I truly can’t say enough good things about my service-learning class. This whole service-learning experience has opened my eyes to the extreme injustices in this world. Not everyone is as fortunate as I am, and I want to help out where I can. The kids at my place put a name and face to the horrific statistics in the world. It made the injustices of the world seem real to me. You should enroll in a service-learning class if you want to make a difference in people’s lives. One thing I learned is that just simply caring and listening to these kids will have a huge effect on them. Three hours has changed my life. – Mackenzie G.

The Service-Learning Program is a great program for your freshman year. It’s allows you to meet new people and make connections. I love the connections we made to our in class discussions with the material and our service site. Project HOME’s St. Columba’s allowed me to see and experience people who live a completely different life than myself…I have gained so much knowledge and I would recommend to anyone in any major. – Erin R.

Service-Learning taught me how to connect with people of completely different backgrounds from my own. I learned about many of the systemic flaws in American society, especially the education system. It was one of the most worthwhile experiences of my life and I’m very grateful having been given this opportunity. – William A.

As an international relations major, I have always been concerned with the big picture. It is way easier to speak and write about injustices that are happening in faraway places. Service-Learning...gave me an opportunity to meet members of the community, from all areas of life. I was lucky enough to have meaningful, genuine dialogues with the people at my service site. I was able to talk and write about these dialogues in my Texts and Contexts class, but really, in all of my classes and activities on campus. I have made long lasting relationships with people in my class and people in my community that have definitely made my transition to Philadelphia worth it. Service-Learning gave me a new perspective, and taught me that injustices aren’t reserved for faraway lands and third world countries. There are grave injustices in our backyard. – Bridget B.

The opportunity to build relationships and work in solidarity with others in a local community is something special and unique to the service-learning program as a whole. Being able to discuss social justice issues experienced first-hand in an academic setting incorporates the Jesuit ideals of fostering relationships both in and out of the classroom. – Mary Kate T.
Service-Learning connects the classroom to outside experiences. It’s one thing to read about injustices, but it is another to see and interact with those who experience it - makes it more personal and real. – Lauren H.

Service-Learning created a whole new dynamic to my learning experience. It was a great opportunity to not only bond with other Saint Joe’s students but also people in the Philadelphia community. It was my favorite part of my freshman year. – Stephanie S.

Service-Learning created an opportunity for me to make new friends and have a different outlook on helping others. – Andrew B.

Through service-learning courses you will find yourself learning more and more about not only the people at your service site but also yourself and the society that we are all apart of. These lessons go beyond the classroom and serve as a text that you will be able to reflect on, write about, and converse about within and outside of the classroom. If you enjoy to write, reflect, and learn, then service-learning is definitely for you. You will learn a multitude of things that no standard classroom environment can teach you. With the information or lessons you are taught you will want to reflect on your past and your current being. In writing your thoughts you can bring service-learning beyond a single year course and look back at your thoughts that you applied to paper and relive this enlightening experience. Service-Learning can also serve as a break from the daily class, homework, and library sessions. I was able to take this break and rejuvenate myself... – Matthew B.

Participating in a service-learning class my freshman year not only brought a new meaning to the topics we were learning in class, but also broadened my horizons and my knowledge of the Philadelphia area! – Amanda H.

I thoroughly enjoyed my service-learning course; it was my favorite class all year long. Going to service every week was such a life-changing experience because I gained a perspective on life that I had previously been ignorant of. I also learned so much about myself by taking this course. I cannot emphasis enough how much I would encourage rising First-year students to take a service-learning course. It will make you think, feel and reflect on many of the injustices of the world, and teach you ways to help fight against these injustices. I have matured as a student and as a person from taking this service-learning class, and I do not have any regrets about my experiences. If you wish to make the most of your freshman year, taking a service-learning class is a great way to do so. – David E.

I highly recommend first year students to enroll in a Freshman Service-Learning Course. It offers a new perspective to incoming students who are transitioning into adulthood and allows them to make an impact in the community around us. – Paul G.

I learned that service involves being present for other people. Service has taught me that it is important to treat people with human dignity and to see their value as a person instead of by the situation in which they are living. Service-Learning is an importance course for
first year students since it gives incoming students to have a greater understanding about
the world as well as themselves through the program. First year students especially learn a
lot about who they are or who they want to be through participating in service-learning.
-Angela N.

Service-Learning is an experience unlike any other here at SJU. You will have an
opportunity to open your mind and your heart to people who you would never cross paths
with otherwise. It will teach you patience and compassion and allow you to learn and grow
as a better student and person. – Jackie B.

