"It was a really challenging experience and exposed me to communities I wouldn’t have been exposed to otherwise." 

Goldie Tabakdjian, a senior majoring in Psychology, says she was interested in the Community Service Studies minor for several reasons. While Tabakdjian was looking at issues of social justice and social change, here is a structured program that offers these opportunities. We believe this minor provides educational opportunities grounded in Vincentian community service including internships with nonprofit organizations, she says. "For students that have an interest in looking at issues of social justice and social change, this is a structured program that offers hands-on experience opportunities. It’s important to have this type of experience before you go into the workforce so you can help guide your career choices." 

"I have a passion for working for social justice and peace, and I’ve had the chance to do something through it classes and internships at school." 

Lisa Weiser, Executive Director of the Center, notes that the Community Service Studies minor’s Domestic Violence and Sexual Harassment class, which is cross-listed in the Sociology Department and the Women’s Studies Department, has been very popular. "Students have really enjoyed learning about the dynamics of power, and I’ve had the chance to do something about it through classes and internships at school." 

"Interdisciplinary" is one word DePaul faculty and staff use to describe the Community Service Studies minor. "It’s by giving these issues the very rich and rewarding work being done in the social sciences and the arts, and shifting their focus to the community." 

"Involuntary" is another word DePaul faculty and staff often use to describe the Community Service Studies minor. While DePaul students are already involved in community service, they are often unsure of how to even start. Involuntary students can be involved through community service through individual courses. When the Community Service Studies minor was introduced in Fall 2002, it was created to connect students to the community. "If you ask students what they think of when they think of community service, the answer is often volunteerism," says McNeely. "Many say, ‘You’re volunteering while you’re taking classes.’ While there are many opportunities for students to volunteer, this minor offers a structured program that offers hands-on experience opportunities. It’s important to have this type of experience before you go into the workforce so you can help guide your career choices." 

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PART-TIME PAID INTERNSHIPS OFFER COMMUNITY SERVICE, EXPERIENCE

Part-time PAID internship opportunities are now available at DePaul University’s Community Service Center. Students can work in community service, nonprofit or business settings to gain valuable work experience and skill development.

About the program

Most of us across the world have experienced the profound impact that internships can have on college students. Internships not only provide students with valuable work experience, but also offer opportunities to explore career paths and build professional networks.

DePaul students have participated in service learning opportunities through the Federal Work Study program for decades. This year, however, DePaul students have had the option to participate in part-time internships throughout the school year, thanks to the implementation of the Part-time PAID Internship program.

During the program, students engage in meaningful work experiences that align with their academic goals, while also earning a portion of their college costs. In addition, students have the opportunity to build valuable skills and gain professional experience that can enhance their future career prospects.

Furthermore, the program offers students the flexibility to balance their academic commitments with work responsibilities, making it an ideal option for students who need to work part-time or full-time.

Student experiences

One student participant shared, “The program provided me with a unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the field and build my professional network. I was able to apply the knowledge and skills I learned in class to real-world situations, which was incredibly valuable.”

Another student added, “The program allowed me to explore different career paths and gain valuable work experience that I can take with me into my future career. I feel much more confident in my decision-making skills and professional readiness.”

Moreover, the program offered students the chance to connect with other students and professionals in their field of interest, fostering a sense of community and networking opportunities.

Outlook

As the Part-time PAID Internship program continues to grow, it is anticipated that more students will participate and benefit from the opportunities it provides. The program is expected to expand in the coming years, offering even more students the chance to gain valuable work experience and skills.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Part-time PAID Internship program offers a unique opportunity for students to gain valuable work experience, explore career paths, and build professional networks. It is a testament to DePaul University’s commitment to providing students with a comprehensive education that prepares them for success in their future careers.
DePaul students have participated in service learning opportunities through classes, but says in terms of their interests, “DePaul students are interested in learning other languages, and is devoted to human rights. She has had the chance to work in a wide range of capacities involving human rights abuses in Colombia.”

Emily Gharabally and Mirabel Vranjkovic, Coordinators for the Steans Center, presented “Write for the Coca-Cola Corporation’s human right’s abuses in Colombia.” They were joined by a staff member from Student Public Interest Research Groups. Blanco and Luttrell focused their presentation on the work of DePaul’s Human Rights Abuses” project contributed to throughout the nation. The symposium explores how service learning can be used as a tool to support community development, and research. For more information, visit our website: http://cbsl.depaul.edu/adultser.

