



## **Academic Service: what hours can count?**

The principle behind all AmeriCorps service is that it's directly meeting community needs in one of the following areas:

- 1) Education
- 2) Health
- 3) Human Needs
- 4) The Environment
- 5) Public Safety

This **“direct service”** (hands-on) must account for at least 80% of a member's service.

In addition, **“member development”** (a.k.a. training, reflection, etc.) may account for up to a full 20% of their overall service.

Many disciplines, especially those related to health care, require a very diverse set of activities in order to pass the course and move on. In order to determine where exactly these activities might fall on the AmeriCorps spectrum of service, you should ask members to think about the specific activity they're doing.

**If it's about gaining or enhancing skills for themselves, those are member development hours.**

(e.g. learning experiences, training, observing professional nurses)

**If it's impacting someone else, those are direct service hours.**

(e.g. directly with patients, preparing to work with a patient (looking at charts), care plans, final report on patient's care)

If the activity doesn't fit into either of the above, then the hours probably shouldn't be counted.

Additionally, members should be able to clearly articulate what community needs their service addresses. Some talking points for students:

### **Health Sciences/Nursing:**

-“My service addresses unmet human needs in, such as patient care, for low-income community members.”

-“I work to fill in gaps in the health care system”

-“We hold community wellness fairs/free clinics/etc.”

### **Education:**

-“My service helps to improve students' attitudes about learning”

-“I serve with a school as a volunteer tutor/teacher”