Community and Public Service Program

School of Social Welfare

Jenny Horn, CPSP Assistant Director
jhorn2@Albany.edu
518-442-5683
What is the CPSP?

- Administered through the School of Social Welfare, the CPSP gives undergraduate students the opportunity to perform volunteer service in the community, reflect on their experience and earn credit for it.

- We offer a link between the University and the community of the Capital Region.

- We have over 500 partners in the Capital Region.

- Approximately 900 students participate in RSSW each semester.
The Community and Public Service Program was established in 1971 in response to student activism on college campuses around the country.

Goal was to demonstrate commitment to service and community engagement by establishing the CPSP.

- Students provide valuable service to the community while at the same time developing or enhancing a life-long commitment to service and civic engagement.
Why students volunteer

- Volunteered in the past and want to continue to perform service
- Their major doesn’t offer internships but want experience in their field
- A desire to explore different career opportunities
- Some graduate programs require community service, especially those in the health fields
Why students volunteer

- To gain knowledge about the university and local community
- Opportunity to connect with new people
- Provide balance to a heavy academic course load
- Enhance their resume
- Some students have a sense of civic responsibility and a commitment to community service
Student testimonials about CPSP

https://youtu.be/zgLgejVJpYw
What students gain

- Professional experience
- Teamwork
- Sense of civic commitment
- Self confidence
- New and marketable skills
- New experiences with people who are different than themselves
- A connection to the school and local community
- The feeling of being part of something bigger
What students do: a few examples:

- Tutoring or mentoring
- Childcare
- Office work
- Hospital volunteer service
- Legal aid services
- Small business development
- Communication and social media coordination
- UAlbany departments: e.g. Athletic Dept./ Library / Student Association / Office of Sustainability
Nuts and bolts

- **Community Engagement – RSSW 190**
  - 1 credit – 35 hours of volunteer service
  - S/U, with academic journal assignments on Blackboard

- **Human Service in Community – RSSW291**
  - 2 credit – 60 hours of volunteer service
  - S/U, with academic journal assignments on Blackboard

- **Community Service I – RSSW290**
  - 3 credits – 100 hours of volunteer service
  - S/U, with academic journal assignments on Blackboard

- **Community Service II – RSSW390**
  - 3 credits – 100 hours of volunteer service
  - Graded A–E, Pre-requisite RSSW290 or 291
CPSP Partners

- CPSP has relationships with over 500 organizations in the Capital Region

- Any organization that is public or nonprofit is eligible to host students

- Students can choose organizations outside of established partners

- Opportunities are available both on and off campus

- For Fall 2020, we will also allow and encourage virtual volunteering
Choosing an Organization
Areas of Interest

Search for volunteer sites by area of interest:

Arts/ Career Development / Children’s Services/ Community Education/ Community Organizations / Criminal Justice/ Crisis Services/ Cultural Affairs/ Disabilities/ Diversity/ Graphic Design/ Homelessness/ Housing/ Human Resources/ IT / Immigrant & Refugees/ Libraries/ Marketing/ Museums/ Medical – general, psychiatric & substance abuse/ Mentoring/ Outdoors/ Performing Arts/ Politics/ Public Relations/ Radio/ TV (campus)/ Senior Services
Steps to register for the Fall:

- Obtain a [RSSW registration forms](http://www.albany.edu/cpsp/) from the CPSP office (SS112) or online [www.albany.edu/cpsp/](http://www.albany.edu/cpsp/)

- Identify an organization with whom you would like to volunteer. We also have virtual volunteer opportunities.

- Contact the agency and find out what they offer and if your schedule matches their need.

- Set up an appointment (either in-person or virtually) with the agency, have them fill out the bottom portion of the Permission Form.

- Return completed [RSSW Registration Forms](http://www.albany.edu/cpsp/) to SS112 to receive a permission number to register for the course.
Q – Should I call or email the organizations?
   ◦ A – It is probably best to do both. Start with a phone call, then follow up
     with an email. Some organizations will have a volunteer form on their
     website they choose to have you start with.

Q – What do I say to them?
   ◦ A – Start by identifying yourself. Tell them you are a UAlbany Student
     looking to do community service. Ask to speak directly to the person that
     coordinates volunteer help, if your first point of contact does not handle
     that. Once you get through to the appropriate contact person, identify
     yourself, tell them the reasons your interested in their organization and
     that you will be taking the RSSW course in conjunction with your service.
     You could tell them your major, if it is a major related experience. Be sure
     to give them an idea of how many hours you would need to work
     throughout the semester (35, 60, or 100).

Q – What if the person is not familiar with the RSSW course?
   ◦ A – Refer them to our office (518-442-5683) or website
     www.albany.edu/cpsp
Frequently Asked Questions – Getting Started

Q – What if the organization I want to work at doesn’t call me back?
   A – Be patient! Many organizations are feeling overwhelmed by COVID-19. Follow-up via email and phone. Many are either are not taking volunteers or have reached their limit of volunteers. It is a little like looking for a job. Keeping trying more organizations until you get results!

Q – Am I allowed to do virtual volunteer work for RSSW credit?
   A – For the Fall 2020 semester, we are allowing and encouraging students to find virtual volunteer experiences for RSSW credit. We are compiling a list of virtual volunteer opportunities on our website: https://www.albany.edu/cpsp/44589.php

Q – I’m not sure where I should volunteer, I’ve looked at all of the organizations but I’m overwhelmed, can you help?
   A – Email us at cpsp@albany.edu or find us in the CPSP office (SS112). We can discuss your motivation for taking the course, what you would like to get out of your experience and help you find a good fit based on your interests.
Permission Number Is Issued
Once You Have Brought Your Completed/Signed Forms to CPSP (SS112)

- Bring your completed **RSSW registration form** to the CPSP Office (SS112). You will be issued a permission number to add the class of your choice.

- When you have your permission number you **MUST ADD THE CLASS ON MYUALBANY**

- Once you’ve added the class on MyUAlbany, your access to Blackboard will be available within 24 hours after adding. Blackboard will have the course syllabus, detailed assignment requirements and due dates. It is important that you **read the syllabus carefully**.
Community and Public Service Program
Social Sciences building room 112
www.albany.edu/cpsp
518.442.5683

Jenny Horn, CPSP Assistant Director
jhorn2@Albany.edu

Sheri Stevens, CPSP Director
sstevens@Albany.edu

Stop by or set up a Zoom meeting and we’ll help you choose the right experience.