



## Summary of AACC Research on Acquisition of Learning Outcomes by Community College Students

AACC's 2006-2009 Learn and Serve America grant is funding 12 community colleges to integrate service learning into academic course work. A major feature of the grant is to track student learning outcomes over five semesters. Using a 24-item post-course Likert-scale survey, AACC has found that service learning is a predictor for increased acquisition of learning outcomes across a wide variety of disciplines. The general learning outcome areas include:

- Critical thinking
- Communication
- Career and teamwork
- Civic responsibility
- Global understanding and citizenship
- Academic development and educational success

### *Findings from spring 2007 and fall 2007 academic terms*

Overall, service learning students scored higher statistically on the survey than non-service learners (4.8 vs. 4.5 on a 6-point scale). Scores by outcome areas were as follows:

	SL students	Non-SL students
Critical thinking	4.7	4.4
Communication	4.8	4.5
Career and teamwork	5.0	4.6
Civic responsibility	4.6	4.4
Global understanding/citizenship	4.1	4.0
Academic dev't/educational success	5.3	5.0

Additional survey items revealed students' opinions about participating in service learning as part of their course work:

- 91% encourage other students to take courses that offer service learning
- 88% believe that service learning should be offered in more courses at their college
- 88% understand how to become more involved in their community
- 84% have a better understanding of their role as community members
- 70% have a better understanding of course materials, lectures, and readings

### *For more information*

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