Brandeis University
Department of Community Service

Definition of Approved Service for Hours Tracking and Award Program

Students may record...

• Direct community service activities (i.e. tutoring, building homes, visiting elderly)
• Indirect service activities (i.e. fundraisers, community organizing, Relay for Life)
• Community Organizing (i.e. voter registration drives, community gardens)
• Community-Engaged Learning Course (direct service and reflection hours only)
• Religious education (i.e. teaching Sunday School or Hebrew School) or volunteering at your place of worship. Activities must fall within the domain of the Brandeis University Mission and Diversity Statements. In particular any religious related activity must align with the values of inclusivity, civility, diversity, respect, and safety
• Advocacy-related activities that fall within the purview of the Brandeis University Mission and Diversity Statements. In particular any advocacy related activity must align with the values of inclusivity, civility, diversity, respect, and safety
• Projects sponsored by student clubs/organizations that provide a service to the local community
• Service related spring break trips
• Self-initiated volunteer work independent of Brandeis (Community Service Fair opportunities) but conducted while a current student
• Meeting hours (only if the meeting was spent planning a community service activity)
• Participation and hours from some, but not all service scholarship programs (i.e. AmeriCorps Student Leaders in Service) may be transferable.
• International Brandeis related community service initiatives, including those while participating in a University approved study abroad program.
• Mandated community service hours
• Transportation and Reflection (up to 15 hours per semester)

Students may not record...

• Non-Profit Internship hours (please see FAQ for exceptions)
• Activities which a student is paid wages or a stipend
• Observational or practicum hours that are part of degree requirements and do not include direct community service
• Meeting or class hours, unless the time was spent planning or completing a community service activity
• Service completed during a semester in which the student was not enrolled at the University or in a University sponsored program. (i.e. high school activities, etc). Please see FAQ for exceptions)
• Hours spent shadowing a physician or medical professional
• Student club/organization activities, unless the activities provide a direct service to the local community
• Political campaigning in support of a particular candidate or political party
• Advocacy-related activities that fall within the purview of the Brandeis University Mission and Diversity Statements. In particular any advocacy related activity must align with the values of inclusivity, civility, diversity, respect, and safety.
• Service that directly impacts the University (i.e. Orientation Leader, Senior Week, or Fall Fest Volunteer, etc.)
• Advocacy-related activities that fall within the purview of the Brandeis University Mission and Diversity Statements. In particular any advocacy related activity must align with the values of inclusivity, civility, diversity, respect, and safety.