

Certificate in Civic Engagement FAQ

Parami University is committed to empowering youth to cultivate leadership in the service of humanity, civic engagement to communities, and relationship to the natural world. In conjunction with the Bard Center for Civic Engagement, students can pursue a “Certificate in Civic Engagement.” This certificate provides a structured path for students interested in deepening their knowledge and understanding of civic and community engagement.

Civic engagement can be defined as, “working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make that difference. It means promoting the quality of life in a community, through both political and non-political processes” (Thomas Ehrlich, “Civic Responsibility in Higher Education,” 2000).

What does a Certificate in Civic Engagement Entail?

The goal of the certificate is to deepen students’ knowledge and understanding of civic engagement by merging curricular and co-curricular pursuits.

Students participating in the program:

1. develop firsthand experience with civic engagement through co-curricular activities outside of the classroom and use their experiences to inform their academic work; and
2. pursue a series of courses that enable them to develop new connections between the understanding and practice of civic engagement.

The certificate sets out expectations that students will be knowledgeable about theories of citizenship, democratic participation, civil society, and social action, familiar with their local community, and cognizant of ways in which the local, national and global are linked. Courses that are a part of the certificate focus on themes related to civic engagement and/or the practice of it. The certificate is acknowledged on each student’s transcript.

Who is Eligible?

The application is open to first year, second year, and third year undergraduate students. Seniors are not eligible to apply (unless specifically recruited by a Center for Civic Engagement staff member). Third year students should weigh their anticipated course load and senior

project plans. Prior to submitting an application, students should have completed two of the course requirements and 20 hours of co-curricular activities. To ensure curricular coherence, each student will be required to obtain approval from their program adviser.

What are the Requirements?

1. **Courses:** Four courses (16 credits) that focus on a theory or practice of civic engagement. This must include: a core course (4 credits); two or more Community-Engaged/Engaged Liberal Arts & Sciences courses (8 credits); and one course which studies theories of civic engagement, democracy and social action (4 credits). *See further course information below.*
2. **Co-Curricular/Extracurricular Activities:** Students participate in 100 hours of co-curricular or extracurricular civic engagement activities during their course of study. The civic engagement activity can be developed through an on-campus program, an independent community engagement activity (such as volunteering for a campaign or non-profit), or an appropriate and approved internship. Students will also be expected to attend workshops on leadership and project management.
3. **Final Reflection Paper:** Upon completion of the four courses and the 100 hours of co-curricular or extracurricular civic engagement activities, students will be asked to submit a written reflection paper addressing the learning outcomes for the Certificate in Civic Engagement program and how the courses and civic engagement activities taught them how to be an engaged citizen.
4. **Funding for Culminating Project** (optional): When applicable, in place of the culminating project, students can incorporate the engagement analysis into an Engaged Senior Project.

Course Requirements

3 requirements from the different course subdivisions:

- 1) One core course (4 credits) including:
 - Civic Engagement and Social Action (OSUN course)
- 2) Two or more Engaged Liberal Arts & Sciences (ELAS) courses (8 credits) including:
 - ARTS 100 Community-Based Filmmaking as Art & Research
 - ARTS 101 Design and Society
 - ASIA 100 Xenia and Our Obligations to Others

- PHIL 100 The Art of Argument
- PHIL 101 Ethical Leadership
- PHIL 300 Philosophy and Gender
- PHIL 301 Philosophy as Practice
- PHIL 401 Environmental Ethics
- PRO 200 Results-based Management for Development Projects
- PRO 100 Taking Your First Steps as a Social Impact Leader
- PRO 101 Writing for Social Change
- SSST 100 Craft of Social Inquiry
- URBN 100 Sustainability in Our Built-Environment

3) One course which studies theories of civic engagement, democracy and social action (4 credits) including:

- GNDR 100 Equality and Equity
- ITRL 100 Development as Freedom
- ITRL 101 Human Rights Theory
- PHIL 200 Introduction to Ethics
- PHIL 201 Introduction to Political Philosophy
- PHIL 300 Power and Resistance
- PSYC 200 Social Psychology
- POL 200 Democracy, Authoritarianism & Regime Transitions
- POL 301 Theories of Power and Resistance
- SEAS 400 Southeast Asia in a Globalizing World

*Other courses available through OSUN online courses. [Please visit this link here](#) to see the courses available in any given term by selecting the Civic Engagement Certificate dropdown.

How to Apply

The application is currently open: [Please click here to apply.](#)

Interested students should be prepared to submit the following information with their application:

1. A short essay (1,000 word max) outlining:
 - a. reasons for pursuing the certificate
 - b. an overview of completed and intended/potential courses to fulfill requirements
 - c. civic and/or community activities engaged in/planned to fulfill the required hours;
 - d. potential community partner organization to fulfill co-curricular hours.
2. An email acknowledging Academic Advisor and/or HOD approval (an approval email screenshot can be attached to the application form)

The deadline for applications is September 30, 2023.

Deadline dates will be posted each semester. Students will be notified of acceptance into the program within 30 days of the application deadline.

Questions? Contact Mia Sasaki at miasasaki@parami.edu.mm