Dominican Republic Community Engagement and Service - Learning Placement Options:

Example placements include service in the following areas:

**Santiago, Dominican Republic**

**Children’s Dining Hall & Learning Center**  
Minimum Language Level: Intermediate Spanish

This organization is dedicated to encouraging, promoting and coordinating activities that lead to successful development for the poorest children in the communities of Santiago. Participants will have the opportunity to make an impact on the lives of children who come to the dining hall for food, education and healthcare. Activities include facilitating recreational activities, creating engaging educational activities, serving meals and acting as a positive mentor. *This placement has limited options in June through September as students involved in this organization are on summer vacation.*

**Home Construction Non-Profit**  
Minimum Language Level: Intermediate Spanish

This home construction project is a subdivision of a bigger non-profit, non-governmental organization dedicated to encouraging, promoting, and coordinating activities that lead to successful integral development for the poorest in their society. The home construction project is aimed at providing decent and secure housing for those living in extreme poverty, and thereby reduce the general housing shortage in Santiago. They construct houses and apartments for low-income families that would otherwise be homeless. Participants get the opportunity to assist the construction workers, planners and managers on-site with a wide range of hands-on tasks related to the on-going construction projects.

**Human and Labor Rights**  
Minimum Language Level: Advanced Spanish

Participants can assist with legal research and counseling, calculation of benefits, welcome visitors to the office, and observe and learn from lawyers’ cases and enter case information to a database for a Human Rights or Labor Rights Center. Participants may also assist with the establishment of new Human Rights groups and projects and partake in the current projects run by the Center for Labor Rights.

**Technical School**  
Minimum Language Level: Intermediate Spanish

The technical school was founded as an educational resource for impoverished communities in Santiago. Participants will have the opportunity to teach beginning-level English classes to a variety of age groups and/or serve as an English assistant to the main instructor. This placement is ideal for participants who have had previous teaching experience and would like to create an academic curriculum and manage their own classroom.

**Rehabilitation Center**  
Minimum Language Level: Low Intermediate Spanish

This organization serves both children and adults with physical, mental or sensory impairments. Through physical and occupational therapy, social integration, and group activities, patients become reincorporated into a functional society. The center sponsors two youth programs which serve children with disabilities from low-income households and strive to create a consciousness for human rights among youth. Participants will have
the opportunity to work on various ongoing projects, including in the areas of neurology, psychology, prosthesis or orthopedics.

**School for the Blind**  
Minimum Language Level: Intermediate Spanish

This educational institute provides much-needed social services to adults who are blind or visually impaired. This organization empowers economically disadvantaged and often marginalized members of society by equipping them with the tools they need to live independently. Services include training in Braille, support in developing micro-enterprises, medical treatment and a support system to help foster independence. Participants help with the training of patients to enable them to complete their daily activities independently.

**Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic**

**Educational Community Center**  
Minimum Language Level: Intermediate Spanish

This is an exciting opportunity to assist a team of professional educators, teachers, and pharmacists with teaching, lesson plan creation, and other daily projects. This opportunity comes with the ability to help students with homework and serve as a mentor as a part of their daily routine. Participants may also assist in the process of visiting and counseling families and provide them with family guidance and support. Note: Please expect about an hour commute for this organization.

**Day Care Center**  
Minimum Language Level: High Intermediate Spanish

The main goal of this day care center is to provide a solid educational foundation on which children (ages 0-6) can continue to grow socially, physically and mentally. This center serves low-income families and single parents who benefit from day care services so they are able to return to work. Participants will have the opportunity to create arts and crafts projects with the children, help coordinate various activities, assist the teachers and supervisors in their planned activities, teach basic English, and help supervise the children. ELAP participants may have the opportunity to assist with nutrition projects or in the nurse's office.

**Elementary School**  
Minimum Language Level: High Intermediate Spanish

This small neighborhood elementary school educates two kindergarten classes, one first grade class, one second grade class, and one third grade class. The students that attend this elementary school live in the surrounding neighborhood, including the nearby orphanage. Participants will be able to assist in a wide variety of tasks to ensure that the school is meeting its goals, which may include help with classwork, facilitate recreational and educational activities, assist in lesson planning, grading, classroom management, administrative tasks, and co-teaching or teaching lessons.

**Orphanage**

Minimum Language Level: Intermediate Spanish

Based on Christian principles, the home houses orphans between the ages of 0-12 and also implements preventive campaigns to support at-risk kids. Participants will assist the team of psychologists, social workers,
educators, and teachers with various daily tasks, workshops and projects within the home. More specifically, participants will help with homework, daily caretaking of the kids, walk the kids to school, facilitate outdoor and recreational activities, lead after school programs, and most importantly, mentor the kids.

**School for the Blind**

**Minimum Language Level:** Intermediate Spanish

This educational institute provides much needed social services to adults who are blind or visually impaired. This organization empowers economically disadvantaged and often marginalized members of society by equipping them with the tools they need to live independently. Services include training in Braille, support in developing micro-enterprises, medical treatment and a support system to help foster independence. Participants help with the training of patients to enable them to complete their daily activities independently.