newsletters, electronic newsletters, web and social networking sites.
- Compose press releases on events, activities.
- Chronicle the history of a local event through interviews
- Compose a photographic essay of a particular area or event

Western New York Service-Learning Coalition
4380 Main Street, WC 207, Amherst, NY 14226
www.wnyslc.org, (716) 839-8375

L

Language

See Foreign Languages

Latino/Latina Studies

Project Ideas:

- Tutor in after-school programs
- Adapt nonprofit organizational material to help Spanish speakers
- Teach ESL
- Work with newly arrived families to help them adapt.

Law

Project Ideas:

- Provide legal information to nonprofits and community organizations
- Work with local legal aid office
- Contact or form a local teen court

Leadership

Project Ideas:

- Serve as a service-learning mentor for other students
- Work at an afterschool program
- Tutor
- Develop leadership lessons for at-risk populations
- Work with civic leaders to engage more young people in the public process

Linguistics

See Foreign Languages

Literacy

See English or Education

M

Marketing

Project Ideas:

- Develop marketing materials for nonprofit organizations
- Create marketing program for nonprofit or nonprofit events
- Create a calendar of community activities
- Design logo for nonprofit organization
- Brainstorm ways to reach out to new target audiences
- Create and publish public service announcements for nonprofit organizations and community events
- Create promotional videos for nonprofits and events

Management

See Business Administration

Massage Therapy

Project Ideas:

- Conduct mini-clinics at youth/senior centers
- Provide massages to race participants (ex. After a charitable 5k race)

Mathematics

See Accounting, Education

Media Studies

See Art, Information Technology

Medical Administration

See Medicine, Nursing

Medical Technology

See Medicine, Nursing

Medicine

Project Ideas:

- Provide information and help with workshops about healthy living, drug abuse, illness avoidance
- Visit with Hospice clients
- Work with senior centers, hospitals, community clinics, school nursing programs
- Help plan and orchestrate community/campus blood drive
- Help give health assessments in clinics
- Partner with local health organizations to update materials, community presentations

Mental Health Counseling

See Psychology, Social Work

Military Science

Project Ideas:

- Work with local ROTC, Junior ROTC programs
- Research local military history
- Research local service members
- Attend a VFW, VA meeting

Modern and Classical Languages

See English, Foreign Languages

Music

Project Ideas:

- Work with youth theater to incorporate music programs
- Provide assistance, instruction to local choirs
- Perform music for seniors
- Participate in music therapy with those recovering from injuries
- Bring music to youth in an afterschool program through lessons or performances
- Help stage a youth musical performance

N

Natural Sciences

Project Ideas:

- Develop interpretative signage for trees, rocks, plant life at local parks
- Help at community and urban gardens
- Teach about non-toxic fertilizers, composting
- Test water samples
- Perform a water taste test to see how public water compares
- Design literature about native plant and animal life
- Plant trees in community centers, preschools
- Work with local community gardens on rainfall amounts, growing soils, composting, etc.
- Work with local community garden/urban farm to test soil to maximize best growing capacity.
- Lead program to make simple cleaning solutions, soaps, etc. that can be passed along to low income families
- Design science projects for school age students
- Participate in school wide or regional science fairs
- Perform a community/river/park/neighborhood clean up. Analyze the types of garbage collected. Draw conclusions and recommendations.

Nursing

Project Ideas:

- Work with senior centers, hospitals, community clinics, school nursing programs
- Help plan and orchestrate community/campus blood drive
- Help give health assessments in clinics
- Teach CPR, illness prevention to community

Nutrition

Project Ideas:

- Create menu, recipes for low-income populations, seniors, students
- Prepare meals for Meals on Wheels, soup kitchen, senior center
- Design snack plan for after school program
- Create nutrition newsletter/article for local community organizations
- Help at food bank
- Develop a campus or community food drive

O

Occupational Therapy

Project Ideas:

- Help at community and senior centers
- Identify new ways for students with disabilities to learn basic skills

Organizational Leadership

See Leadership, Business Administration

P

Paralegal

See Law

Pharmaceutical Sciences

See Nursing, Medicine

Philosophy and Humanities

Project Ideas:

