



Eastern Michigan University Student Engagement Guide for Volunteer Work and Service Projects

This guide encompasses multiple offices and department through Eastern Michigan University so some contact information and current programming may become outdated.

Work-Study Students

The U.S. Department of Education offers work-study as a type of financial aid for undergraduate students who work part-time jobs to pay expenses related to their education. EMU has a community-based work-study program ([CWSP](#)) where students are hired as part-time employees of the University and then placed in local nonprofit organizations. The Department of Education mandates that a certain percentage of a University's work-study funding be used for jobs considered "in the public interest". EMU satisfies this requirement through this program.

Nonprofit organizations can bring in student workers by creating specific student worker positions and detailing job responsibilities or submitting existing volunteer positions. The actual recruitment and hiring of students is done by EMU. The positions cannot be used to replace work intended for paid staff, so the student workers cannot assume too much responsibility in their roles. Otherwise, the program works similar to supervising part time student employees although they report their hours to and are paid through an outside sponsor. Students work an average of 10 hours a week.

Benefits

The main benefit to the CWSP is that students are being compensated (currently \$10/hour). Most students have established weekly schedules and are more reliable than volunteers.

Barriers

While the student workers function much like part-time employees, they are being paid by EMU. While there are many opportunities for performance management and evaluation, the ultimate HR decision are made by EMU and not the community organization. EMU also will recruit the students and place them so the organization will not have as much influence in choosing student workers.

Process

[Engage@EMU](#) runs the CWSP. A Graduate Assistant typically operates the program directly (currently Julie Vogl). After agreeing to the conditions of the program, the office will reach out when they feel they have a suitable candidate for the position. Students are typically recruited heaviest during the first two weeks of the academic calendar (early September or January) and again around a month into the semester (early October or February).

Key Contacts

Decky Alexander, Engage@EMU Director (487-6570, jalexandel@emich.edu)
Julie Vogl, Engage@EMU Community Collaborative Graduate Assistant (487-6570, jvogl@emich.edu)
203 Boone Hall
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Student Volunteers

Student community service is directed by the [VISION Volunteer Center](#) (Volunteers Incorporating Service Into Our Neighborhoods). Most often students are trying to earn Learning Beyond the Classroom (LBC) credits or pre-student teaching hours. LBC credit requirements encourage students to engage in activities outside the classroom and gain hands-on experience and are a required part of the EMU curriculum. One LBC category is “Community Service, Citizenship, and Leadership” and students often satisfy this requirement through volunteering. VISION also coordinates the [MLK Day of Service](#) annually.

A nonprofit organization can bring in student volunteers by identifying regular volunteer needs or one-time or recurring events. Students can sign up directly for volunteer opportunities or they can register through VISION. Students typically serve 20-40 volunteer hours, although this can be spread out over their entire college career.

Benefits

Because the community service requirement is applicable to all EMU undergraduates, the pool from which a community organization can recruit will be over 15,000.

Barriers

Volunteers may be less reliable than students getting paid. Transportation to offices not located near the EMU campus or downtown Ypsilanti will be an issue for the many EMU students without cars. The LRC requirement can be easily obtained through opportunities in Ypsilanti so students may be less motivated to travel to Ann Arbor or other areas.

Process

VISION operates with one staff member (currently Becca Timmermans) and student workers. Volunteer opportunities are posted on the [Volunteer Connection website](#). All submissions on Volunteer Connection cross post with the United Way of Washtenaw County and the University of Michigan Ginsberg Center.

Key Contacts

Becca Timmermans, VISION Volunteer Center Program Coordinator (487-1313,
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Nonprofit Leadership Alliance Internships

The [Nonprofit Leadership Alliance](#) (NLA) is a professional development organization housed at EMU. It is open to the community but many members are EMU students and staff. Many members work toward the [Certified Nonprofit Professional credential](#) which requires a 300 hour internship.

A nonprofit organization can join as a partner with the NLA and host interns for part or all of their 300 hour requirement. Internships are not based on the academic calendar and can be done in the summer as well.

Benefits

NLA students are pursuing a professional credential in nonprofit management so are likely more knowledgeable about the operation of a nonprofit organization and perhaps more passionate about charitable causes. Depending on where they are along the credential requirements path, students may also have taken upper-level management coursework or participated in other volunteer leadership activities.

