



Lasallian Service Learning

Service Learning at DLSU is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates social engagement with instruction. It is a course-based, credit-bearing experience where students participate in an organised service activity that meets identified community needs.

Major reforms in basic education in the Philippines have created opportunities to develop corresponding innovations in tertiary education. At DLSU, we identified Service Learning as one of the key features of the Lasallian Core Curriculum, a set of general education modules common to all undergraduates. As of 2018, 88% of all undergraduate programmes had a Service Learning component.

DLSU's Centre for Social Concern and Action (COSCA) is the main service unit that helps academic departments carry out Service Learning. Over 2,600 students have now participated, together with 30 partner community organisations.

Service Learning helps DLSU achieve and assess programme outcomes for social engagement. For instance, in AY2017-18, business students enrolled in a course on Corporate Social Responsibility developed promotional materials for the partner organisation, conducted leadership and management seminars, and produced educational materials for public school children. Economic Development students conducted household interviews and analysed the data to generate community profiles that became the basis for community development plans. Industrial Chemistry students conducted livelihood training on how to make soap, candles, ice cream, yoghurt, and fruit wine. Biology students conducted water quality analysis and ran seminars on the prevention of water-borne diseases. Clinical Psychology faculty and students ran sessions of a community-based rehabilitation programme for drug dependents.

DLSU also hosted the 6th Service Learning Asia Network meeting last June, in which 40 participants gathered to share experiences and good practices implementing Service Learning.

Service Learning implements DLSU's commitment to teach minds, touch hearts, transform lives, according to the mission of our founder St. John Baptist de la Salle. We are a teaching university, first of all, with faculty performance evaluated primarily on the basis of excellent teaching. Innovative teaching is awarded in the annual Pillars of Excellence Award, and an Instructional Incentive award is in place, for piloting techniques in the scholarship of teaching and learning. A recently-adopted Learning Management System (AnimoSpace, based on the Canvas platform) further integrates instruction, social engagement, and technology.

AUN-QA Criteria 4 Teaching & Learning

