

Transform Teaching

**Engage
Communities**



**Rediscover
Learning**

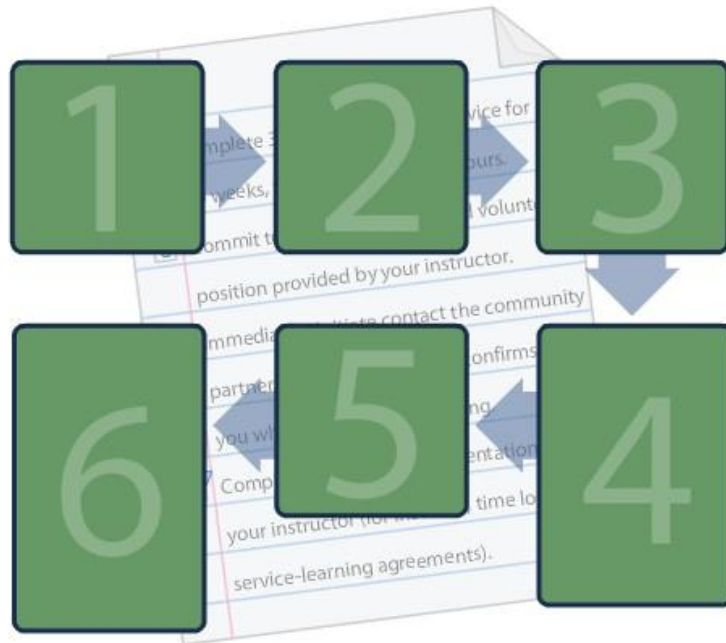
APPLES

Service-Learning Program

Course Content

APPLES Overview, Expectations and the Process

This [one-minute microlecture](#) previews content to be covered in the course Introduction. After watching each video, make sure to toggle back to this document.



Overview



What is APPLES?



APPLES is a service-learning program founded in 1990 by students who believed learning extends beyond the walls of the classroom.



What is service-learning?



Service-learning is a type of experiential education which involves the integration of academic coursework with meaningful and relevant community service.



How many students are involved?

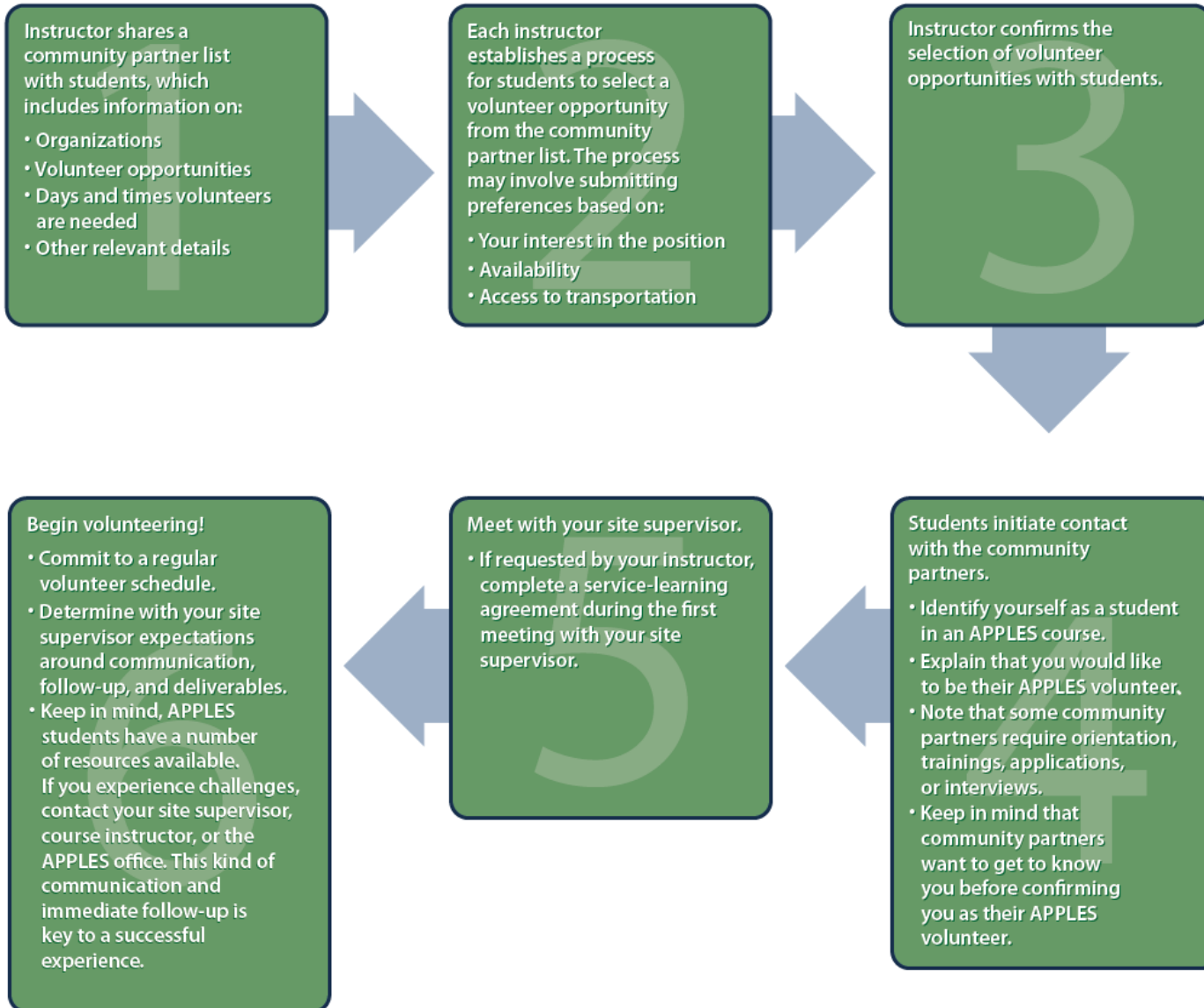


Offered through the Carolina Center for Public Service, APPLES enrolls more than 2,500 students each year in more than 100 service-learning courses across the disciplines

Expectations

- Complete 3-5 hours a week of service for 10 weeks, for a minimum of 30 hours.
- Commit to one organization and volunteer position provided by your instructor.
- Immediately initiate contact with the community partner, once your instructor confirms where you are volunteering.
- Complete additional documentation from your instructor (for instance, time logs or service-learning agreements).

