



Certificate in Civic Engagement FAQ

The Bard Center for Civic Engagement has launched a new [Certificate in Civic Engagement](#) that 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?

During the inaugural year, the application is open to first year, second year, and third year undergraduate students. Seniors are not eligible to apply. Third year students with a 2022 graduation date 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 Engaged Liberal Arts & Sciences courses (8 credits);
- one course which studies theories of civic engagement, democracy and social action (4 credits).

Approved Core Courses

- PS 209 Civic Engagement

- ANTH 239 Action Research: Social Service, Community Organizing and Anthropology
- HR 347 Social Action: Theories and Practice
- PS 2010 Student as Citizen

Engaged Liberal Arts & Sciences Courses:

- BUSA 161 Foundations of Design and Entrepreneurship I
- BUSA 162 Foundations of Design and Entrepreneurship II
- SOAN 411 Leadership IV
- SOAN 411 E. Leadership IV for Engineers
- BUSA 471 – A. Social Entrepreneurship
- BUSA 445 Project Management
- SOAN 326 Creative & Research Internship

Approved Courses: Theory of Civic Engagement, Democracy, and Social Action

- PS/GISP 207: Global Citizenship
- SOAN 111 Leadership I*
- SOAN 211 Leadership II*
- SOAN 311 Leadership III*
- SOAN 301 Intro. to Africana Studies: The Global Black Experience
- POLS 234 Comparative Politics (Politics in Africa)
- SOAN 322 African Cultural Institutions
- POLS 231 Africa in the International Setting: Africa Beyond Aid
- POL 221 African Philosophical Thought
- BUSA 402 Business Law
- BUSA 451 Development Economics

*-half credit courses

How to Apply

The application is currently open. [APPLY HERE](#)

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)

Deadline

The deadline for applications for Fall 2021 is September 30, 2021. 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 the Prof. Adei Studio for Research Excellence

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