

CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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The Center for Community Engagement (CNU Engage) connects students with off-campus partnerships and experiences that lead to at least three primary learning outcomes: love of learning as it relates to personal and community development; active and responsible civic leadership; and, professional skills and experience. All students are encouraged to enroll in the Service Distinction Program, the completion of which is a recognized graduation honor. Those interested in the scholarship of civic and community engagement should consider the Service Distinction Leader Program and the Minor in Civic and Community Engagement.

Service Distinction students follow a four-year developmental pathway, where they first explore the history, culture, and context of the local community, along with the ten Service Tracks organized through CNU Engage. Service Track examples include Youth Development, Arts and Culture, and Hunger and Housing. Second year students are encouraged to become regular volunteers or interns at a primary service site, one of the Center's vetted community partners. Third and fourth year students often pair their continued service work with community-based undergraduate research, international service, or senior-level capstone projects that benefit their service site.

The following are the Service Distinction Requirements for Graduation:

- At least 140 service hours prior to graduation;
- At least 100 of those hours served (1) in one service track, (2) in Hampton Roads, and (3) during the academic semester.

Service Distinction Leader

- At least 400 service hours prior to graduation;
- At least 250 of those hours served (1) in one service track, (2) in Hampton Roads, and (3) during the academic semester;
- Participation in NN 101 and CNU Engage 101 Training.

OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH
AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY

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The Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity (OURCA) at Christopher Newport University facilitates the integration of student learning through research and creative activity beyond the traditional classroom. The Office provides opportunities for undergraduates to expand research literacy skills and engage in projects that put classroom course work and academic theory into practice. The OURCA at CNU views research as a deep learning experience, which motivates understanding of basic concepts through their application to a question or problem to help students to develop a deeper understanding of more complex issues. The OURCA is open to students across Christopher Newport University, regardless of their major or stage of educational development. We advise and prepare undergraduates on how to find research opportunities, how to work with faculty, and how to collaborate with each other in innovative and interdisciplinary ways. Finally, the OURCA supports the presentation of research and creative activity in local (including CNU's annual research conference PAIDEIA), regional, and national conferences, juried shows, performances, competitions, other presentation modalities, and journal publication (including CNU's student research journal, *The Cupola*).

CNU students are eligible for a wide array of funding and support opportunities:

- Research Apprentice Program - supporting beginning researchers
- Summer Scholars Program - collaborative work with faculty
- Research LENS Student Grants - independent work with faculty oversight
- Research LENS Travel Fund - travel to present or conduct research and creative work