



Office of Service-Learning UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

2023-24 Service-Learning Fellows (SLF) Program Call for Applications

Applications due Friday March 17, 2023

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Service-Learning Fellows Program is a year-long faculty development program that provides an opportunity for selected faculty members to integrate service-learning into their teaching, research, and public service work, while becoming recognized campus leaders in service-learning pedagogy and community engagement. The Fellowship includes a \$2500 faculty development award. Up to 8 Fellows will be selected for this year's program in a competitive review process. **Fellowship applications for 2023-24 are due Fri., March 17, 2023.**

ELIGIBILITY

The Service-Learning Fellows Program is supported by the Office of Service-Learning and is **open to all UGA faculty members** in any rank or role, including academic tenure track, lecturers, academic professionals, public service faculty, and clinical faculty members with an interest in service-learning. *Previous experience with or knowledge of service-learning pedagogy is not required.*

PROGRAM GOALS

Established in 2006, the Service-Learning Fellows program is committed to supporting participants in the following endeavors:

- Developing and implementing a service-learning course or project (see below);
- Becoming part of a core group of faculty leaders engaged in service-learning pedagogy;
- Increasing familiarity and exposure to service-learning theory and current research;
- Applying best practices of service-learning research and pedagogy;
- Considering ways to integrate service-learning throughout the curriculum or programs of study;
- Connecting to public service and outreach initiatives and existing community-university partnerships; and
- Considering development of interdisciplinary service-learning projects through conversation and collaboration with faculty from other disciplines.

WHAT IS SERVICE-LEARNING?

Commitment to public service is part of the University of Georgia's institutional culture and our historic land- and sea-grant mission. Academic service-learning is an experiential learning method that goes beyond volunteerism, creating course-based opportunities for students to apply and more fully understand academic knowledge through projects and placements that address genuine community needs and benefit the public good. Over 400 service-learning course sections per year are now offered, in all of UGA's schools and colleges, in online and study-abroad settings, and on extended campuses.

Academic service-learning is further defined as "a course-based, credit-bearing educational experience in which students: a) participate in an organized service activity that meets identified community needs, and b) reflect on the service activity in such a way as to gain further understanding of course content, a broader appreciation of the discipline, and an enhanced sense of personal values and civic responsibility" (Bringle & Hatcher, 1995).



Office of Service-Learning UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Commitment to **full participation** in the program activities is essential and is **required** for consideration as a Service-Learning Fellow. Applicants must commit to the following activities in order to be considered for selection:

- Participation in mandatory **monthly Fellows meetings**. Meetings are generally about 2 hours in length. For fall 2023, applicants should indicate availability for one or more of the likely time-slots. Spring 2024 meetings will be scheduled based on the group's availability.
- A **mandatory daylong kickoff session** is held prior to the start of the program year. **The 2023-24 session will be held during the week prior to the start of fall semester.** This retreat provides an introduction to service-learning pedagogy and the goals of the Fellows program, a sustained opportunity to engage with service-learning topics, and an opportunity to build collaborative relationships with other faculty in the program.
- Fellows are required to develop a **service-learning project** throughout the fellowship period. See below for project guidelines.
- A culminating **Service-Learning Fellows Showcase** is held in April of the fellowship year, usually in conjunction with the Public Service & Outreach annual meeting. This provides a venue for participants to present their final projects and be recognized by the larger campus community.

FELLOWSHIP AWARD

A **\$2,500 fellowship award** is provided for discretionary use for activities such as professional development, course development, research, and implementation costs that could include curriculum materials, shared materials for community partners, and course- or project-related travel. Funds must be spent during the fiscal year of the program and cannot be used for summer salary.

PROJECT GUIDELINES

The Service-Learning Fellows program is first and foremost a faculty development program, not a grant or project funding source. Each Fellow develops and/or implements a service-learning project during the year. Generally, projects are implemented during the Fellowship year, but in some instances may extend past the Fellowship year. The Service-Learning Fellowship award of \$2,500 may be used to help implement this project or provide additional professional development support for participants. Possible project ideas include the following:

- Development of a new service-learning course (in Athens, on extended campuses, online, or in study abroad or domestic field study programs) -- especially for 1000- and 2000-level classes;
- Enhancing, redesigning, expanding or revamping an existing service-learning course (for instance with new partnerships, project ideas, or activities);
- Connecting coursework to existing community-university partnerships such as Experience UGA, Campus Kitchen, Archway Partnership, etc.;
- Development of interdisciplinary or departmental service-learning collaborations or community-engagement connections between instruction and Public Service and Outreach.

Support for project development is discussed during monthly meetings and through meetings with former Service-Learning Fellows serving as faculty mentors. Final projects are highlighted formally at the end of the program during the April Showcase. *Projects may be adapted or changed during the year as participants develop in their understanding of service-learning.* For more information on previous projects or other questions related to the program, contact Dr. Paul Matthews, Associate Director, Office of Service-Learning, pmatthews@uga.edu or 706-542-0892.



Office of Service-Learning UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

To be considered for the 2023-24 Service-Learning Fellows program, please submit the following four items to the Office of Service-Learning by **Friday, March 17, 2023**:

1. Application Form Cover Sheet (fillable PDF)
2. Letter of Support from Department Chair or Dean (please limit to two pages). This letter should:
 - confirm support for the faculty member's application, project, and attendance at all required meetings and events, including the initial retreat;
 - describe how the department/unit would benefit from the applicant's participation in the program; and
 - detail any departmental/unit contributions to the proposed project
3. Letter of Intent and Project Proposal (please limit to three pages). This should include the following:
 - Your previous experiences with service-learning (if any);
 - Your interest in the program and how you would benefit from the Fellowship;
 - How your department/unit would benefit from your participation;
 - Your proposed service-learning project, including:
 - a. Summary of proposed service-learning project
 - b. Name of the existing or proposed academic course involved
 - c. Potential impact on student engagement/learning
 - d. Anticipated or confirmed connection to community partners/issues/needs
 - e. Expected project timeline
4. Current short *Curriculum Vitae* (please limit to 5 pages)

Mail, email, or deliver application materials to:

Dr. Paul Matthews, Associate Director
Office of Service-Learning
1242 ½ S. Lumpkin St.
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602
pmatthews@uga.edu

NOTIFICATION OF SELECTION

Applicants will be notified of selection before the end of Spring semester (2023).



Office of Service-Learning
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

2023-24 Service-Learning Fellows (SLF) Program

APPLICATION COVER SHEET

Applications due Friday, March 17, 2023

Name: _____

Position/Title: _____

Department/Unit: _____

College/School: _____

Campus Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____

Office Phone: _____

Home or Cell Phone: _____

Faculty Career Track Type (select one):

I am: (select one)

I certify that I:

Have read and understand the program goals, obligations, and expectations

Will carry out an approved service-learning project if selected as a Fellow

Will attend the Fellows Retreat, final showcase, and monthly meetings

Available for retreat on (mark all that apply): Aug. 9 Aug. 10 Aug. 11 Aug. 14 Aug. 15

For fall semester 2023 I can attend potential meetings on (mark all that apply):

Monday morning

Monday afternoon

Tuesday morning

Tuesday afternoon

Wednesday morning

Wednesday afternoon

Thursday morning

Thursday afternoon

Friday morning

Comments:

My application includes this cover sheet and:

Letter of Support from Department/Unit Head or Dean

Letter of Intent and Project Proposal

Short Curriculum Vitae

Please submit all materials by the stated deadline to:

Dr. Paul Matthews, Associate Director

Office of Service-Learning

1242 ½ S. Lumpkin St. Athens, GA 30602

Email pmatthews@uga.edu