

Outreach Ministries Handbook - 2014-2015

Great Lakes Christian College

Judy Beavers, Director of Outreach Ministries

The Philosophy

Great Lakes Christian College views "Outreach Ministries" as a vital tool in the mission of preparing servant leaders for the Kingdom of God for service in the church and world.

Our purpose is to encourage students in actual ministry opportunities, through experience in conjunction with churches, para-church ministries, individuals, and community service agencies.

Student opportunity for ministry is a distinctive part of the academic program at Great Lakes Christian College. Truth learned in the classroom must have a means of finding expression not only in students' lives but also in service to others. This experience prepares students to make practical application of classroom instruction.

As students minister, they are brought into vital relationships with people. Hopefully students can demonstrate the love of Christ in practical and life-changing ways.

O.M. is based on Scripture

Philippians 2:3-7 – "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus, Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness."

Colossians 1:10 – "And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way, bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God...."

O.M. Program Objectives

1. Outreach Ministries will meet the requirements set by the ABHE for our institution.
2. Students will gain valuable, practical experience in both familiar/typical types of service, and unfamiliar/new opportunities.

O.M. Student Objectives

1. Students will know the scriptural basis for Christian servanthood.
2. Students will incorporate their unique gifts and abilities into his/her ministry experiences.
3. Students will develop a mature attitude toward Christian organizations and their personnel.
4. Students will demonstrate responsibility in fulfilling service activities.

The O.M. Director

Mrs. Judy Beavers is the Director of Outreach Ministries. She has served GLCC in this capacity since 1987. Judy is also the Piano Instructor at the college, teaches piano in her DeWitt home, and is Worship Coordinator at Duplain Church of Christ, St. Johns, MI.

Judy is a 1978 GLCC graduate. Her husband, Phil is the Vice President of Institutional Advancement at GLCC. They have been married 38 years and served in the located ministry together for 24 years until 1999 when Phil moved to his present position. The Beavers have three daughters and 10 grandchildren.

Responsibilities of the Director:

1. Communicate the requirements of the program to the students
2. Communicate opportunities to the students by posting, announcement, and individual contact
3. Evaluate and record student responses concerning their O.M. activities
4. Be available a minimum of nine hours/week over three days to offer counsel and guidance to students
5. Create and coordinate plans for the "Weeks of Outreach"
6. Serve on the Outreach Ministries committee
7. Evaluate and make efforts to improve O.M. at GLCC

~The O.M. office is located across the hall from the GLCC Bookstore ~

A Few Examples of O.M. Opportunities

Athletic Ministry (coaching/assistant coaching for church/community children's teams)

Drama Ministry

Benevolent Ministry (Nursing/Retirement Homes, Hospice, Visiting/Helping Shut-ins)

Missions

Bible Bowl (quizzing/coaching)

Music Ministry

Bible Studies Leadership

Church (Serving in any capacity at a local church – greeting, nursery, maintenance, etc.)

Preaching

Campus Ministry

Pregnancy Centers

Children/Youth Ministry

Tutoring

Counseling (Substantial time/purpose given)

Discipleship

Deeds (Term given to areas of service such as babysitting, car repairs, giving rides –

These are all viable areas of service, but students can use only 6 hours/semester from these opportunities for O.M. credit)

O.M. Questions

Why is O.M. an academic requirement?

The Association for Biblical Higher Learning, of which GLCC is a member, requires "Christian Service"/"Outreach Ministries" as an academic function. Each year the college reports the percentage of our full-time students who have completed their hours of service requirements. Grades are pass/fail and do not affect the GPA.

How do I 'do' O.M.?

Soon after arriving beginning a semester, our hope is that each student will seek God's direction in finding ministry areas that will benefit the Kingdom of God. If you are currently involved in a ministry/service, you are encouraged to continue, if it meets the O.M. requirements.

What are the O.M. requirements?

- 75% of your full-time semesters must have earned a SA grade (Satisfactory) to graduate
- A MINIMUM of 15 hours/semester of ministry hours must be completed and reported to receive a SA grade
- A SUPERVISOR EVALUATION/VERIFICATION form must be completed and turned in to the O.M. Office by the given deadline to receive O.M. credit

How do I communicate my ministry activity to the Director of O.M.?

Use one of these methods -

- Record your ministry hours on the form provided in Chapel on Tuesdays
- Email the O.M. Director (jbeavers@glcc.edu)
- Go to the O.M. Office and verbally communicate activities
- Keep record of hours throughout the semester, and then record them on the "Final Report" form that will be placed in your mailbox toward the end of the semester
- If you are involved in an on-going ministry (2+ hours/week), you may fill out the "Release Form" (available in rack across from O.M. Office) and forego other communications throughout the semester

How am I evaluated?

You will be evaluated by -

- A "Supervisor/Mentor". This should be someone who has observed or supervised one of your activities. They will complete a Supervisor/Mentor Verification form that will be placed in your mailbox along with the Final Report, toward the end of each semester. These forms are also available on the rack across the hall from the O.M. Office. Possible Supervisor/Mentors include: GLCC Faculty or Staff, leaders in churches/organizations, other students, spouses. *If your service is on a one-on-one basis, and no supervisor is present, you must have a GLCC faculty/staff member fill out the mentor verification form. You are to have met regularly with that faculty/staff member throughout the semester.*
- Yourself. Evaluating yourself is always helpful as you consider blessings of your service and also improvements that can be made.
- The O.M. Director. Substantial time and effort should be given to any ministry/service. The Director will evaluate how many hours and types of ministry opportunities you have been involved in.

The Weeks of Outreach (I & II)

The "Weeks of Outreach"** are dynamic life-changing weeks in the lives of GLCC students! During Spring semester, 2 weeks of classes are cancelled so that students may utilize the time to participate in ministries in an intensified way. Although not required, every GLCC student is strongly encouraged to participate in at least one of these weeks while attending the college. This year's dates are: **I - February 16-20, 2015 and II - March 30-April 3, 2015.**

A few areas of interest -

- Foreign mission trips (most trips are in Feb.)
- U.S. mission trips
- Inner-City missions work
- Campus ministry
- Leading/staffing retreats and church conferences
- Concert Choir Tour
- More time in on-going ministry

No more than 50% of required O.M. hours can be earned during these special weeks