

**FACULTY UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY
SERVICE RESPONSIBILITIES**

Policy Number: F.07.03

Scope: All Faculty

Purpose: To describe faculty university and community service responsibilities

POLICY FOUNDATION

Service refers to the action of helping or doing work for someone and the work done by one who serves. The commitment of the University of St. Thomas to service is framed first by the *Apostolic Constitution of the Supreme Pontiff John Paul II on Catholic Universities* (1990), referred to as *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*, and the subsequent description of its application to universities in the United States, *The Application for Ex Corde Ecclesiae for the United States* (2000). *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* speaks to the role of service. “Every Catholic University, as a university, is an academic community which, in a rigorous and critical fashion, assists in the protection and advancement of human dignity and of a cultural heritage through research, teaching and various services offered to the local, national and international communities.” (See *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* Part 1, A, 1). It is noteworthy that *Ex Corde* describes this service is offered to “local, national, and international communities.”

The commitment of the University of St. Thomas to service is further framed by the Basilian community. The Basilians describe their understanding of service: “At the heart of the Congregation of St. Basil is a commitment to better the condition of the less advantaged through service to the people of God... As we were taught by Jesus Christ, this commitment to service extends most notably to the poor, the marginalized and those in dire need of help, regardless of their station in life or past sins.” (See Basilians, *Our Way of Life, Service*: <https://www.basilian.org/our-way-of-life/service/>). The Basilian understanding of service thus gives emphasis to “the poor, the marginalized and those in dire need of help...”

Grounded in these commitments, University and community service involves those memberships and activities through which faculty members contribute to the well-being of their departments, schools or the University, their discipline or profession, and/or the larger civic community: locally, nationally and internationally. These services further the University’s mission beyond faculty members’ work in the classroom and their research, scholarship and creative works. These various academic, extracurricular, professional, civic and pastoral functions reflect the diversity of the faculty, the various disciplines, and the opportunities of individual faculty members.

POLICY STATEMENTS

1. University Service

- a. Service to students may include effective academic advising, mentoring, directed reading and independent study course offerings, student recruitment programs, involvement in student organizations as a faculty sponsor, and participation or leadership in special student programs, activities or initiatives. Supporting students who create projects

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uniquely reflective of the University's service commitments warrants particular attention and investment of the faculty.

- b. Service to faculty colleagues may include faculty peer mentoring, collaboration with faculty colleagues in shared service projects within the University community, and representation of the University in various University programs. All members of the faculty participate in the religious, academic and social functions of the commencement exercises of the University and other campus-wide special programs for all faculty.
- c. Service to University Shared Insights may include participation on University committees and task forces, leadership in University committees and task forces, and active engagement in the Shared Insights activities and decision processes of the University (See Shared Insights G.00.00). In these roles, the faculty member represents the interests of the faculty community in the process of sharing the policy development and implementation of the University through Shared Insights. Leadership and administrative Shared Insights roles are recognized by the University community as ones of significant import. All faculty are responsible for playing a role in this service in some capacity.
- d. Service in pursuit of the University's mission includes any activities, initiatives, or contributions shaped by the core values of the Basilian Fathers: goodness, discipline and knowledge, manifested by "fostering engagement in a diverse, collaborative community." These activities may be pastoral in character or expressions of the "Catholic intellectual tradition and the dialogue between faith and reason." (See University of St. Thomas Mission and Vision: <https://www.stthom.edu/About/Mission-and-Vision.aqf>).
- e. Service shaped by individual discipline contributions to the University include activities that make discipline-specific expertise available to the larger academic community.

2. Community Service

- a. Service to one's discipline at the local, regional, national or international level may include membership and/or leadership roles in professional organizations, contributions in discipline workshops or conferences or other continuing education programs, certification in an area of expertise, and providing consultation to discipline peers.
- b. Service to one's civic community may include participation or leadership in a community organization, providing discipline-specific contributions or leadership with lectures, publications or other creative contributions on a topic specific to one's expertise and creating initiatives in the civic community that express the mission of the University. Service in the civic community is shaped by the Basilian community's understanding of service and extends the mission of the University to the larger civic community. This service may be local, regional, national or international in scope and impact and may be created through a partnership with churches and church-sponsored programs and projects.

APPROVED: Board of Directors

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