- Help at a substance abuse center
- Serve lunch at a soup kitchen
- Help at a support center, such as suicide prevention or AIDS
- Provide assistance at a bereavement center
- Adopt a grandparent from a local senior center
- Serve as a mentor for students, at risk youth, refugees
- Help with conflict resolution skills in schools
- Visit with Hospice patients
- Participate in Bible study/worship services
- Lead group discussion at community ministry
- Help restore church/temple

Photography

See Art

Physical Therapy

Project Ideas:

- Help at a nursing home, senior center, group home
- Provide injury prevention education programs
- Volunteer at a VA center
- Develop new programs for people with disabilities, traumatic brain injury

Physician Assistant

See Medicine, Nursing

Physics

See Natural Sciences

Physiology

See Medicine, Nursing

Political Science

See History and Government

Public Affairs

See Marketing, Communications, History and Government

Public Health

See Medicine, Nursing

Public Relations

See Marketing, Communications, History and Government

Psychology

Project Ideas:

- Work with high school students to determine career choices
- Help at a substance abuse center
- Help at a support center, such as suicide prevention or AIDS
- Provide assistance at a bereavement center
- Adopt a grandparent from a local senior center
- Serve as a mentor for students, at risk youth, refugees
- Help with conflict resolution skills in schools
- Visit with Hospice patients

R

Radiation Therapy

See Nursing, Medicine

Recreation and Leisure Studies

Project Ideas:

- Teach swim lessons, water safety and survival
- Develop an inventory of exercise facilities for community
- Teach physical education for home schooled children
- Create equestrian programs for disabled

Religious Studies

Project Ideas:

- Participate in Bible study/worship services
- Lead group discussion at community ministry
- Help with Sunday school classes
- Help perform prison ministries

Western New York Service-Learning Coalition
4380 Main Street, WC 207, Amherst, NY 14226
www.wnyslc.org, (716) 839-8375

- Help restore church/temple

Respiratory Care

See Nursing, Medicine

S

School Media Specialist

Project Ideas:

- Conduct a book drive for local library, school, classroom, afterschool program
- Catalog existing materials for library, school, classroom, afterschool program
- Help run literacy and reading programs at library

School Psychology

See Education, Psychology

Science

See Natural Science

Social Work

Project Ideas:

- Help at a substance abuse center
- Help at a support center, such as suicide prevention or AIDS
- Provide assistance at a bereavement center
- Adopt a grandparent from a local senior center
- Serve as a mentor for students, at risk youth, refugees

Sociology

See Anthropology, Psychology, Social Work

Special Education

See Education

Speech-Language Pathology

See Education, Medicine, Nursing

Sports Management

Project Ideas:

- Provide soccer/basketball clinics for youth
- Run weekend sports tournament for youth
- Teach physical education for home schooled children

Student Personnel Administration

See Business Administration, Education, Leadership

Supply Chains and Operations Management

Western New York Service-Learning Coalition
4380 Main Street, WC 207, Amherst, NY 14226
www.wnyslc.org, (716) 839-8375

See Business Administration

T

Technology

See Information Technology

Theater

See Art

Theology

See Religious Studies

U

Urban Planning

Project Ideas:

- Clean up parks
- Identify parks, areas of interest on interactive web map
- Perform analyses of a community's walkability/pedestrian friendliness
- Perform a SWOT assessment of particular communities, determining strengths and deficiencies

Urban Studies

Project Ideas:

- Assist migrant workers in their assimilation
- Help at a soup kitchen, homeless shelter
- Repair and upgrade homes
- Provide assistance in community gardens

V

Veterinary Technology

Project Ideas:

- Contact local animal shelters to help perform animal evaluations
- Help at animal rescues and rehabilitation sanctuaries
- Help at zoo or aquarium with tending to animals

W

Women Studies

Project Ideas:

- Work at WIC, women's shelter, women's health clinic
- Study history of Seneca Falls Convention
- Work to develop materials about domestic violence
- Serve as a mentor to a teen mother

If you want to share a project idea that was not included in this list, please send it to eoman@daemen.edu.

Western New York Service-Learning Coalition
4380 Main Street, WC 207, Amherst, NY 14226
www.wnyslc.org, (716) 839-8375