Community Based Service Learning (CBSL) Frequently Asked Questions

When are my CBSL hours due?
The CBSL policy lists the due date for each clinical/practicum course. The exception is the last semester in the program. The due date for the final semester is based on completion of your compressed course and you must read your syllabus for this date.

If I do more hours this semester than what is required, will these hours carry over for the next semester?
Absolutely! You may also want to consider accruing hours during semester breaks. The only time that you may NOT acquire hours is when the University is completely closed for Winter break as you cannot reach faculty or staff in a timely manner.

When can I not perform CBSL hours?
At Winter Break, the whole University is closed and you would not be able to reach a faculty or staff member. You will need to view the Fall academic calendar to see when the University closes and reopens.

How long does my journal need to be?
You may combine activities and highlight the major points which would reflect satisfactory completion of your CBSL objective. The CBSL objective for the semester is found in the CBSL policy. Typically a few well written paragraphs are sufficient to support CBSL objective achievement.

Can I do CBSL hours with my local school district nurse if the district is not listed on the pre-approved list?
All school district nurses are pre-approved even though they are not all listed on the pre-approved list. However, you must contact the school nurse in advance and follow district policy on volunteering. For BISD, you will need to see the LU Nursing CBSL Coordinator for an application and instructions on proceeding.

What activities are categorized as Service to the Profession as these hours are capped at 25% of your required hours?
Service to the Profession hours are mainly accrued through LUTNSA Student Nurse conferences such as Council of Schools and the State Convention. Occasionally, a few other pre-approved events will be designated as Service to the Profession. Activities sponsored by the Dishman Department of Nursing such as New Student Orientation, the Nightingale Experience, and mentoring of high school students or peers are categorized as Service to the University.
How many hours are needed in the category of Service to the Community?
At least 25% of your required hours should be performed as Service to the Community. There is no problem with doing all of your hours in this category if you so choose. There is no requirement to have hours in either Service to the Profession or Service to the University, although many students like to have a variety.

Why can’t I do activities such as Xeroxing, filing, cooking for the homeless?
Please remember that your CBSL hours are service learning hours and not just volunteer hours. Every nonprofit organization has a need for volunteer hours. However, your hours should be tied to your CBSL objective. CBSL hours are actually independent clinical/practicum hours and therefore it is an expectation that while you provide a service, you will also be in a learning mode.

May I do all of my CBSL hours at one location?
If you are having a positive experience and see personal or professional growth as you enhance your learning in the nursing program, then it is permissible to do all of your hours at one location. However, if you feel you are stagnating at your selected location, then by all means select another activity that will allow for your personal/professional growth.

Can I do a ride along with EMTs or Paramedics?
Ride along is NOT permitted due to safety reasons.