



A Research-Based Tool for Supporting and Determining the Quality of Service-Learning Courses

What was the intent?

- A tool that brings together research-based components of SL quality and can be consistently rated could provide deeper insight into how elements work together, and improve sophistication of outcomes research
- Such an instrument could be used for:
 - research
 - self-assessment
 - professional development
 - course design...

What is the SLQAT?

- The “**Service-Learning Quality Assessment Tool**”
- An instrument to rate the quality of design and implementation of service-learning courses
- Incorporates 28 “essential elements” from research on high quality service-learning, organized into five dimensions
- Elements are rated based on presence and level/quality of implementation
- Elements also carry a “weight,” based on presumed importance to service-learning outcomes, which combines with the level of implementation

Dimensions & Elements of the SLQAT

Dimension I:

Course Design

Element #1: Articulation of Service-Learning in Syllabus

Element #2: Reflection

Element #3: Diverse Perspectives

Element #4: Assessment of Student Performance

Element #5: Flexibility in Course Design /
Implementation

Element #6: Reciprocity

Element #7: Feedback

Element #8: Risk Management

Element #9: Use of Resources and Support for
Service-Learning

Element #10: Planning and Articulation of Service
Activity

Dimensions & Elements of the SLQAT

Dimension II:
Learning

Element #11: Academic Content Learning from Service-Learning

Element #12: Societal Issues Learning from Service-Learning

Element #13: Personal or Professional Learning from Service-Learning

Element #14: Appropriateness of Service Activities for Students

Element #15: Connection between Service and Learning

Element #16: Authentic Community-Based Need

Element #17: Appropriate Duration/Intensity of Service

Dimensions & Elements of the SLQAT

Dimension III:
Student

Element #18: Student Preparedness for Service-Learning

Element #19: Relevance of Service Activity

Element #20: Student Voice

Dimension IV:
Instructor

Element #21: Instructor's Knowledge of Service-Learning Pedagogy

Element #22: Instructor's Knowledge of Community

Element #23: Instructor's Knowledge of Societal Issues

Dimension V:
***Community
Partner &
Partnership***

Element #24: Site/Partner Appropriateness

Element #25: Supervision and Guidance of Students

Element #26: Community Partner Co-Educator Role

Element #27: Community Capacity for Service-Learning

Element #28: Instructor and Community Partner Connection