

# Service Learning



Building on a tradition of community service, the College of Mount St. Joseph proudly incorporates an innovative model of service learning. Included in the model is the “Plus One Credit Option” which encourages students to earn a free, one credit-hour addition to any course in which it is offered.

## “Plus One Credit Option” Overview

Service learning provides students with a unique opportunity to integrate a service experience into an academic course. Not only do students learn academically, they fulfill the Mount’s mission of service through integration of life and learning.

The extra credit hour, classified as a general elective, is documented as service learning on transcripts. Students may register for only one service credit in an approved course during a semester and may accumulate no more than three transcript-documented “Plus One” credits.

Below are some of the many benefits students gain from service learning:

- a greater understanding of social problems.
- a sense of responsibility for helping others solve problems.
- a commitment to volunteerism and an understanding of its connection to citizenship.
- an increased sense of community and appreciation for the cultural diversity of other people.
- a greater awareness of one’s faith and values.
- a chance to develop marketable skills and teamwork abilities.

## Program Partners

Community agencies selected as sites for service learning provide community-building opportunities consistent with the goals of the Service Learning program at the Mount. The number of agencies and organizations is limited to those which most closely align with the Mount’s mission in order to maintain enduring commitments to those organizations and neighborhoods.

On a yearly basis, Mount students volunteer at approximately 40 different community partners. These community agencies reach out to children and older adults, support environmental efforts, and address areas such as local poverty issues, emergency relief and housing needs for women and children. Many community partners are located within 20 minutes of the Mount, and some are located right in the Delhi neighborhood. Volunteers are also able to support a variety of programs under the Sisters of Charity, including Mother Margaret Hall, Bayley Senior Care and EarthConnection.



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