The Bonner Center for Civic Engagement defines “community-based learning” to include traditional service-learning as well as other activities. Classes which connect our students to the greater Richmond community for the purpose of furthering their learning are considered community-based learning courses. Our goal is for community-based learning to benefit the community as well as the learners.

**Modes and Approaches to Community-Based Learning:**

- **Bringing community partners into the classroom**
  - Example: providers and patients from a community agency visit and present to a Neuroscience class

- **Participant observation & “shadowing”**
  - Example: students from a course called “Money, Politics, and Prisons” visit a county jail

- **Producing documentaries and performances**
  - Example: students in course called “The Urban Crisis” produce documentary videos on local issues and screen the films for the public

- **Study trips**
  - Example: students visit local museums and sites of significance related to their course, such as the Holocaust Museum in Washington and the Slave Trail in Richmond

- **Service trips**
  - Example: on a spring break trip, students studying sustainable development perform service in the Guatemalan Highlands and tie their service back to their classroom learning

- **Service learning (mentoring, tutoring, interpreting, etc.)**
  - Example: students in a Spanish language class, “Spanish in the Community,” volunteer in various local Spanish-speaking communities and connect these experiences to their classroom learning

- **Teaching course material in schools, prisons, etc.**
  - Example: “Biology of the Chesapeake Bay” students create lessons about the bay and teach them at a local elementary school

- **Data analysis and background research for partner agencies**
  - Example: “Statistics for Business and Economics” students analyze data for local non-profits

- **Organizational studies and “consulting” for change**
  - Example: students in a Leadership class “Leading Change” take on projects for local non-profits

- **Clinical education**
  - Example: Law School clinics—law students do supervised work in a pro bono clinic