Through my service-learning course this year I learned what it truly means to live with and
for others. The course enables you to develop relationships with those at your service site,
teaching you how to be an advocate for anyone who may need one. – Samantha W.

Service-Learning will open your eyes and allow you to see what you learn about in class in
the real world. Take a service-learning class!! – Sammy K.

Incoming freshman should definitely enroll in a Freshman Service-Learning class because it
will enhance their experience and gives a face to the people they will learn about in class. –
Quinn S.

The most influential lesson I learned is to be grateful for the life you are given. The people
at my service site were all in wheelchairs, so they faced the hardship of not being able to do
the typical everyday things for themselves. After being at service for the year it makes me
thankful for all the basic things I am able to do. Incoming first year students should enroll
in a Freshman Service-Learning course because it gives you a different way to get involved.
It also helps you to be able to see the community you are living in, in a different way.
Service-Learning is a good thing for first year students to get involved in. – Sophie T.

The most influential lesson I learned at service was how important it is to connect with
people. People are more likely to get along and are more eager to learn/be taught by people
they get along with. In class, we have discussions and writing assignments, describing what
we did at service each time we go. Incoming first year students should enroll in a Freshman
Service-Learning course because from personal experience it has made me more aware of
what some people in the world are going through. It is a great learning experience and
although it is time consuming it is worth it to see that you are able to help people while
being at service. I highly recommend it and I have learned so much from it. – Casey S.
I think that service-learning has helped me become more outgoing. It has helped me to step out of my comfortable zone because I forced myself to go and start conversations with complete strangers...Service has helped me learn that you can always find things in common with someone, no matter how different they seem from you. I was able to find something I had in common with everyone I talked to at Covenant House. This is an idea that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. – Katie B.

The most influential thing I learned this year in service-learning is how to be more understanding and compassionate. I knew that many people did not have it as lucky as my family, friends, and I, but by doing service, I saw the true, harsh reality of it and the struggles people face. Service-Learning serves as another text because we write essays and connect classwork back to service.... Incoming first year students should enroll in a freshman service-learning course because it truly is a one-of-a-kind experience – Erica S. The most influential lesson I learned from my service-learning course was the difference between empathy and sympathy. Service-Learning courses put service on another, deeper level because we experience the things that we talk about in class. Incoming freshman should take service-learning to be more aware of the area surrounding our school. – Morgan G.

Service-Learning is more than just a class and a few hours of helping another... It provides the opportunity for one to discover who he or she really is, while enriching the lives of others. During my time at the Inglis House’s Adult Day Program, I have come to understand that being a volunteer of Inglis is not about "helping those in need”, but rather being with one another and forming relationships that a bidirectional. Inglis House is constantly working to better improve the opportunities for independence on behalf of the residents. It is truly an institution that strives for the future. – Julia D

Most importantly I learned how to communicate with others that don’t have the same means of communication as I do. Freshman should enroll into service-learning because it opens your eyes up to the real world away from SJU. – B.F.

This year in service-learning, my eyes were opened to my structural and social inequalities that exist right in our backyard. By visiting an all-male homeless shelter in Center City, Philadelphia I learned firsthand the issues and discrimination the men face. My eyes were opened in ways I never would have imagined without service. I would suggest everyone to open themselves up to an experience that will truly change your time here at SJU and allow you to experience The Magis first hand! – Cecily D.

Everyone should enroll in a Service-Learning course because it helped me learn a lot about myself. In high school my biggest worry was not having the newest designer thing. With the help of service-learning I now realize that there are kids who aren’t even getting a proper education system. It completely changed my perspective towards life. – Gina B.
I have learned a lot from service-learning and being empathetic toward another person. I first learned about empathy in class during one of the discussions on injustices at our service site. It means reaching out to the person and bringing yourself to them. In other words it refers to a person trying to better a person by living in solidarity with them. Definitely through my experiences at Lutheran Settlement House, I have learned so much from a diverse set of students that has made me a better person and a more well informed individual of the injustices that are found in the Philadelphia area. I would never trade my experiences from this year for anything else and I can’t thank SJU enough for the opportunity to both improve myself and improve the lives of the students I work with. – Matt G.

The most influential lesson I learned through service-learning is to not judge a book by its cover. The course I took required a lot of reflection. Just the same as you would reflect on a book and how it makes you feel, we reflect on every aspect of service-learning from education to homelessness. In reflecting we find issues that we have never been aware of before. Incoming first year students should enroll in a Freshman service-learning course because it will open their eyes to the reality of Philadelphia and how they can make a difference. – Kristen M.

