

At Union Academy, it is our belief that a well-rounded education requires students to be active participants in thoughtfully organized service to others. We believe that students will be much better prepared for life and become better contributing citizens by participating in community service and learning at every grade level.

NEW for the 2018-19 school year, Union Academy is updating its service-learning program to ensure our high school students are learning and developing as young adults, while making important community connections. Students will now complete at least 10 service hours each year with either one or two community organizations (minimum of five hours with each organization). The remainder of the required hours may also be completed at a community organization OR in meaningful volunteer service.

Service-Learning Requirements

At Union Academy, every high school student (grades 9-12) is responsible for completing and documenting a total of 105 hours of independent service-learning hours prior to graduation.

- 9th grade: At least 15 service-learning hours
 - Minimum of 10 community-based
 - 5 volunteer service
- 10th, 11th, 12th grade: At least 30 service-learning hours per year
 - Minimum of 10 community-based
 - 20 volunteer service



What is Community-Based Service?

It's finding a need in our community and working without pay with a local nonprofit organization to address the need. Examples include:

- Feeding, walking and cleaning up after animals at an animal shelter
- Volunteering at a local hospital
- Picking up trash and clearing streams or rivers with an environmental group
- Planning and preparing meals for a local shelter or family-support house
- Working with a local nonprofit agency to tutor adults learning to read

...and so much more! Think about your interests and possible career path and find a way to merge service with your future.

What is Volunteer Service?

Volunteer service includes unpaid work to help your school, community, church or other group accomplish a task. Examples include:

- Working concessions at a sporting event
- Serving as a manager or providing water or other service for a sports team
- Helping a teacher with a project or with the UA move
- Coaching (without pay) at a camp or classes that charge tuition or registration fees
- Vacation Bible School, or watching children in the church nursery

How will students find community-based service opportunities?

We encourage students to reflect on their interests and passions, and seek out a local nonprofit agency that aligns with their personal calling. Union Academy will also provide a list of approved nonprofit agencies; students who wish to work with an agency that's not on the list must have that project preapproved. Plus, mark your calendars for a Community-Based Service Fair on Aug. 28.

Why are students required to work with a community agency for at least five hours?

We believe it takes at least five hours for a student to truly understand what an organization does, how it impacts the community, and how that student's participation helped accomplish the agency's overall mission. Students may complete all 10 required community-based hours with one organization, or five hours each at two different organizations.

Are there other new service-learning requirements this year?

Yes; students will complete a reflection project after serving their minimum five hours for each community organization. The reflection allows students to understand the impact their service has on the community.

How do students log their hours?

We have a new volunteer-management system called MobileServe that allows students and families to log their hours on a computer or right from your phone. [Click here to find out more and to set up your MobileServe account.](#) All service hours must be entered as individual items within seven days of the activity; for example, a student who works concessions for two hours at a football game must go into the app within seven days and log that as one service item. We will no longer accept hours logged as "100 hours managing XX or working XX."

Who signs off on service hours?

Community-based hours must be signed off by the supervisor at the nonprofit agency. Other hours must be signed off by the volunteer-hour supervisor. Parents and family members may not sign off on any service hours.

What about seniors who have already completed their required hours?

Members of the Class of 2019 who have already completed their 105 hours are grandfathered in and do not have to complete additional hours. However, students who choose to complete additional hours must follow the service-learning requirements.

**Questions? Contact
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