



## SkillsUSA College/Postsecondary Program of Work

SkillsUSA activities for college/postsecondary chapters can be extremely valuable educational experiences. It would be difficult to overemphasize the importance of interesting and well-planned activities for a chapter. Activities should be the center for chapter involvement on campus, providing a focus for what SkillsUSA is all about. While giving students a chance to get out in the community and do something, activities can be structured and organized around SkillsUSA's College/Postsecondary Program of Work.

Below is a suggested program of work for college/postsecondary chapters.

- **Membership**

To have a chapter and perform activities, students must join SkillsUSA, elect officers and hold meetings. Members are students in career and technical programs and classes on campus.

- **Technical Skill Development/Championships**

Technical learning occurs within the class or lab. The SkillsUSA Champion-

ships or competitions allow students to test their technical skills against their peers and industry standards.

- **Leadership Development**

Developing leaders and responsible American citizens is the fundamental goal of SkillsUSA. Through campus activities managed and led by students, professional and leadership skills develop. Members can conduct campus wide professional development activities. They can participate in local, state and national leadership conferences, and participate in the Career Skills Education Program, an online curriculum.

- **Community Service\***

Community service plays a large part in developing leaders and a positive image of career and technical education. It also promotes character development for students. Consider a campus-wide project.



- **Service Learning\***

Service Learning is where SkillsUSA happens directly within the program through experiential learning at a new level.

\*SkillsUSA is an official certifying organization for the President's Volunteer Service Award. Documented community service and service learning hours are eligible. See our Web site for more information: [www.skillsusa.org/students/volsvc.shtml](http://www.skillsusa.org/students/volsvc.shtml).

### What is Service Learning?

Service learning is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.

#### Service Learning:

- Promotes learning through active participation
- Provides structured time for students to reflect
- Provides an opportunities to use skills and knowledge in real-life situations
- Extends learning beyond the classroom
- Fosters a sense of caring for others
- Benefits the student and the community
- Is a graded project/part of the curriculum

#### Service Learning projects involve students in:

- Environments supplement their education
- Opportunities to build workplace skills
- Communication and networking
- Awareness of community needs

#### Service Learning is not:

- An episodic volunteer program
- An add-on to an existing school or college curriculum
- Completing minimum service hours to graduate
- Service assigned as a form of punishment
- One-sided, benefiting only students or only the community

*Training in Service Learning is available.*

*See our Web site:*

[www.skillsusa.org/educators/svclearn.shtml](http://www.skillsusa.org/educators/svclearn.shtml)  
or telephone us at 703-777-8810.



SkillsUSA is a national organization serving teachers and high school and college students who are preparing for careers in technical, skilled and service occupations, including health occupations.

SkillsUSA is an applied method of instruction for preparing America's high performance workers in public career and technical programs. It provides quality education experiences for students in leadership, teamwork, citizenship and character development. It builds and reinforces self-confidence, work attitudes and communications skills. It emphasizes total quality at work — high ethical standards, superior work skills, life-long education, and pride in the dignity of work. SkillsUSA also promotes understanding of the free-enterprise system and involvement in community service.

SkillsUSA programs include local, state and national competitions in which students demonstrate occupational and leadership skills. At the annual national-level SkillsUSA Championships, over 5,000 students compete in more than 90 occupational and leadership skill areas.

More than 300,000 student and instructors join SkillsUSA annually, organized into more than 19,333 sections and 54 state and territorial associations. SkillsUSA has served more than 9.6 million members.

SkillsUSA programs also help to establish industry standards for job skill training in the lab and classroom, and promote community service.



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## Quick Reference Guide to the College/ Postsecondary Program of Work