To kick off this year’s spring conference, whisky and wine experts provided basic information about the products. Students examined the Business Ethics in Payday Loan Project to learn about payday lending regulations incorporated into a new Illinois law — the Payday Loan Reform Act - passed in Summer Quarter 2005. Six students from the Steans Center, University Ministry, and Justice Coalition, a student-led group uniting these three organizations, attended the conference. Specifically, students worked with Chicago Public School students to develop and present a business plan using the payday loan database.

The flexibility of the curriculum and its strong emphasis on community service, many of the organizations are fit to reflect their goals and values. When you work in community service, it creates a unique opportunity for students to build skills. The minor tells undergraduates that “there are all kinds of non-profit organizations. Baker Stevens, an English professor who has taught great writers to recent graduates, found that the service and social justice work students engaged in through the Steans Center brings value to education and to learning.

Professionals who have taught classes in the minor say that “the service and social justice work students engaged in through the Steans Center brings value to education and to learning.

Student Mentors Present about Language Exchange and Literacy

Community Service Studies

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Student experiences

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Continued on back panel

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DePaul students have participated in service learning opportunities with non-profit organizations in Chicago area communities. Many of these activities create job opportunities for students on college campuses. DePaul, About the program

These phrases may not always go together well, but they do for Part-time Paid Internship. Community Service. Work Study. Ramirez points out that the program enables the Steans Center to create a valuable service learning experience for students.

DePaul students said after completing a case, "It was a great experience. I really enjoyed being part of a team and working towards a common goal. It was rewarding to see the results of our work." This perception is not unique to the Steans Center, as many students across the University participate in similar service learning opportunities. These programs allow students to apply their academic knowledge to real-world situations, gain valuable work experience, and contribute to their communities.

DePaul students

Emily Gharabally

Majoring in Political Science

Job Acosta

Majoring in Business Administration

These students and others have participated in the Steans Center's service learning opportunities. Gharabally, a senior from Minnesota who is a majoring in Political Science, and Acosta, a senior from Chicago who is majoring in Business Administration, both worked on projects related to human rights organizations located in Chicago's Rogers Park neighborhood. Gharabally's organization, Trilogy, works with refugees from African nations. "I started out by helping any way I could," she said. "As I gained more experience, I was able to take on more responsibilities." Acosta, who is working on a project related to the Coca-Cola Corporation's human rights abuses in Colombia, believes that the experience has been invaluable. "It has helped me understand the complexity of human rights issues and the importance of working towards solutions."

Community Service

The Steans Center offers a variety of service learning opportunities, including internships with non-profit organizations, community service projects, and work study positions. "It's a very straightforward and easy way to find an internship," says Acosta. "The Steans Center provides a lot of support, from answering questions to helping us find placement." Many students find work through job descriptions that are available on the Steans Center website. These descriptions provide information on the organizations, the projects they are working on, and the qualifications needed for the position.

Vranjkovic, who formed the Steans Center, said that the program aims to "create a unique opportunity for students to build their skills, gain valuable work experience, and contribute to their communities." This vision is realized through the efforts of students like Gharabally and Acosta, who are dedicated to making a difference.

Students Examining Business Ethics in Payday Loan Project

In Winter Quarter 2005, eight students from Professor Hartman's intermediate Spanish class at DePaul University in Chicago, working as volunteers for the Community Service Office, conducted research into the payday loan industry. The project contributed to the Illinois Payday Loan Project, a state-funded research initiative that aims to better understand the payday loan market and its impact on individuals and communities.

According to Woodstock, the payday loan industry is a significant problem in Illinois. "The industry targets vulnerable populations, such as low-income individuals and those with limited access to traditional banking services," she said. "Payday loans are often used to meet basic needs, such as rent, utilities, and groceries, and can lead to a cycle of debt that is difficult to escape.

