**Honors Experiential Learning Project Proposal Form**

Complete this proposal **prior** to your project’s start date and upload it in the UHP Database (<https://webapps.uc.edu/uchonorsstudent>). Create a project (“Add a new record”) in the “Tracking Project” tab and then upload your proposal document as an attachment. The deadline for [submitting proposals](http://www.uc.edu/honors/experiences/experiencesubmission.html) is on the 5th of each month.

*While the quality of the proposal is most important, strong proposals are typically 3-4 pages in length (single-spaced). Please maintain the proposal format.*

**Basic Information**  
Full Name: Claire Su-Yann James

UC Email: james2ce@mail.uc.edu

College: College of Allied Health Sciences

Major: Health Sciences

Title of Project: Service Learning at Good Samaritan Hospital

Thematic Area: Community Engagement

Expected Project Start Date: January 15, 2015

Expected Project End Date: June 15, 2015

**Project Information**

1. Provide a detailed abstract of your proposed honors experiential learning project.

Good Samaritan Hospital, located at 375 Dixmyth Ave in Cincinnati, is a partner of the College of Allied Health Sciences, my college, to provide students with service-learning opportunities. I will be volunteering in various parts of Good Samaritan Hospital, doing anything from reading experimental lab results to encouraging patients. Partaking in this project will allow me to learn more about working in a hospital setting, which is necessary for me since I will be pursuing a career in neonatology. By getting to spend quality time in the hospital, I will be able to interact personally with professionals in the medical field and learn more about my career path.

**Clearly and thoroughly address how each of the following elements will be exhibited in your work:**

1. Connection to Learning Outcomes within the Honors Thematic Area (identified above)
   1. Participates in community and understands own role as citizen of community
      * By being a part of the volunteer program at Good Samaritan Hospital, I will be an integral part of the community, both in the hospital itself and in Cincinnati. As someone who is not a native of Cincinnati, it is really exciting to become a part of this wonderful city.
      * Additionally, volunteering will give me the opportunity to learn more about my role in the community. While it is an honor and a privilege to be part of the Bearcat community here at UC, college is the time to understand where one stands within his/her community. Volunteering will allow me to acquaint myself with other people in my community, which is an essential part of learning where I fit in the community.
   2. Relates, communicates, and works effectively with others towards sustainable social change.
      * I will be able to relate, communicate, and work effectively with others because that is how a hospital runs smoothly. I will be open-minded, especially when working with others who do no experience the same views as I. I will also be open to criticism, which is crucial to correcting mistakes. Making mistakes is a part of human nature, but how we respond to the criticism we receive is what helps us learn from them.
2. Connection to Goals and Academic Theories (include reference list, as appropriate)
3. Being a part of the service-learning program will contribute to my professional goal of establishing a relationship with medical professionals at a local hospital in Cincinnati. As a future candidate for medical school, it is imperative to network and personally connect with those who could “give me an edge.”

These people can write credible recommendations, which is a vital part of the medical school application. They can also connect me with more professionals in my field. Networking is valuable, not only in the medical field, but in life. Having a great surrounding network of peers and mentors is nice, knowing you have people on whom you can rely. Finally, making connections with doctors at Good Samaritan hospital will be beneficial because they will give me great insight into what the life of a doctor is truly like. I have been to career shadowing programs and had the opportunity to interview doctors, but I have never had the opportunity to volunteer inside the hospital and see how doctors work with volunteers behind the scenes. This will be my first opportunity to see what it’s truly like to be a doctor, even though I’ll just be volunteering.

1. The theory of applying service-learning into academics has succeeded time and time again. In Dr. Shannon O’Brien’s research, she found that “civic leadership, charitable giving, and overall political engagement were all identified as being more common” in students who participate in service-learning (pg. 2). I chose this resource by accessing the online research databases at the UC Library webpage.

A second resource, Frank DiMaria’s “Service Learning Attracts A New Kind of Student” also supports the service-learning model. In his article he discusses how more and more students are interested in participating in service-learning, and graduating with more the just *x* amount of credit-hours (pg. 1). More students than ever before are interested in being active members of their community. In addition, being a part of a service-learning program teaches good time management skills and great social skills, all which will contribute to my career in the medical field. I found this article via my Success in Allied Health I course, taught by Doctor Elizabeth Hertenstein.

