Center for Civic Leadership

< Undergraduate Requirements Tab>

Certificate: Certificate in Civic Leadership

Certificate Requirements (12 credit hours and 2 Experiential Learning Programs)

**Required Electives (6 credit hours)**
- Select approved CCL elective coursework with an advisor
- 3 credit hours Elective: Social Issues*
- 3 credit hours Elective: Leadership*

**Non-course Requirements: CCL Experiential Learning Programs**
- Center for Civic Leadership Immersion Program*
- Center for Civic Leadership Action Program**
  - Select an Action Program from the following:
    - Alternative Spring Break Site Leader
    - Group International Service Project Site Leader
    - Houston Action Research Team (HART)
    - Janus Award
    - Leadership Rice Summer Mentorship Experience (SME)
    - Loewenstein Fellowship
    - Urban Immersion Coordinator
    - Wagoner Foreign Study Scholars

**Capstone (6 credit hours)**
- 3 credit hours Civic Leadership Capstone UNIV 400***
- 3 credit hours Civic Leadership Capstone UNIV 401***

*To be completed Years 1-2
**To be completed Years 2-3
***To be completed Years 3-4

Students with a minimum overall GPA of 3.3 can apply in the spring of their sophomore or junior year for admittance to the Certificate in Civic Leadership.

To apply students must submit the following:
- a transcript demonstrating successful completion of required electives and eligible minimum GPA of 3.3
- an abstract of their project proposal for the capstone course (UNIV 400), which is designed to yield high level, independent, community-based projects, and the signature of the faculty member who agrees to serve as the advisor
- a paragraph explaining the relevance of their elective courses and CCL Action Program to the proposed capstone project

Only students who propose a feasible project and demonstrate a coherent path of preparation will be admitted to the CCL Certificate Program.
Center for Civic Leadership

<Department Info Tab>

Executive Director
TBN

Faculty Director
Bob Stein, Ph.D.

Undergraduate Advisor
TBN

Degrees Offered: None

In support of Rice’s mission of providing a distinct undergraduate experience, the Center for Civic Leadership (CCL) helps undergraduate students develop the knowledge, skills, and values to address the problems of the 21st century and to lead in a variety of community environments. The focus on civic leadership reflects not only Rice’s mission but a broader trend that recognizes the civic purpose of 21st century institutions of higher education to cultivate social responsibility and active citizenship. The CCL’s approach to leadership education stresses the development of knowledge to understand the complex challenges facing today’s society, skills to motivate and collaborate with diverse stakeholders to take informed action, and values to effect positive change.

All students begin the program by completing a CCL Immersion Program that introduces them to problems facing the city of Houston (through lectures, community tours, and short-term service) and develops skills in reflective practice critical to leadership development.

Additionally, students will complete one 3-credit elective in social issues and one 3-credit elective in leadership. Timely, personalized advising plays an important role in the selection of the electives. Accordingly, students interested in the certificate program should meet with the Undergraduate Advisor in the CCL to ensure that their electives meet program requirements and provide foundational knowledge directly pertinent to their capstone project.

Subsequently, students will apply to participate in a CCL Action Program that allows them to work in collaboration with a community partner to address a problem or need. To be selected to one of these programs, students must demonstrate relevant academic preparation.

Upon completion of the above listed requirements, students with a minimum overall GPA of 3.3 can apply in the spring of their sophomore or junior year for admittance to the Certificate in Civic Leadership. To apply students must submit the following:

- a transcript demonstrating completion of electives and eligible GPA
- an abstract of their project proposal for the capstone course (UNIV 400), which is designed to yield high level, independent, community-based projects, and the signature of the faculty member who agrees to serve as the advisor
- a paragraph explaining the relevance of their elective courses and CCL Action Program to the proposed capstone project
Only students who propose a feasible project and demonstrate a coherent path of preparation will be admitted to the CCL Certificate Program.

In the fall semester, all admitted certificate students take a course in which they prepare for their capstone projects by researching the community need or problem, designing a sustainable response, developing a project proposal, and reflecting on leadership challenges and solutions. Students subsequently carry out their projects independently in the spring semester under the direction of their faculty advisor and the capstone instructor (UNIV 401). Students will complete a substantial civic leadership project under the guidance of one faculty and one CCL advisor and in partnership with a community organization or office. To register for UNIV 401, students must have successfully completed UNIV 400 and received approval for their CCL capstone project proposal from their advisors, their community partner, and the UNIV 400 course instructor. UNIV 401 students must present their project results to the community partner through a formal presentation and written report before the conclusion of the course. Additionally, students are encouraged to present at a formal venue, such as a conference or symposium, within one year of course completion.

To be considered for receipt of the certificate requires submission of a portfolio that includes the capstone project or description of its outcomes, a reflection essay on civic leadership, and a public presentation to the campus and community. Upon recommendation of the capstone instructor and faculty advisor, the certificate will be awarded by vote of the faculty advisory board and recognized on the student’s official transcript.