2027 DaVinci Institute Two-Year Scholarship Award

Service Learning Proposal Criteria

Students in the 21st Century face many challenges, one of the most important being the necessity to make learning meaningful as well as improve the lives of others in their community. *How will I use what I'm learning? When will I ever need this? How can what I learn help those around me?* Service Learning projects are often seen as a way to address some of the recurring problems in education and society.

Service Learning is a pedagogy that utilizes interdisciplinary/cross curricular teaching to involve students in their communities to meet instructional objectives of courses. Students apply information from classes in authentic settings, while addressing critical needs in their community.

Service-learning has two components. The first is service to the community, often to a particular group in the community, and may be thought of as volunteerism or community service. Service-learning also requires that the project meet the appropriate, defined curricular outcomes for students at a particular level. A well-designed service-learning project must address both components.

The Proposal Criteria

The purpose of the Service Learning Proposal for the DaVinci Institute Two-Year Scholarship Award is to show evidence that the applicant knows his or her content and can integrate creativity, innovation, and sustainability into a service learning project. Additionally, it will give readers an insight into the applicant's educational background, writing skills, and creativity.

Applicants will design a Service Learning Proposal to be accomplished on the college campus, the surrounding community in which the institution is situated, and/or the greater society.

The formal proposal must not exceed five (5) pages. It must be double-spaced, using Times New Roman in 12-point font. **The written proposal is all that is required in this application, not the completed implementation of the proposal/plan.**

A well-planned service learning project should include:

1) Stated academic and service goals that are linked
2) Identification of the reciprocal benefits of service for both the student and the community partner
3) Creativity and Innovation
4) Strategies for assessment with an approved project supervisor
5) Opportunities for reflection

The narrative should at a minimum include:

A) Project Title
B) Projected Outcomes
    i) What students will know or be able to do after completing the unit
    ii) Expected Academic gains
    iii) Expected Societal gains
    iv) Expected Impact/Outcomes
C) The Service Component
    i) The Need
    ii) Community Partners
D) Timeline
    i) A sequential listing of tasks to be completed in this unit
E) Sustainability
    i) An explanation of how the project will continue once the nominee is no longer directly involved