Both of these resources are suitable for me because I want to utilize service-learning to transform myself into an empathetic citizen with great leadership skills and better political engagement. It allows me to view how other students are applying their service-learning experiences to their lives. They spark my interest in service-learning and confirm that I will be excited to partake in it.

Works Cited:

Wilder, Shannon O'Brien, et al. "Long-Term Effects of Service-Learning on Students' Civic Engagement After College." *Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship* 6.1 (2013): 125-6. *ProQuest.*Web. 19 Nov. 2014.

DiMaria, Frank. "Service Learning Attracts A New Kind of Student." *The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education* (2006): 50-54. *Ed Digest*. Prakken Publications, Dec. 2006. Web. 16 Nov. 2014.

1. Initiative, Independence, and/or Creativity

While volunteering is a great way for anyone to become involved in their community, I believe I have a unique set of skills I can bring to the hospital to make the patients feel comfortable, and to make the doctors’ jobs a little easier. As a child, I suffered from a seizural disorder, which forced me to become pretty familiar to the hospital-life. It gives me a pretty unique view into the patient lifestyle, considering I was a patient for long periods of time as well. I learned that the hospital can only succeed when everyone who works there works as a team. In order to be that team player, I can contribute my ability to work with anybody through my initiative, independence, and creativity.

As I gain more experience volunteering at the hospital, I will be under less and less supervision, so I will have a lot of responsibility being independent. I want to make the hospital a better place for everyone. I will have to make my time as meaningful as possible. However, since I am a student as well, I will only be able to go 2-3 days a week for several hours, meaning I have to do even *more* to make the most of my time. I do not want to just be a bump on a log while I am there, especially considering that I have to make a good impression on the doctors who will make great connections.

I will take a lot of initiative, by asking what else can be done, and visiting patients when I have down-time. This experience requires initiative because I have to apply to become a volunteer, and the selection process is rather rigorous. I need to be interviewed, undergo online training, orientation, and have multiple immunizations to be a volunteer.

1. Reflection

I will reflect upon my experience by creating a photo scrapbook of my experience. I find that I take a lot of pictures with my iPhone, and I never really use them for anything, so this is a way I will be able to tie my hobby into something productive! On each page, I will provide a picture of something interesting I experienced that day, and I will describe what it is and what it meant to me. I find the best way for me to reflect on my experiences is through journal entry. I have created ten prompts for reflections, listed below:

* + - 1. What was the best part of volunteering today?
      2. What did you learn at volunteering today?
      3. What was something you wish you did differently today?
      4. Did you meet anyone new today?
      5. For whom did you work today?
      6. Where did you volunteer today (what department)?
         * Do you find you enjoy working in that department?
      7. How did you grow today? Personally? Professionally?
      8. What made you smile today?

There is a sort of stipulation that goes along with taking photos in a hospital, however. I do not have the right to take pictures of patients, or go too in-depth in my reflection when I talk about them due to patient confidentiality. As a result of this, I will really have to be creative. This stipulation ties in to question 4 of this proposal, discussing the creative aspect of my honors experience.

1. Dissemination

At the end of this experience, I will share what I have learned with others. I will take my scrapbook of reflections and present them at a University Honors Association forum. I think that the PowerPoint presentation that most everyone does is a little dry, so instead, I will take each week’s worth of photos and do something a little more creative with it. I will create a large-scale model of the scrapbook using posterboard and construction paper, using my personal scrapbook as a model. This will be a fun and creative way to interact with my dissemination audience.

I chose the University Honors Association forum because they are an easy, accessible audience of like-minded peers that will support me. The Honors students are like a family, which makes me comfortable with them, and I know I will not get nervous when I present to them. Because they all have had to disseminate an experience before, I know they will be as supportive as they can, which is something I truly appreciate.

1. Project Advisor(s)

Name: Rev. Lisa Bryan

Title: Supervisor, Volunteer Services Office

Contact Information: (513) 862-3539 or Lisa\_Bryan@trihealth.com

Expertise: She has worked with numerous volunteers in the past, including students of the Allied Health program who are a part of service-learning.