

Community Service

Lower Level, Non-Liberal, 4 credits

Community Service is considered to be lower level knowledge that is non-liberal. It represents foundational skills and concepts that an entry level human service worker has acquired. Community Service is more often about how we do things (i.e., non-liberal) and not necessarily why we do things (i.e., liberal). Community Service is offered at the lower level.

The questions below can only be utilized for Community Service at the lower level, not advanced level. If you are requesting advanced level credit, this should be titled Delivering Human Services as you would need to demonstrate that your knowledge, skills, and application goes beyond what is described below. Remember you are being evaluated on your knowledge and skills, not about your years of experience.

Please use the questions below to structure your PLA submission on the topic of Community Service. Copy each question and respond directly below it. If you utilize an outside source, such as a website or a book, make sure to reference this in your response. The responses to the questions should be submitted in a Word document and uploaded in PLA Planner. In PLA Planner, you would list the topic as Community Service, asking for 4 credits, and designate this as Lower Level and Non-Liberal.

Please note – responding to these questions is not a guarantee of credit. You will still be expected to speak with an evaluator and answer any supplemental questions that they may have. The evaluator would then make a credit determination.

Questions for Students to respond to

We suggest you save this document with your name and the title of the PLA (e.g., Smith Community Service PLA) and answer beneath each question below.

Name:

ID:

PLA Title: Community Service

Number of Credits Requested: 4

Type: Lower level, Non-Liberal

1. Describe in detail your experiences in community service. This may also be called volunteering. Name the organization that you conducted community service for, the types of activities that you performed, the length of time performing the service, and the type of population that you worked with. For example, you were an auxiliary police officer in New York City for 5 years or you worked as a volunteer in a nursing home for 10 years as a recreational therapy aide.

2. For the organization that you performed community service for, identify the roles within that organization and how you interacted with them.

3. Identify the mission of the organization that you performed community service for.

4. How did community service, or volunteering, fit into the services performed by the organization?

5. Identify potential barriers or gaps that you saw while performing community service for a particular population. Discuss how this affected the organization overall. For example, as an auxiliary police officer you identified that more training was needed for volunteers in dealing with the public, while as a volunteer in a nursing home you identified that more volunteers were needed for the number of elderly that were there.

6. Discuss in detail any training, workshops, or readings that you may have undergone in order to perform community service.