Barriers

The NLA does not have large student membership and their advisory board includes staff from multiple nonprofit organizations. If not already involved with the NLA, a new nonprofit organization might have to wait for opportunities to partner as a host for interns.

Process

The NLA is operated by a faculty member (currently Tucker Staley) and a graduate assistant (currently Lisa Gavan). A nonprofit organization would just need to email the office to request becoming a partner for internships. If accepted, the office would place a student with the organization and they would verify hours and performance throughout the length of the internship with the office.

Key Contacts

Tucker Staley, NLA Campus Director (487-1460, tstaley2@emich.edu)

Lisa Gavan, NLA Graduate Assistant (487-1612, nonprofit@emich.edu)

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Academic-Service Learning

[Academic Service-Learning](#) (ASL) is a teaching and learning strategy where students participate in community service activities. The ASL Office is housed within [Engage@EMU](#) and hosts faculty fellows who implement service project into their course offerings. Students taking these courses can participate in volunteer opportunities at nonprofit organizations.

ASL volunteer opportunities are often more fleshed out than other volunteer events and a community organization would collaborate with an EMU professor on how the placement would add to their academic goals for the course.

Benefits

Along with the volunteer help from individual students, a nonprofit organization can connect with faculty interested in community service and form long lasting relationships. ASL partnerships can result in longer term projects with students whose academic studies align with a nonprofit's service areas.

Barriers

While there are many courses that fulfill the LBC requirement, there are only around a dozen ASL courses a semester, so this pool of students is smaller. There is also a larger time commitment from nonprofit staff as the collaboration between community partner and faculty is more intentional.

Process

The ASL office is housed within [Engage@EMU](#). A graduate assistant (currently Kristen Klochko) oversees the program. An email to the program GA expressing interest will start the process. Faculty fellows are chosen before a semester starts so any student aid would need to be coordinated in August for the Fall semester beginning in September and December for the Winter semester beginning in January.

Key Contacts

Decky Alexander, Engage@EMU Director (487-6570, jalexandel@emich.edu)

Kristen Klochko, Engage@EMU/ASL Graduate Assistant (487-6570, kklochko@emich.edu)

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Academic Placements

EMU students in certain academic programs are required to complete service projects or on the job experience related to their field of study that could be completed with nonprofit organizations. Students in these programs could reach out to a community for placement if the organization is listed as a partner for academic advisors in the different departments. These placements are often extracurricular degree requirements and thus students are more likely to arrange them than faculty or advisors, though this could vary depending on the current operating procedures of the various departments.

Benefits

Students seeking extracurricular academic experience are more likely to be upper classman and their academic interests are likely to match the individual programming of a nonprofit. Students may have also taken upper-level coursework in related fields.

Barriers

Depending on the academic program, students may have very different hour requirements for their academic placement. The method of reporting the students' hours may also vary by department. It may be difficult to have the staff of a nonprofit organization supervise all academically placed students in the same manner due to these differences between departments.

Process

Individual academic departments oversee their students' placements. An advisor will typically be the contact person for the community organization to reach out and ask to be added as a partner for academic placements. Some departments may direct inquiries to a director or a graduate assistant as well. The following programs are known to regularly place students: Pre-Occupational Therapy, Social Work, Nursing, Elementary Education, Secondary Education, Speech-Language Pathology, Environmental Science and Society and Special Education. In addition, students enrolled in the Honors College complete an academic placement regardless of major.

Key Contacts

[Special Education](#) - Dawn Leighton, 487-3300, dleight@emich.edu

[Occupational Therapy](#) - Sandy Ainley, 474-4096, sainley@emich.edu

[Social Work](#) - David Manville, 487-6634, dmanvill@emich.edu

[Nursing](#) - Justin Landis, 487-0918, chhsadvising@emich.edu

Nicole Binkowski, 487-0918, chhsadvising@emich.edu

[Teacher Education](#) - Sheri Hillman, 487-3260, shillma1@emich.edu

[Environmental Science and Society](#) – Dr. Katherine Greenwald, 487-3266,
kathering.greenwald@emich.edu

[Honors College](#) – 487-0341, emuhonors@emich.edu

