

# Community Action Challenge FAQs

1. Is CAC a requirement?  
Yes, the CAC component is a requirement of being in the Honors College. Reporting your hours **every semester** is part of being in good standing.
2. Can I still submit through UM GivePulse even though my service was not performed through a GivePulse event?  
Yes. Please refer to the submission instructions to 'Add An Impact.' Remember to tag your class (Class of 202X) or 'Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College' (under Groups in your dashboard) and be sure to include an adequate description of your service activity so we can recognize the excellent work you have done!
3. How many hours do I need?  
You need 10 hours in the fall and 10 hours in the spring.
4. What happens if I don't report hours this semester?  
You will get a reminder that you will still need to make up the hours in the next semester. Not reporting two semesters of CAC is grounds for dismissal from the Honors College.
5. Can I cover my CAC hours for the year in one semester?  
This is a **per semester** requirement, so you cannot report 20 hours in the Fall semester and expect it to cover both fall and spring semesters. You can, however, make up hours in the Spring semester to make sure you have both the Fall and Spring semesters (in the same academic year) covered.
6. What circumstances warrant an exemption from the CAC requirement?

  - Emergency or unusual circumstances that cause you to leave campus suddenly, like medical emergencies
  - Study Abroad, Co-ops, out of state Internships
  - Lockdowns during a global health crisis, like the Covid-19 pandemic
  - **Graduating Seniors** are allowed a thesis exemption for **one** semester; they are still responsible for logging hours for the other semester
  - If you have a circumstance that makes performing CAC a hardship, please come talk to us.
7. Do donations count as CAC?

  - Donating blood counts for 1 hour
  - SHOPPING TIME for a donation, like the Angel Tree, counts
  - Organizing, running, or working a shift at a donation drive counts
  - Just dropping off an item **does not** count
  - Making a monetary donation **does not** count
8. Does volunteering for a research study count for CAC?  
No, volunteering for a research study **does not** count towards CAC hours. While we acknowledge that these research studies help to inform a body of research, they do not encompass the same service-learning component desired for the CAC requirement.
9. Do I need to have someone sign a form, verifying I did my hours?  
No, we run on the honor system. If you work with an organization through GivePulse, they will verify your hours in the system. Otherwise, you can just tell us about the work you did. We do not need anyone to call or sign a form.
10. Can I do my hours over a break – Winter break or Summer, for example?  
Service hours need to be performed/served during the active fall and spring semesters. So, service performed over the Thanksgiving holiday or Spring will count. However, since the Winter and Summer breaks fall between semesters, service performed during this time will not count towards the CAC requirement.

11. By when do my hours need to be submitted?  
Hours need to be logged by the last day of the semester.