



Salvatorian Service Requirement

“Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you?” Matthew 25: 40

Service to others is an essential part of the message of Jesus and, thus, our Catholic faith. Jesus, in his love and compassion for the poor and the outcast, said that what we do to the least among us, we do to Him (Mt. 25: 40). In a special way, the spiritual foundation of the Sisters of the Divine Savior calls us to serve as Jesus served. Therefore, the DSHA graduation service requirement guides students to be of service to people experiencing hunger, economic disadvantage, illness, isolation and individuals with special needs (physical, emotional, developmental, etc.). Our Catholic values, grounded in our Salvatorian identity, are evident in daily service in our school community and lead our students to a greater awareness of their responsibility to act for justice and to serve others.

Grade Level Service Requirements

Freshmen	Freshman Service Day + 5 additional service hours
Sophomores	15 hours
Juniors	20 hours
Seniors	Vocare

Students also must:

- Complete service hours by Wednesday, May 1, 2024. For Sophomores and Juniors, up to half of the required hours can be completed during the summer *before* that school year. At least half of the hours must be completed during the academic year.
- Log all hours on x2VOL for verification by the site, as well as approval from the Director of Salvatorian Service. Family members may not verify service.
- Write a service reflection each semester. At least one meaningful service experience must be completed before reflection sessions on December 6 and another service experience before the reflections on May 8.

Hours that Qualify for Salvatorian Service

The Salvatorian Service Requirement calls our students to be of loving service to people experiencing:

- Hunger
- Economic disadvantage
- Illness
- Isolation (elderly, veterans, refugees, etc.)
- Individuals with special needs (physical, emotional, developmental, etc.)

Hours served at service organizations whose mission is to reach people experiencing any of these circumstances are eligible for Salvatorian service hours. We encourage students to have face-to-face interactions with those they serve, in order to develop meaningful relationships and to engage in recurring service at a site. We also recommend that, when choosing service opportunities, students move out of their comfort zones, so that they can grow more deeply as people of faith and as contributing members of society. Indirect service, such as organizing fundraisers or office help, is allowed when the population who is directly served by that service organization is included in one of the categories above. We are called to serve God in ways that stretch us beyond ourselves and our immediate families. Service to a needy family member, neighbor, or friend is supported and encouraged, but does not count for service hours. Examples that qualify for the Salvatorian Service Requirement include:

- Spending time with the elderly (who are non-family members) in elderly care facilities
- Volunteering at an event that supports those who have special needs
- Serving at a meal program or food pantry for those experiencing hunger
- Tutoring at a Catholic Seton school or an MPS school

Summer Service

Up to half of the grade level required hours can be served during the summer months. Summer service should be logged on x2VOL with verification. Students are always encouraged to participate in and report additional service beyond the required hours. Summer mission trips or vacation bible school hours are capped at 20 hours on x2VOL. All service hours are applied towards the Salvatorian Sisters' Service Award.

Service to Parish, Place of Worship, or DSHA

An important part of being a member of a community is to contribute to that community. By participating in our parish, place of worship, or school we help to form it into a vibrant, strong, and faith-filled community. Freshmen can apply up to 3 hours of parish, place of worship, or DSHA service to their required service hours. Sophomores and juniors can apply up to 6 hours of parish, place of worship, or DSHA service to their required service hours.

Examples of service to one's parish or place of worship include the following:

- Volunteering as a Mass server, lector, usher or choir member
- Teaching religious education or Confirmation classes
- Assisting at your parish auction

Certain DSHA events can be applied to the Salvatorian Service Requirement. Those include Alumnae Weekend, SDS Woman of Faith Award Night, An Afternoon in Santa's Workshop, the Auction, the President's Dinner and the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.

Freshmen can apply up to 3 hours of parish, place of worship, or DSHA service to their required service hours. Sophomores and juniors can apply up to 6 hours of parish, place of worship, or DSHA service to their required service hours. All parish, place of worship, DSHA, and summer hours should be submitted to x2VOL and will contribute to the Salvatorian Sisters' Service Award cumulative hours.

Graduation Requirement

Service is a graduation requirement and is represented on student transcripts as a Pass/Fail class. Students who do not complete the annual service requirement on time are required to meet with the Director of Campus Ministry and will be ineligible to participate in co-curricular activities until the requirement is fulfilled. Extra service hours can be assigned, as determined on an individual basis by the Director of Salvatorian Service. Not completing graduation requirements is grounds for academic probation and dismissal.

Missing Service

Increased personal responsibilities is one of the benefits of community service. When students sign up to serve, they make commitments with community partners to be present and to participate fully in that service. Students are asked to sign up for service two weeks in advance. If students need to cancel commitments, they must contact the community partner and Dr. Pickart, as well as find students to replace them at the event. Failure to do so will result in a demerit.

Salvatorian Sisters' Service Award

The Salvatorian Sisters' Service Award recognizes seniors who embody the Salvatorian mission by consistently embracing the call to serve others beyond the graduation requirement. This award is given to graduating seniors by the Sisters of the Divine Savior in acknowledgment of the people they have become, as well as the ways their ethic of loving service will continue to transform the world. Eligible seniors include those who:

- Complete 90+ hours of service freshman through junior years. All service hours, including parish, place of worship, DSHA, summer service, and mission trips can be applied to this cumulative goal and must be submitted, verified, and approved through x2VOL.
- Complete 20+ hours of ongoing service during senior year between the first day of school and the last day of the fall semester. At least 10 of these hours must be at one site.

Questions

Please contact Dr. Pickart in Campus Ministry at pickartk@dsha.info or 414.721.7971 for more information.