

Gwynedd Mercy University - Office of Campus Ministry
Alternative Break Application
March 2 – March 9, 2019 (Domestic) & May 21-28 (International)

Thank you for your interest in an Alternative Break Experience!
Please read this cover sheet carefully before filling out this application.

The information it contains will help you to understand the purpose and logistics of the Alternative Break.

Applications will be accepted until January 17, 2019
They may be emailed to plummer.b@gmercyu.edu or brought to Visitation House.

Why an Alternative Break?

Campus Ministry's Alternative Break program provides the opportunity for you to put faith and Mercy values into practice through service immersion for one week during the University's spring or summer break. These service-immersion experiences are part of the University's commitment to the Mercy tradition of service to society. Students, faculty and staff who participate in these experiences have a desire to be of service to others, learn more about economic poverty, diversity and social justice, grow spiritually, reflect within a community about their experiences, strengthen leadership skills and commit to advocate for those who are marginalized in today's society.

Application Process

Applications will be accepted starting December 2018 and **are due no later than Thursday, January 17, 2019!** You may e-mail the completed application as an attachment to Betsy Stone Plummer (plummer.b@gmercyu.edu) or bring it directly to Visitation House. Upon receipt, you will be contacted to set up a face-to-face **interview**. You will be notified by Gwynedd email regarding your selection and assignment by January 25th.

Team Member Expectations

- Attend all team meetings and large group gatherings leading up to and following Alternative Break. These meetings are **mandatory** and are critical for the development and preparation of each team.
- Participate in all individual and group fundraising efforts (see below).
- Be open to living and learning about service, justice, community, faith, and the Mercy tradition.
- Have an open mind for new experiences and an open heart for new connections.

Please mark your calendars for the following MANDATORY meetings and events! (You will also need to attend several mandatory meetings specific to your site, at a mutually agreed-upon time.)

- ✓ **Applications Due:** On or before Thursday, January 17, 2019
- ✓ **Alternative Break Kick-off:** Friday, January 25, 4 pm – 8 pm; Waldron Griffinaerie
- ✓ **Applebee's Flapjack Fundraiser:** Saturday, February 23, 7:30 am – 10:00 am; Applebee's North Wales
- ✓ **Service Break Commissioning Ceremony:** Friday, March 1, 3-4 pm; Assumption Hall
- ✓ **Beyond the Break Reflection:** Friday, March 15, 3:30-5; Waldron Griffinaerie
- ✓ **ASB Bingo:** Friday, March 29, 4 – 10 pm; Griffin Complex Gymnasium

Fundraising

- Each student is responsible to pay a **\$50 non-refundable deposit**: \$25 is due at the 1st team meeting, \$25 is due at the 2nd.
- Each team member must be willing to **commit to all group fund-raisers including the Applebee's Flapjack Fundraiser, ASB BINGO, and Letter Writing Campaign** in order to pay the cost of Alternative Break Experiences.

People of any or no faith tradition are welcome to apply and participate! If you have any questions regarding service immersion experiences, please contact Betsy Stone Plummer at plummer.b@gmercyu.edu or 215-641-5592.

**Gwynedd Mercy University - Office of Campus Ministry
Alternative Break 2019 Application**

Full Name (exactly as it appears on your DL or govt. ID): _____

Campus/Temporary Address: _____

Cell Phone: _____ School E-Mail: _____

*Your acceptance email and other important communication will come to your GMercyU email—**please check regularly!***

Permanent Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Year in School: _____ T-Shirt Size: _____

Major/Minor _____

Activities/Teams in which you are active: _____

Please provide one faculty/staff person who knows you well, and can serve as a reference for your application.

Faculty/Staff Reference: _____

HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY PARTICIPATED IN A GWYNEDD MERCY ALTERNATIVE BREAK EXPERIENCE?

____ NO ____ YES *Please list each year and community:*

Please type your answers to the following questions as thoroughly as possible and attach to your application:

1. What is your motivation for participating in an alternative break experience? If you have previously participated, what part of your experience did you find to be most meaningful? Why?
2. Do your faith and spirituality have anything to do with your desire to serve? If yes, how? If no, from where does your desire to serve come?
3. How do you tend to deal with discomfort? What do you think might cause you anxiety or discomfort while on an ASB experience?
4. How is immersion and service travel different from tourism or educational trips?
5. What qualities do you think you will bring to the group with whom you will serve?
6. Each experience focuses on a particular population or Critical Concern (<https://www.sistersofmercy.org>). After researching each webpage listed, to which issues are you most and least drawn? Please explain your thinking.

- Benson, VT: Ecology/Environment/Sustainability
<http://mercyecology.org/mercy-farm.html>
- Laredo, TX: Immigration/Women
<http://casademisericordia.org/>
- Cincinnati, OH: Urban Poverty
<http://www.mercyneighborhoodministries.org>
- Gros Morne, Haiti (May 2019): Global Poverty
(Previous service immersion experience preferred) <https://mercyfocusonhaiti.org/>

7. Please list any travel and/or dietary restrictions you may have (fear of flying, medical needs, vegetarian, etc):

Thank you for your application! Please remove the cover sheet and keep it for future reference.
To receive an e-mail with this application in Microsoft Word, contact Betsy Stone Plummer (below).

**Please submit this application page and typed essays to Visitation House
or via email plummer.b@gmercyu.edu by **Thursday, January 17th****