

The Community Service Self-efficacy Scale: A Further Examination of Validity and the Application to Service-learning and Engaged Scholarship

Gail Susdorf

Advisor: Dr. Roger N. Reeb, Ph.D

Hypothesis

As service-learning students assist with implementing a program fostering self-sufficiency at a homeless shelter, their levels of community service self-efficacy will improve over time.



Behavioral Activation Program

Activities at the shelter are designed to:

1. Enhance self-sufficiency (e.g. GED practice)
2. Enhance coping (e.g. stress management)
3. Enhance mood, quality of life, social skills (e.g. recreational activities)

Definitions

Self-Efficacy: a conviction that one can successfully execute the behavior required to produce [desired] outcomes.
Bandura 1977

Service-Learning: “a type of experiential education in which students participate in service in the community and reflect on their involvement in such a way as to gain further understanding of course content and of the discipline and its relationship to social needs and an enhanced sense of civic responsibility.” Bringle & Hatcher 1996

Engaged Scholarship: Connecting resources of a university to the social, civic and ethical problems of society.
Boyer 1996

How can UD foster civic minded graduates?

Present Study and Results

Group	Pre	Post
Comparison Condition Psychology course without Service-learning component (<i>n</i> =29)	<i>M</i> = 84.21 <i>SD</i> = 11.36	<i>M</i> = 82.28 <i>SD</i> = 11.79
Service-Learning Condition Common Academic Program course (“Engaged Scholarship of Homelessness”) with service-learning (<i>n</i> =15)	<i>M</i> = 82.93 <i>SD</i> = 10.21	<i>M</i> = 89.07 <i>SD</i> = 8.59
Service-Learning Condition Special Topics course (“Psychology of Homelessness”) with service-learning (<i>n</i> =12)	<i>M</i> = 87.50 <i>SD</i> = 9.47	<i>M</i> = 94.00 <i>SD</i> = 5.18

For service-learning students, there was a significant pre- to post- semester change in community service self-efficacy. This change did not occur in non-service-learning students.