

Certificate in Civic Engagement FAQ

The American University of Afghanistan (AUAF) is committed to nurturing young Afghan leaders to serve both humanity and their own communities, especially amid adversity. Collaborating with the Open Society University Network, the university offers a Certificate in Civic Engagement that provides a structured path for undergraduate students interested in enhancing their knowledge and understanding of civic and community engagement.

Components of the Civic Engagement Certificate Program

This certificate aims to deepen students' understanding and practical skills in civic engagement by integrating academic coursework with co-curricular activities.

Students participating in the program:

1. gain firsthand experience with civic engagement through co-curricular activities that extend beyond classroom learning, which can then be applied to their academic work.
2. undertake a series of courses that help them forge new connections between their theoretical knowledge and practical application of civic engagement.

The certificate aims for students to become 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.

Eligibility

The application is open to first year, second year, and third year undergraduate students. Seniors are not eligible to apply. Third year students should weigh their anticipated course load and senior project plans. Prior to applying, students should have completed two of the course requirements and 20 hours of co-curricular activities. If the two courses have not been completed, students should state which courses they are anticipating taking that fulfill the Certificate requirements in their application. To ensure curricular coherence, each student must obtain written approval from their program adviser.

Requirements

1. **Courses:** Four courses (12 credits or equivalent) that focus on a theory or practice of civic engagement. This must include: a core course (3 credits); at least two

Community-Engaged/Engaged Liberal Arts & Sciences courses (6 credits); and a course on theories of civic engagement, democracy and social action (3 credits).

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

To obtain the certificate, students can choose from the following AUAF courses:

Core course

HUM 110 Civic Engagement

Experiential courses

HUM 299 Peacebuilding through Drama OSUN NCC (SSH)

HUM 203 Introduction to Scriptwriting (SSH)

HR 210 Women's Rights, Human Rights (Law)

HR 110 Human Rights and Practice (Law)

HR 250 Human Rights Issues in Afghanistan (Law)

HR 120 Human Rights Advocacy (Law)

MGT 260 Entrepreneurship (Business)

MGT 410 Organizational Leadership (Business)

ACC 360 Gov't/Non Profit/Private Sector (Business)

ITC 335 Mobile Applications Development (STEM)

Theoretical courses

HUM 103 Thinking About Democracy (SSH)

POL 207 Democratic Development (SSH)

PAD 310 Governance in Post-Conflict Societies (SSH)

POL 311 Peace and Conflict Resolution (SSH)

POL 317 Islam and Politics (SSH)

POL 425 International Political Economy (SSH)

LGS 342 International Human Rights Law (Law)

Additionally, OSUN Online Courses (OOCs) can count for the Certificate as well, and students are encouraged to take both AUAF courses and OOCs. The list of available OOCs can be viewed [here](#).

How to Apply

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

Interested students need to provide the following information with their application:

1. A short essay (1,000 words 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 **December 31st, 2023**. Deadline dates will be posted each semester. Students will be notified of acceptance into the program within 30 days of the application deadline.

For further questions, please contact Muska Dastageer at mdastageer@auaf.edu.af