Service Learning Experience  
Supplement (P – 1)

Coordinator:  
Cynthia Coffey, Pharm.D.  
(678) 547-6308 or (678) 547-6224  
Coffey_CW@mercer.edu

Experience Description:

This experience is offered during a student's first, second, and third professional years of pharmacy school and will involve the student in early, continuous service learning activities. The students are given an opportunity to practice the knowledge, attitudes and skills learned in their didactic coursework in a “real-world” environment and subsequently gain confidence in their abilities. Service learning in the first professional year will consist of a general service experience.

Goal:
Students will develop a sense of personal responsibility for addressing the problems and needs of society through active participation in civic and community organizations which may or may not be health care related.

Ability Outcomes:

The outcomes for each student in this experience are:

1. **Communication Abilities:**
   a. Develop interpersonal skills by learning to communicate effectively and in a variety of ways to the patients and clients served.
   b. Enhance writing skills by journalizing the experience and preparing reflection notes that describe, analyze and provide insight about the thoughts and feelings experienced from providing this service to the community.

2. **Professional Ethics and Identity:**
   a. Demonstrate a developmental level of “learning by service” by analyzing experiences, connecting them with theory, and gaining meaning from them.
   b. Develop an understanding of what it means to provide service and be responsible for others.

3. **Social Interaction, Citizenship and Leadership:**
   a. Provide a needed service to one or more individuals and/or an agency or institution.
   b. Develop a better understanding of the individuals and population in our community.
   c. Develop a sense of civic and community responsibility.
   d. Exhibit cultural sensitivity and human needs of a variety of people and society as a whole.
   e. Demonstrate leadership through advocacy.
4. **Self-Learning Abilities:**

   a. Develop a systematic approach to analyzing experiences by reflection thereby promoting personal growth.
   b. Enhance problem solving skills by self-directed investigation of situations and concerns that arise at the community site.

**Student Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Determine service-learning experience days at the beginning of semester and note those dates in your portfolio.
- Maintain communication with your service-learning site.
- Be on time (if late, call).
- Dress and act professionally.
- Be enthusiastic, inquisitive, and actively participate.
- Complete all logs and evaluations.
- Maintain your journal throughout the experience.
- Attend the reflection seminar.
- Read the required articles and complete activities.

**Time and Attendance Policy**

1. Be on time for all service learning experiences and seminar.
2. Absences from service learning experiences and seminar should be very rare. Excused absences are determined by the course coordinator and do not include having to work, travel or study. For illness, a note from a medical practitioner may be required. If you miss a service learning experience, contact the Service Learning site to reschedule and call the Department of Pharmacy Practice administrative assistant immediately to schedule a meeting with the Service Learning Coordinator.
3. Time logs must be signed by the service learning site coordinator.

**Grading**

This experience is a component of the Patient Care Experience Course. Please refer to the Patient Care Experience syllabus for specifics: