The S-Designation and GE Open Option (S+GE)

Service-Learning Is...
“... a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.” (Seifer & Connors, National Service-Learning Clearinghouse, 2007)

Expected Learning Outcomes for Service-Learning Courses
1. Students make connections between concepts and skills learned in an academic setting and community-based work.
2. Students demonstrate an understanding of the issues, resources, assets, and cultures of the community in which they are working.
3. Students evaluate the impacts of the service learning activity.

The S-Designation is...
A suffix in the curriculum system that establishes that a course has approved service-learning content (EX: GEOG 5200S). This makes service-learning courses more visible to students who are looking for service opportunities.

The S+GE-Designation adds ...
The course can count towards the 6 credit hours GE Open Option requirement. This widens the appeal of the course and makes it available to a larger group of students.

How do I get an S+GE designation for my course?
We strongly recommend you begin this process by contacting the Service-Learning Initiative and Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services. These offices will provide you with guidance on completing the
S+GE form and be able to answer any questions you have. Once you have completed the S+GE form, follow this process:

1. Work with your department’s curricular contact to submit your completed S+GE form through the curriculum system.
2. Your course will be sent to the Service-Learning Initiative for S-designation evaluation.
3. If the “S” is approved, it will be forwarded to Arts and Sciences for “S+GE” evaluation by the Arts and Sciences S+GE sub-committee
4. You will be notified of your courses status via the curriculum system (allow 6-8 weeks)

FAQs

My course already has an s-designation. Do I need to re-apply for both?
No, but you must submit a completed S+GE form through the curriculum system to be evaluated. You may use material from a previously submitted s-designation form.

I think my course had an s-designation in the past, but I’m not sure. What should I do?
Contact the Service-Learning Initiative for assistance in establishing a previous s-designation.

My course is cross-listed in two different departments. Do I have to apply for a GE for both?
You will need to submit paperwork for both courses through the registrar system to make sure the change is made on both course numbers. You can use duplicate paperwork for both courses.

My course is an Honors and Scholars course, but I also want an S+GE. Is that possible?
Yes, but courses cannot be listed with both an S & H-Designation in the curriculum system. However, it will still count as an S and/or H toward a credit requirement in either category. Courses should make sure to use their course descriptions to note any additional statuses.

We would like to have a GE course that has a variety of different offerings every year. Is it possible to get a S+GE placeholder course number for one-time course offerings and pilots?
The S+GE is approved based on specific course content, including a syllabus. If it is likely that course content will change significantly from offering to offering, then the S+GE is not a good option. Please contact the Service-Learning Initiative or Arts and Sciences for other options.

I want to get the S+GE status for my course, but I don’t know if I’ll be able to get the course approved before registration begins. Will the GE still count for my students?
Students should be able to count courses for GE open option credits even if the approval happens after they have participated in the course.

For more information, please contact:

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