



Trinity Lutheran College Service Learning Partner Selection Criteria

The staff and faculty of Trinity Lutheran College determine the compatibility of prospective placements with the college's service learning mission and goals. An effort is made to recruit Service Learning Partners representing a wide variety of issue areas and communities, including congregational ministry, direct service, public policy, community organizing, and advocacy. We take into account the specific merits and circumstances of each prospective placement. Because making the best possible placement/match is important, ***we cannot guarantee that an approved placement site will receive a student.*** Outlined below are the criteria that inform our decisions on placement applications.

1. Program Eligibility

- Trinity places students with nonprofit (tax-exempt, 501c3) organizations and ministries that care for the people of their community and that enable students to integrate their values and actions.
- Trinity is committed to strengthening underserved urban communities. Trinity seeks placement sites that empower community members and work for systemic change.
- Though placement sites need not have connections to congregational or religious organization, Trinity values placement sites that provide rich contexts for ethical and theological reflection on service and community.

2. Job Description

- The placement must provide three to five hours per week of supervised engagement, fill a need within the organization, and support its work.
- Positions should be both challenging and of a reasonable workload.

3. Supervision/Staffing

- Quality training and supervision for the student are expected. The experience, longevity, and accessibility of the student's Site Mentor are key factors.
- We appreciate the representation of people of color in supervisory and other leadership positions.
- We appreciate agencies where the staff composition reflects the client base and community served and where there are opportunities for people from the community or former clients to work in the agency.

4. Leadership

- We look for agencies that give voice to the communities they serve in decision-making.

5. Repeat Applications

- Applications are accepted from organizations that are current or past Service Learning Partners and from organizations new to Trinity's Service Learning program. All applications are considered equally and the same criteria will be used to evaluate them all; current or past placements receive no priority in acceptance decisions.