2024-25 Service-Learning Fellows (SLF) Program

Call for Applications

Applications due Friday March 29, 2024

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 2024-25 are due Fri., March 29, 2024.

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).
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 2024, applicants should indicate availability for one or more of the likely time-slots. Spring 2025 meetings will be scheduled based on the group’s availability.
- **A mandatory daylong kickoff 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. Available dates are requested as part of the application.
- 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 during Honors Week. 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. Applicants are asked provide unit budget information for funds transfer as part of their application.

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.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION
To be considered for the 2024-25 Service-Learning Fellows program, please apply at the online Qualtrics form (http://tinyurl.com/SLF2024), which includes the following, by Friday, March 29, 2024:

1. Applicant information (name, title, contact information, budget information, etc.)

2. Upload the Letter of Support from Department Chair or Dean (please limit to two pages, as PDF). 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. Upload the Letter of Intent and Project Proposal (please limit to three pages, as PDF). 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, as PDF)

Submit all application materials online via Qualtrics at: http://tinyurl.com/SLF2024

NOTIFICATION OF SELECTION
Applicants will be notified of selection before the end of Spring semester (2024).

Please direct any questions to:
Dr. Paul Matthews, Associate Director
UGA Office of Service-Learning
pmatthews@uga.edu 706-542-0892