

Research and Service Learning Opportunities in Social Sciences

We support students in applying what they learn in the classroom to the community. Here are some examples of the ways we have done so recently and continue to do:

Food Literacy, the Cougar Pantry, and the Campus Garden (2020-2022): Social Sciences faculty, along with faculty from the Environmental Studies Program, received a grant from the Chancellor's Office to enhance student food literacy and agency on campus. The grant supports service learning opportunities in two of our classes – SSCI 301: Introduction to Social Sciences



and SSCI 495: Capstone in Social Sciences - to explore food literacy from an interdisciplinary perspective and develop food literacy interventions to meet the needs and sensibilities of our student population. Additionally, the project aims to build students' research skills, nurture participation on campus, enhance connections between the campus garden and the campus food pantry, and encourage use of the campus food pantry.

Evaluation of the Cougar Pantry (2019-2020): A student team made up of Social Sciences, Sociology, and Human Development students worked with Social Sciences faculty to design, conduct, and analyze surveys and interviews to evaluate CSUSM's Cougar Pantry. Students even presented their work in Sacramento at a professional conference!



Web-based projects (2019): Students in Dr. Atherton's capstone class explored social issues through service learning projects with such organizations as Alta Vista High School, Interfaith Community Services and the Vista Community Clinic, and created webpages designed to inspire young people to get involved in efforts to address these issues such as [at risk youth](#) and [homelessness](#).

Campus Safety Project (2018): Students in Dr. Atherton's capstone class worked with IITS to design, conduct, and analyze data from a campus safety survey using Geographic Information Systems Mapping software (GIS). Click here are a [couple examples](#).



Emergency Medical Services Project, Democracy in Action (2017): Students in Dr. Atherton's capstone class worked with the City of San Marcos to find multidisciplinary solutions to the problem of 911-call overuse. See their report

here: <https://www.csusm.edu/civiclearning/documents/diaemsproject.pdf>