

Community Service Program Overview

Transfer Students

What is community service?

Mercy High School students are expected to volunteer in their community as a graduation requirement. Students provide service through non profit organizations, which support disadvantaged people, like the poor, the elderly, and the infirm.

How much service is a student required to complete?

Only hours completed after a student begins at Mercy count toward her Mercy High School requirement. (For this reason, the hour requirement is pro-rated.)

If a student transfers into Mercy as a sophomore, she needs:

- At least 25 hours before her junior year begins; and
- A total of at least 50 hours, or a culminating project, before her senior year begins. At least 25 of these hours have to be in direct contact with disadvantaged people.

If a student transfers into Mercy as a junior, she needs:

- At least 25 hours, or a culminating project, before her senior year begins. All 25 of these hours have to be in direct contact with disadvantaged people.

If a student transfers into Mercy as a senior, she is not required to complete any community service.

What is the Senior Culminating Project?

Instead of fulfilling a required number of hours, juniors can opt to create and implement a “culminating project.” Students develop projects which combine their talents and interests with a community need.

Where and when can a student perform her community service?

Any non-profit organization whose mission is dedicated to serving disadvantaged people is an acceptable site for service. Students may volunteer with local, national and international non-profit organizations. As explained above, some service must be provided in direct contact with the population whom the organization serves. Students perform their service after school, on the weekends, during school breaks, or during summer vacation. Some teachers incorporate community service into their classes; those hours count toward the graduation requirement, too.

How does a student notify Mercy of her service?

After completion of service with a particular organization, or at least before the beginning of each new semester, students should complete and submit the “Community Service Form.” On this form, the student’s supervisor will verify and evaluate the service provided, and the student will reflect upon her experience.

What is Community Service Probation?

Students who are delinquent in completing their annual requirements are prohibited from participating in all and co-curricular activities until their service forms have been completed, submitted and verified. Seniors who have not fulfilled their service requirement will not graduate from Mercy High School.

Where is there more information?

Please see the community service link on the Mercy High School website, or contact Ms. Kathy Curran, community service coordinator: kcurran@mercyhs.org, or (415)334-0525, #237.