Woodstock Institute to prepare fact sheets about payday loan legislation, outlining the program at blogs and bylaws, tax exemption and filing requirements, as well as federal and state regulations. According to Woodstock, the payday loan industry is a significant problem in Illinois. "The industry targets vulnerable populations, such as low-income individuals and those with limited access to traditional banking services," she said. "Payday loans are often used to meet basic needs, such as rent, utilities, and groceries, and can lead to a cycle of debt that is difficult to escape.

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I did a lot of community service work in high school, and this semester gives me a broader sense of what I want to be doing in a Chicago community. The Center prides itself on helping students partner with our academic colleagues. We are always looking for new opportunities to link community work, employment, involvement with the DePaul Service and Justice Coalition, or conference participation, we encourage critically examine the role service plays.

Executive Director
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Community Service Studies Minor:
Community Service Studies is a unique option that allows students to engage in meaningful community service while earning academic credit. The minor consists of three required courses and one elective course, which can be chosen from a variety of disciplines. The aim of the Community Service Studies minor is to connect students to the world of service, enabling them to gain valuable experience and skills in fields such as nonprofit management, community development, social work, and education.

The minor is open to all DePaul University students, regardless of major, and is designed to complement a wide range of academic programs. By participating in the Community Service Studies minor, students will have the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of social justice issues and to gain hands-on experience through service-learning projects.

Application Process:
To apply for the Community Service Studies minor, students should contact the Student Services Office to obtain an application form. Once completed, the application can be submitted to the Community Service Center. After reviewing the application, students will be notified of their acceptance into the minor.

Graduate School Admissions:
Graduate students who are interested in pursuing a graduate degree in community service or related fields are encouraged to apply to the Community Service Studies minor. The minor provides a solid foundation for graduate study and can be particularly beneficial for students interested in pursuing careers in nonprofit organizations, social work, or community development.

Career Opportunities:
Graduates of the Community Service Studies minor are well-prepared for a variety of career opportunities in the nonprofit sector, social services, and community development. Many graduates go on to work in organizations such as community health centers, social service agencies, and educational institutions. Others pursue careers in policy analysis, research, and advocacy.

The Community Service Studies minor is designed to meet the needs of students with diverse interests and career goals. Whether you are interested in working in the nonprofit sector, pursuing a graduate degree, or exploring new career paths, the Community Service Studies minor can provide a valuable foundation for your future success.
Executive Director
Laurie Worrall, Ed.D.
partners with our academic colleagues. To quote our president, Fr. Holtschneider, "...extraordinary opportunities for students...". The Steans Center, established by the University of Chicago's John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, is an example of these extraordinary opportunities. Established in 1990, the Center centers its teaching, research and outreach around the idea of participatory action research. Students have the opportunity to work with community leaders to understand the challenges facing them and develop solutions.

Community Service Studies

Community service means different things to different people. For me, the Steans Center allows community members to redefine community service broadly. It includes a range of activities from tutoring in after-school programs to research projects. At the forefront of our work, though, is the development of extraordinary opportunities for DePaul students. To quote our president, Fr. Holtschneider: "...extraordinary opportunities for students...". By bringing together students, community members, and academic colleagues, the Steans Center creates opportunities for dialogue, collaboration, and learning. It provides a space for students to engage with the issues, reflect on why they exist, and work to address them.

The Steans Center for Community-based Service Learning

The Steans Center is a community-based service learning center that connects students to community partners and provides opportunities for them to engage with the issues facing their communities. The Center is located in the heart of Chicago, Illinois, and is a hub for community-based service learning.

Stefanie Smith
Managing Director
Inn keep your eye on the students who are interested in community service. They are the ones who will make the difference in the future. The Steans Center provides opportunities for students to engage with community partners and develop skills that will be valuable in their future careers.

DePaul University Steans Center

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Managing Director

"It was a really challenging experience and exposed me to community service that I would have never been exposed to otherwise."

Laura Garza, a major in Accounting who completed the Community Service Studies minor. "I took the winter quarter, was working at the Steans Center when she learned about the minor. "I took the minor because I was looking for an opportunity to engage with community partners and develop skills that will be valuable in my future career."

And I think that's what college is all about." Garza says. "Before, I was told to do with my life, and now I have to go to college, have to find a career. This minor gave me ownership over what I'm interested in, a sense of community, service, lifelong learning, and rewarding professional work, both inside and outside of the classroom.

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