

Rider: ECC Spartan Consulting

Welcome to the Partnership! Your class is part of an exciting learning experience called Spartan Consulting. This Rider explains how Spartan Consulting works and options and benefits that are available to you through this experience.

Service Learning Explained

Service Learning is a teaching method that combines classroom education with practical field experience. Service Learning classes have the same course requirements as standard classes, but students meet those requirements by participating in assignments and activities designed to reinforce academic learning while helping a community-based event or nonprofit organization. Students who participate in classes that use Service Learning methods benefit in several ways:

- They see how the information they learn applies to real life situations.
- They learn both inside and outside the classroom.
- They work with others to achieve a practical, meaningful goal.
- They get perspectives about work, leadership and professional life.
- They interact with experienced professionals who can provide coaching and mentoring.
- They expand their knowledge of communities and organizations.
- They experience a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment from their work.

Spartan Consulting Explained

When students join Spartan Consulting they wear three hats. First, they become **Students** in Academic Classes in both English and Speech Communications. Second, they become **Partners** in a real life communications consulting concern - with a real mission, real value and real clients - all while earning academic credit. Third, they become **Consultants** to a leading organization and provide valuable advice and service to a worthwhile cause.

Spartan Consulting has two consulting practices: **The Public Sector Consulting Practice** advises public sector organizations such as towns, townships, park districts and other taxing groups as well as departments and organizations within ECC. **The Nonprofit Consulting Practice** advises a nonprofit organization within ECC's Community College District.

Spartan Consulting: Workload

It is no surprise that new Partners wonder about the time investment required for Spartan Consulting. They are surprised to find that the quantity of time is, by design, very similar to a

standard Speech 101 class.

They are also surprised to find that, while the quantity doesn't change, Partners often report that the quality and the priority of the experience increases because they recognize that their work is needed, appreciated and used in a real world setting.

A Special Benefit: SERVE Credit

In recognition of the time, effort and results Partners achieve in Spartan Consulting they receive a special benefit: an additional credit hour at no cost to the student. This credit will be recorded as a special course (GSD 150).

Incidentally, Partners may independently renew this free benefit for an additional three semesters by continuing community service on an independent basis to a worthwhile nonprofit organization.

NOTE: SERVE credit will only be awarded to Partners who have received a transferable grade in CMS 101. If you do not qualify, ECC will extend an "Incomplete" - giving you the opportunity to gain credit from a different service project.

A Special Responsibilities of Spartan Consulting Partners

Representing ECC to the Community

Spartan Consulting Partners are in a unique position of representing themselves and the college in a visible and public role.

- Our Clients - Good judgement is essential in dealings with clients. For example, we are frequently required to maintain confidentiality because our work touches on strategic plans for personnel matters.
- Our Partnership - Collaboration is key to Spartan Consulting success. It is critical that Partners develop close and effective working relationships.
- Our Community - Spartan Consulting is an ECC success story. We are frequently asked to serve as ambassadors to the greater community.

Maintaining the Balance Between Learning & Service

In Spartan Consulting BOTH learning and service are intertwined and have priority. It is essential that you keep up your academic work because the content you learn in class relates directly to the work that you do on behalf of the client.

This is so important that Spartan Consulting uses an academic checkpoint at Midterm. You MUST be at "C" level in your academic performance to remain in Spartan Consulting. Failure to meet that standard can result in your being withdrawn from CMS 101 and forfeiting your academic credit from GSD 150 (SERVE) for the client project.

If you are below that standards in the period between 6 weeks and Midterm, you will be asked to prepare an Academic Review and meet with your instructor. Your failure to produce the Academic Review, attend the session or, in the instructor's determination, produce an inadequate plan to improve your grade, you will be withdrawn from Spartan Consulting.