The Process



Testimonies

Now that you have been introduced to APPLES, take a moment to view [this video](#), which includes testimonies from community leaders and students who have volunteered:

- As an individual or as part of a team.
- In direct or indirect service to clients (for instance, having direct contact with clients to whom they serve meals at the Inter-Faith Council [IFC], or having indirect contact with these clients by creating a donation flyer for IFC).
- In more traditional volunteering (for example, coaching twice a week for BounceBack Kids) or in project-based volunteering (for instance, planning a fun run to raise funds for BounceBack Kids).



Summary



APPLES offers an array of programs including internships, fellowships and alternative break experiences. Please visit the [APPLES website](#) for more information.

Now that you are familiar with APPLES Service-Learning, the process for participating in the program, and expectations for students, you are ready to begin the next section.

Creating Successful Community Partnerships

This [one-minute microlecture](#) previews content to be covered in Creating Successful Community Partnerships.



Four Concepts for Creating Successful Community Partnerships



Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) is an approach to community-based development, based on the principles of:

- Appreciating and mobilizing individual and community talents, skills and assets (rather than focusing on problems and needs).
- Community-driven development rather than development driven by external agencies.

Four Concepts for Creating Successful Community Partnerships



A key reason to serve your community through APPLES is to gain hands-on experience, and a large part of this experience stems from listening and paying attention to your environment and those with whom you work. As you serve your community partner:

- Listen to directions, observe their approach and learn from it.
- Listen to the partner's perspective, specifically their description of past mistakes, the population they serve and difficulties they've encountered in the past and have tried to resolve.

Four Concepts for Creating Successful Community Partnerships



- Challenge your assumptions about the community and the issues the community partner is addressing.
- Keep an open mind about the experience of the people the community partner serves, making sure not to assign any judgments or expectations.
- Allow the service-learning experience to better inform you about the complexities of the issues in the community.
- Continue to build sensitivities to the community, its people and the issues addressed through the community partner.

Four Concepts for Creating Successful Community Partnerships



4 Skill-Based Volunteerism

Approach service with the knowledge that you have specialized skills and talents. Serve with an awareness of what you have to offer and take action to capitalize on those skills.

The Four Concepts in Action

Asset-Based Community Development

Listening & Learning

Keep an Open Mind

Skill-Based Volunteerism

Now that you are aware of the four concepts, let's take a look at how each applies to APPLES and service-learning. Click the link for each concept to view a short video.

[Asset-Based Community Development](#)

[Listening and Learning](#)

[Keep an Open Mind](#)

[Skill-Based Volunteerism](#)

Summary

We have covered the four concepts for creating successful community partnerships:

- Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD)
- Listening and Learning
- Keep an Open Mind
- Skill-Based Volunteerism



Making it Meaningful

This [one-minute microlecture](#) previews content to be covered in Making It Meaningful.



Reflection

Reflecting on your service is key; it helps connect your classroom learning with your community experience in an academic context. It can also lead to further action and a broader perspective on concepts encountered throughout the course and in the community.

To complete your service experience, reflect in and out of class.

- Objectively describe facts and events related to your experience.
- Subjectively analyze the experience using the disciplinary lens from your course.
- Consider the future impact of the experience on you and the community.
- In addition, your course evaluation allows you to comprehensively reflect on your APPLES service experience.



Practical Advice

Before you launch into your APPLES service-learning experience, review these tips from students and community partners:



- Ask questions.
- If you have any problems or issues, deal with them early on in the semester.
- Be creative with problem solving.
- Use your resources.
- Balance your time wisely.
- Remember to connect the classroom experience to the community experience.
- Be open to new experiences and people.
- Be culturally sensitive.
- Be reliable.
- Communicate with your community partner.
- Check out [this video](#) for more practical advice.

Grants

One way to deepen your service-learning experience is to apply for a Partnership Grant. These grants fund supplementary materials for enhancement projects related to your community partner.



Ten Partnership Grants of up to \$100 each are awarded each semester. Applications must be submitted with both a student and community partner signature.

[Apply online](#) on the APPLES website.

Summary

In this section APPLES students and community partners provided advice on creating a meaningful volunteer experience (for example, reflecting on your experience and connecting it to your work in the classroom). In addition, you learned about Partnership Grants and how to apply for one.

You have reached the end of *Orientation to APPLES Service-Learning*. We hope you have a successful semester both in the classroom and in the community.



What's Next?

Now that you have completed the orientation to APPLES, you are ready to begin your service-learning experience. Feel free to review content in this course any time during the semester. And don't forget the following resources:

- APPLES staff and students
- Your professor
- Your peers
- Your community partner
- Yourself





What's Next?

In addition, the [APPLES website](#) includes information on the following post class opportunities:

- Bryan Social Innovation Fellowships
- Spring and Summer Internships
- Alternative Breaks
- SMART Mentoring
- Service-Learning Initiative

Best of luck in your volunteer endeavors!