

OSUN Certificate in Civic Engagement CEU BA in Culture, Politics & Society

The goal of the Certificate in Civic Engagement is to provide a structured path for undergraduate students interested in deepening their knowledge and understanding of civic and community engagement by merging curricular and extra-curricular interests.

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).

Students in CEU’s BA in Culture, Politics and Society program have two different pathways they can follow to gain the certificate:

Pathway 1 will be for students who are doing the Experiential Learning Civic Engagement track or the Experiential Learning Internship track with a relevant internship. As students in this pathway will be completing many more hours than required for the project, they will only have to complete 14 credits in their course requirements.

Pathway 2 will be for students who are not doing the Experiential Learning Civic Engagement track or who don’t have a civic engagement-related internship for the Experiential Learning Internship track. Students in this pathway will have to complete 16 credits in their course requirements.

Requirements for both pathways

1. Courses:

Pathway 1

Course that focus on a theory or practice of civic engagement totaling to at least 14 US credits. These must include:

- A core course on civic engagement (2 credits)
- Courses that study theories of civic engagement, democracy and social action

Pathway 2

Courses that focus on a theory or practice of civic engagement totaling to at least 16 US credits. These must include:

- A core course on civic engagement (2 credits)
- Community Engaged Courses that connect classroom learning/theory with practice (at least 2 credits)
- Courses that study theories of civic engagement, democracy and social action (at least 4 credits)

Core course:

- Issues in Civic Engagement – Chrys Margaritidis
- When available, an OSUN network course on Civic Engagement

Community Engaged courses:

CEU Courses

- Fundamentals of Documentary Film Making (*Themes of the projects in this course need to be civic engagement-related, approved by the Program Coordinator)
- Audio Production (*Themes of the projects in this course need to be civic engagement-related, approved by the Program Coordinator)
- Advanced Production Workshop (*Themes of the projects in this course need to be civic engagement-related, approved by the Program Coordinator)

Other courses

When available, OSUN network courses may also be counted. Relevant courses from a student's study abroad institution may also be counted with approval by the Program Coordinator.

Civic Engagement, Democracy, Social Action courses

CEU courses

- Mobility and Heritage
- Governance Within and Beyond the State
- Democratic Freedom and Its Enemies
- Nationalism and Transnationalism
- Social Justice in Present Day Society: A Multi-Disciplinary Take
- Group Identity & Prejudice
- Environmental Politics & Environmental Policies
- The EU and Central Europe
- Applied Ethics
- A History of the World since 1300
- Political Ecology: Governmental and Non-Governmental Agency
- Human Rights as Legal Rights: Critical Reading
- Digital Inequalities
- The Politics of Social Justice
- Knowledge and Society
- Environmental Justice and Advocacy
- Sociology and Interventions: Understanding Social Engagement
- The Psychology of Statecraft
- The Politics of Representation
- Totalitarianism and Mass Politics

Other courses

When available, OSUN network courses may also be counted. Relevant courses from a student's study abroad institution may also be counted with approval by the Program Coordinator.

2. Culminating Project

Pathway 1

For students completing the Experiential Learning Civic Engagement/Internship tracks, their final report will count as the culminating project for the Certificate.

Pathway 2

After completing their civic engagement activity, students will write a 10-page analytic essay or other form of work (SWOT analysis, film accompanied by a short essay), linked to their engagement activities.

3. Extra-Curricular Activities

Pathway 1

Students complete their Civic Engagement activities according to the Experiential Learning guidelines.

Pathway 2

Students participate in at least 100 hours of co-curricular civic engagement activities during the course of their study at CEU. The civic engagement activity can be developed through an on-campus program, an independent community engagement activity, or an appropriate and approved internship. Students will also be expected to attend co-curricular workshops on leadership and project management offered by OSUN and CEU.

Students will track engagement hours and submit verification to the Program Coordinator.

Who is eligible?

Students in their second or third year can apply to participate in the certificate program. Prior to submitting an application, a student 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 Coordinator.

Admission to program:

Interested students should submit the following information with their application:

1. A brief essay (1000 words max) outlining:
 - a. reason for pursuing the certificate
 - b. an overview of completed and intended/potential courses
 - 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 Program Coordinator approval



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