I think the most influential lesson I learned this year was we cannot judge a book by its cover. Service-Learning allows you to expand your writing and learn a whole new part of the world that you wouldn’t learn in another English class. It allows you to learn about your surrounding community and is a big reason I am who I am. The way you spend your first year in college can shape who you become as a person as a whole. Service-Learning can help you in becoming an all-around educated and caring person. I strongly recommend taking a service-learning course! – Patrick L

I would highly encourage incoming first year students to enroll in a Freshman Service-Learning course because it brings to life our motto of the Magis. Serving with and for the greater good of others is essential in grasping the purpose of a Jesuit education and my service-learning course takes students beyond campus to experience it. – Lauren F.

Through service-learning, I have learned to have more of an open mind and to not judge others. I have learned so much about who I am and what I can do to make a difference in the world. I have become a much stronger person and I am not afraid to go outside of my comfort zone. I have formed relationships that I will cherish for a lifetime and service-learning has inspired me to continue helping others for the rest of my life. Service-Learning is a great way to understand the city of Philadelphia and meet some great people. I have become so close with my service-learning class and the people in my class. It is an experience that I will never forget and will cherish forever. – Carly C.
Through Service-Learning, I have been able to work with different populations in Philadelphia. I have learned about the some of the inequalities that affect people in our community. It has been one of the best experiences I've had at Saint Joe’s. – Kiera M.

I would recommend a service-learning class to anyone that comes to Saint Joseph’s University. I believe it is a very rewarding experience. This is a very unique program that SJU offers. It is a fantastic way for students to understand the social problems in modern society. Incoming freshman should most definitely enroll in a Service-Learning course. – Brianna C.

Throughout my Service-Learning experience I learned the importance of accepting everyone for who they are and embracing their talents! Going to the service site was an even better opportunity than reading a textbook. It was a very hands-on experience. Everyone should take a service-learning course because there may never be a greater time to help someone in need and create a lasting bond with a member of another community. – Emily B.

The most influential lesson I have learned this year is that it is important to recognize the humanity in all persons. Through the social problems faced at the different placements it is important to realize that all are equal. The service-learning program allows many valuable lessons that will impact your remaining time at SJU as well as beyond. - Samantha K.

I have really enjoyed my service-learning class this past year. By taking sociology with Dr. Bergen as a service-learning course, I was able to reflect and better understand the social problems that are happening at my site, Centro Nueva Creacion. – Morgan W.

New students should consider taking a service-learning course because it is a great way to get out and do service and get involved with the community around Saint Joe’s. The connections you get to make over the year of being at the same site are ones that will never leave you because you have learned and grown together as a community. - Megan B.

First year students should enroll in service-learning courses because it opens your eyes to so many different and new experiences you would have never found otherwise. Working at these service sites are a great opportunity that everyone should take advantage of. --- Amanda S.

For me, service-learning has been crucial to understanding the humanity of people of different backgrounds and to be able to connect with on different levels. It’s important to enroll in a service-learning class because it will be so eye-opening and personally rewarding in our understandings of ourselves and the society we are a part of. – Jack P.

Service-Learning has taught me to see the humanity in all people no matter what their situation is. – Jaime R.
To meet people firsthand going through poverty or homelessness or educational inequality, was really eye opening and taught me more about the world and the people around me. – Jessica T.

The Service-Learning experience at St. Joseph’s University is worthwhile. I spent first and second semester at an inner city school in Kensington section of Philadelphia. This experience has taught me to remain aware of others’ situations. As a student dedicated to service, I have learned to value the lifestyle of others and grew tremendously from serving impoverished areas. – Alanna W.

I have learned from the people at my service that it was them helping to teach us rather than us teach them. – Kendra C.

I feel that service-learning gave me a greater appreciation for my education and has allowed me to empathize with those who have not been given the same privileges and opportunities. – Alyssa T.

Service-Learning courses introduce you to a variety of different people from different backgrounds and brings these people together through the passion for service to create strong friendships and a strong community that shines on SJU’s campus. – Richard F.

Service-Learning at Saint Joes has really opened my eyes to the world around me. I learned how to get to know people before I automatically judged them. – Emily P.

Incoming freshman should enroll in Service-Learning because it is a great way to meet new people and is an experience like no other. – Liz W.