San Diego City College MESA Program  
San Diego MESA Alliance MESAdvantage Standards

COMMUNITY

- Participate in organized educational community service programs
- Participate in organized non-educational community service programs
- Tutor/mentor others
- Other community activities as the opportunities arise, such as participating in service learning through the MESA program or through your classes.

Following are the guidelines for completing each standard:

Need help? Ask a MESA student or the MESA staff.
**STANDARD:** Participate in organized educational and non-educational community service programs

**Purpose:** Employers are looking to hire individuals who have expertise in their field and live with passion and commitment. Community Service gives you the chance to put classroom skills into action. Service shows employers that you are a person who is committed to working hard as well as working for a common good. Employers love to hire employees who have a bigger vision for their lives and want to make an impact in society. In addition through volunteer activities you will be able to increase your network of contacts (including possible sources for letters of recommendation), improve your skills, and build your resume.

**Recommendations:**

- Volunteer for the annual **Expand Your Horizons** event at USD in March. Expand Your Horizons for middle-school and high-school girls interested in math, science, and engineering. Similar events are held across the country in approximately the same time frame (early Spring semester each year).

- Volunteer to work the high school **MESA Days** events held throughout the academic year on Saturdays. The MESA in Schools Program is the predecessor to the MESA Community College Program, and the focus is much broader. It would be a cool experience for you to see the early roots of the MESA pipeline.

- Volunteer at other educational community events as the opportunities arise—watch your MESA Program email for details.

- Volunteer to work at your church or former high school. Tutoring is especially useful, as you have skills that everyone needs, but few have mastered.

**Documentation to be maintained in student portfolio:**

- Certificate or letter from volunteer coordinator indicating your commitment to the activity.

- ____________________________________________________________
**STANDARD:** Tutor/mentor others

**Purpose:** The purpose of this activity is to allow for non-working experience in tutoring and mentoring. It is not unlike the associated sections in the academic support standard of your MESAdvantage checklist. Again,

1. Teaching is far and away the best way to truly cement your subject in your head. You do not have to be perfect going in to tutoring. Chances are by the end of a year you will have improved your game significantly.

2) You have an opportunity to help students coming up behind you. There is reward in this, besides…

3) It builds your experience so that you can one day start tutoring professionally.

**Recommendations:**

- Help your classmates
- Help your friends
- Help your siblings or cousins or your own children.

**Documentation to be maintained in student portfolio:**

- Time cards
- Tutoring log.
- Weekly sign-in sheet.

**STANDARD:** Other community building activities

- **Service Learning**—typically associated with classes, this gives you an opportunity to help the community while at the same time earning credit. The MESA program hopes to team with the Service Learning program to offer volunteer internships to MESA students throughout the academic year. If you are interested in volunteering for approximately 15 hours per semester, and thereby building both your resume and your publication record, please see your MESA Director for details.