The student development center coordinates a number of programs that are designed to enhance student learning outside the classroom.

Community Service Programs

The ways in which people can serve their communities are as varied as the benefits for doing so. Community service is not merely an act of surplus—something nice to do with extra money or extra time. Community service is an opportunity for students to share their time and talent with others, all while actively affecting social change, promoting social justice, and developing a lifelong commitment to serving others. Students and student organizations can choose to volunteer with the school's community partners throughout the Natchitoches and Cane River area on both one-time and long-term projects.

Activities That Are Considered Community Service

There are many ways for students to make positive impacts on their community. Participating in community service events both allows students to help individuals and organizations in need, as well as to learn how their choices and values affect others. The following are activities that meet those criteria:

- Projects with nonprofit and public agencies that address identified community needs
  - Human service needs, such as mentoring and collecting clothes and food for those in need
  - Environmental needs, such as removing trash along roadsides and waterways
  - Civic needs, such as cleaning parks and recreational facilities
  - Health and wellness needs, such as staffing blood drives and planning fundraisers for medical research
- Events that result in raising the audience's awareness of social issues and concerns
- Tutoring sessions with students from institutions other than LSMSA
- Work service projects designated as community service assignments by the coordinator of student development

Activities That Are Not Considered Community Service

Students should not confuse community service and working without getting paid for it. Community service should address a genuine community need, provide a unique learning experience, and include the opportunity to reflect on how personal choices and values impact those served. The following, while potentially beneficial to students' academic and career development, are activities that do not meet those criteria:

- Services for which students receive financial or other significant compensation
- Making monetary and in-kind donations, including at penny drives, food collections, and blood drives
- Tutoring fellow LSMSA students
- Working—whether paid or unpaid—at any for-profit business, including insurance agencies, law firms, medical offices, real estate agencies, restaurants, and retail stores, among others
- Completing internships, practica, and job shadowing activities
- Promoting religious or political individuals and organizations

- Participating in academic competitions, athletics, theatrical productions, and visual arts shows
- Attending workshops, conferences, and conventions
- Babysitting or similar work performed for an individual or a family
- Completing work resulting from disciplinary action, whether sanctioned by on- or off-campus authorities. (Such work is considered *compensatory* service.)
- Work service projects not designated as community service assignments by the coordinator of student development

Leadership Programs

The student services office and the student development center collaborate on interactive workshops and retreats designed for students interested in developing their leadership skills both on and off campus. The Louisiana School's leadership programs are designed for both emerging and seasoned student leaders who are committed to developing their skills and talents in order to impact our learning community in a positive way.

Multicultural Programs

The Louisiana School's multicultural programs offer opportunities for students to explore their own cultural identities as well as to learn about the cultural experiences of others. Through collaborative efforts within the student services department and with faculty members, the Louisiana School's multicultural programs are designed to broaden students' understanding of their unique Louisiana heritage and to foster a more inclusive, more harmonious community.

Wellness Programs

Wellness is more than merely absence from disease. It is an active process through which we all make choices toward more successful and healthy lives. The Louisiana School's wellness programs are co-sponsored by the health and physical education department, the health services office, and the student development center. This collaborative effort is designed to help students raise awareness of healthy living and positive decision making.

Work Service Program

Involvement in the work service program offers students the opportunity to become actively involved in the operation of various departments and offices, both on- and off-campus. Through the work service program, students cultivate a positive work ethic, as well as develop relationships with and receive mentoring from their faculty and staff supervisors. Refer to the section of this handbook on "Work Service" for more information on the work service program.