



Learning Communities

Senior Picnic

Senior Mentors

Student's Reflections

Purpose

LCME Service Learning Standard

“Service-learning” is defined as a structured learning experience that combines community service with preparation and reflection. Students engaged in service-learning provide community service in response to community-identified concerns and learn about the context in which service is provided, the connection between their service and their academic coursework, and their roles as citizens and professionals.

I wanted students to understand and appreciate the diversity of the senior population.

I wanted to contribute to the professional education experiences of future physicians.

I enjoy meeting and talking with young people.

I wanted to help future physicians prepare to deal with issues confronting seniors.

I thought it would be interesting.



We have found that community based older adults provide a rich resource for creating service learning activities. Students enjoy these interactions in their preclinical years and sometimes form relationships which last into later years. Older adults enjoy the opportunity to teach and receive time-intensive services. Selection of receptive older adults and facilities is critical. Involving community site-specific coordinators is essential for success. It is likely that only 2 of the 3 activities described would be needed to meet the LCME service learning standard.