



Contact Information

Call: 423-614-8614

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The following document describes the Leonard Center's amended service-learning requirements for undergraduate students at Lee University in response to COVID-19. These guidelines will remain in place for the remainder of the spring 2020 semester and will be revisited when the situation changes.

Lee University highly values Christian service and believes that it plays a key role in the student's personal development. Especially during times of crisis, service to others is more important than ever.

Service-learning at Lee University is guided by the Leonard Center and is designed to prepare students for Christian citizenship through reflective community interactions that encourage a commitment to the ideals of service, benevolence, civic virtue, and biblical justice. While our commitment to the standards of what service-learning typically looks like at Lee remain firm, we understand that some service-learning requirements will need to be temporarily amended to enable our students to serve the community best during this particular moment.

Lee University encourages and values all types of service to others. Historically, only certain types of service have been counted toward the graduation requirement of service-learning. Some of the restrictions will remain in place, but most other restrictions are being lifted for the time being. Keep in mind that the program seeks to require appropriate service that challenges and stretches students beyond their routines. During this time, we encourage students to be creative and come up with their own service projects that embody the "spirit" of the service-learning requirement, rather than the "law."

The following types of service will NOT be counted toward graduation requirements:

- Work for which the student receives pay
- Playing sports or exercising (including fundraising walks and runs) to raise money for a cause
- Brief, inconsequential posts on social media

The following types of service WILL be permitted toward graduation requirements:

- Letter-writing/telephone call campaign to residents in nursing homes or other isolated individuals
- Virtual forms of service, including but not limited to: virtual "visits" to the elderly/isolated, recording inspirational videos/poetry and then posting on appropriate platforms or sending to care facilities/isolated individuals, and other video recordings that demonstrate an appropriate expression of service during this time.
- Giving blood during this time of serious need
- Projects in which the student's family members are the primary recipients of the service
- Service which serves the university community
- Singing, playing, or performance-based service that does not involve relational interaction

Individually arranged projects must still be approved by the Leonard Center.



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How can I apply for individually arranged projects?

Students should still consult the Leonard Center for approval of individually arranged projects. Students should e-mail service@leeuniversity.edu with a description of the activity to request approval before engaging in the project. Once approval has been granted, the Leonard Center will determine the amount of service hours students will receive for their projects on a case-by-case basis.

Can I set up a Lee University sponsored/club sponsored service project?

During this pandemic, the Leonard Center encourages virtual and indirect forms of service. However, we acknowledge that there are many exigent situations that have arisen and/or have been made worse due to COVID-19 in which direct service is essential. Therefore, all Lee University sponsored/club sponsored service projects will be treated as off-campus events and must comply with the official "Campus Organizations Guidelines" established by the Office of Student Development. For help with this, contact Valerie Corbett at vcorbett@leeuniversity.edu.

Limitation on hours in one project:

The limitation of 20 hours per academic year for one organization or project has been temporarily lifted.

How do I turn in the service-learning hours that I have completed?

The Leonard Center requests that, for the time being, students refrain from using the official service form in favor of simply emailing their service reflection essays to service@leeuniversity.edu with the following information in the body of the email:

- 1) Student's name
- 2) Student ID number
- 3) Place/person/community served
- 4) Date(s) served
- 5) Number of hours served

For 1-10 hours of service, a two-page reflection essay is required; for 11-20 hours of service, a four-page reflection essay is required. Multiple service projects can be combined in one service reflection essay. The reflection essay should have evidence of critical thought and address at least two of the following topics:

- 1) Analyze how you applied your faith through your service experiences.
- 2) Discuss how your strengths and gifts were utilized in the service you performed.
- 3) Discuss how your service impacted those you served (i.e., individuals, organizations and/or the environment). Consider both immediate and long-term impacts.
- 4) Evaluate your responsibility in the larger community as the result of your service experiences.
- 5) Describe how your service experience connects with your intended vocation or career.

Is there a deadline for submitting service-learning hours?

Yes, the April 1, 2020, deadline has been eliminated for the spring 2020 semester. Therefore, service-learning hours completed between November 1, 2019, through October 1, 2020, are due by November 1, 2020. However, if you are graduating, please contact your academic dean's office for information regarding graduation deadlines.

