



Bard

OSUN Civic Engagement Certificate at Al-Quds Bard College

[Approved by the AQB College Council, 11 December 2021 and by the Joint Academic Committee, 14 December 2021]

A. Executive Summary

Al-Quds Bard College considers Civic Engagement as the broader motif encompassing individual and collective action, which is designed to address social needs with measurable impact to help shape the future of Palestine. Civic Engagement by definition, takes the form of activism, advocacy, volunteerism, and community-engaged research, which is instrumental to fostering a healthier environment with mutually beneficial contributions to the public good. Focusing on creating mechanisms and incentives to encourage youth participation, Al-Quds Bard College motivates young voices to cultivate and lead civic engagement projects equipped with the needed skill set to bring about meaningful and positive changes to all aspects of the Palestinian society.

The goal of a **Certificate in Civic Engagement** is to provide a structured path for Palestinian students to merge curricular and co-curricular/ civic pursuits and to deepen their knowledge and understanding of their society's needs and to develop ways to address them through civic engagement initiatives. The certificate program that would be acknowledged on a student's transcript, provides a formal structure and means to recognize student engagement, and can be adopted throughout the Bard network. 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 a theme related to civic engagement and/or the practice of it. Students are required to develop firsthand experience with civic engagement through co-curricular activities outside of the classroom setting and to use their experiences to inform their academic work. This certificate could serve as a window of opportunity for future work.

B. Requirements

1. Courses. Students must complete four courses (16 credits) that focus on the theory or practice of civic engagement. Requirements are as follows:

- a) One Core course focusing on civic engagement and/or community engagement from *table 1* below. That would normally be the OSUN Course on Civic Engagement/Engaged Citizenship, or the equivalent course offered through the AQB STEP program.
- b) Two or more Community Engaged Courses from *table 2* that connect classroom learning/theory with practice.
- c) One Course from *table 3* below, which studies the Theories of Civic Engagement, Democracy and Social Action.
- d) Students must take at least two OSUN courses or Network Collaborative Course (from any of the three tables).
- e) Students may petition the Civic Engagement Certificate Committee to substitute one course not on the list for a course in table 2, and/or to substitute one course not on the list for a course in table 3.

Table 1: One Core Course Focusing on Civic Engagement and/or Community Engagement:

Course	AQB Course Number	Notes
Civic Engagement (Engaged Citizenship)	9117205	OSUN Course and Network Collaborative Course

In exceptional circumstances, students may apply to substitute another course for the core course that offers significant exposure to the fundamentals of the civic engagement field.

Table 2: Community Engaged Courses Connecting Classroom Learning/Theory with Practice. (Students may petition to the Civic Engagement Certificate Committee to include up to one course that is not included on this list)

Course	AQB Course Number	Program	Notes
Ecological History of the Globe	9101211	Natural Sciences/Urban Studies	
Social Entrepreneurship	9104227		OSUN Course
Introduction to Human Rights	9105101	Human Rights & International Law	
Documentation and Reporting in Human Rights and International Law (Human Rights Advocacy)	9105301	Human Rights & International Law	Network Collaborative Course
Forensic Space & Law	9110307	Urban Studies & Spatial Practices	
Public Space, Culture, and Identity	9110315	Urban Studies & Spatial Practices	
Integrated Arts Political Video	9114207	Digital Communications, Media, and the Arts	
Investigative Journalism	9114303	Digital Communications, Media, and the Arts	

Policy Design	9117214	STEP Program	
---------------	---------	--------------	--

Table 3: One Course Focusing Theories of Civic Engagement, Democracy and Social Action. (Students may petition to the Civic Engagement Certificate Committee to include up to one course that is not included on this list.)

Course	AQB Course Number	Program	Notes
Sustainability and Development	9104321	Economics	
Palestine-Israel Conflict	9105206	Human Rights & International Law	
Free Speech	9105207	Human Rights & International Law	Network Collaborative Course
Global Citizenship	9105215	Human Rights & International Law	Network Collaborative Course
Women's, Children's and Minorities' Rights	9105304	Human Rights & International Law	
Paths to Justice	9105314	Human Rights & International Law	
Thinking Historically (Global History Lab)	9108188	Literature & Society	OSUN Course
Literature & the Politics of Gender	9108219	Literature & Society	
Humanitarian Spaces	9110203	Human Rights & International Law	

Human Geography and the Anthropocene	9110204	Human Rights & International Law	
New Media & Culture	9114211	Digital Communications, Media, and the Arts	
Contemporary Political Theory	9117108	STEP Program	
Political Systems	9117203	STEP Program	
Leadership	9117217	STEP Program	
Democracy	9117219	STEP Program	
Neoliberalism	9117222	STEP Program	
Resistance & Social Movements	9117224	STEP Program	
Conflict Resolution and Transitional Justice	9117230	STEP Program	
Economic Perspectives for Policy Making	t.b.d		Network Collaborative Course
Feminism and Community	t.b.d		Network Collaborative Course
Visual Storytelling for Civic Engagement	t.b.d.		Network Collaborative Course

2. Culminating Project

During the junior or senior year, students prepare a written analytic essay or other form of work linked to their engagement activities. When applicable, in place of the culminating project, students can incorporate the engagement analysis into an Engaged Senior/Capstone Project.

3. Co-Curricular Activities:

Students participate in at least 100 hours of co-curricular civic engagement activities during the course of their study at Al-Quds Bard College. The civic engagement activity in coordination with the AQB Civic Engagement/SLI coordinator could entail an on-campus program, an independent community engagement activity (such as volunteering for a campaign or nonprofit off campus), or an appropriate and approved internship. Ideally, engagement activities will be linked to course work or the senior project. Students will track co-curricular engagement hours and **submit verification** from supervisors using an online tracking tool. Students will also be expected to attend co-curricular workshops on leadership and project management that the SLI office offers.

Recommended Co-Curricular Activities/Programs:

- Starting a civic engagement project on or off campus.
- Attending the SLI workshop series on campus.
- Joining the AQB Debate club/Model UN.
- Participating in activities that the SLI office organizes (Civic Engagement Project Fair, Civic Engagement Open Exhibition, Student Discussion Panels, Focus Groups, Conferences...).
- Participating in International Network Conferences (The Get Engaged Conference, The Virtual Leadership Conference).
- Becoming a global fellow in the OSUN network.
- Attending the monthly civic engagement workshops that global fellows organize.

Admission to Program:

During their second or third year, each student would be required to submit an application to the AQB Civic Engagement Certificate Committee, which includes an essay - analogous to the moderation paper, outlining why they want to pursue the certificate - and an outline of courses and activities they intend to complete to fulfill the requirements. The application will be reviewed by the Committee. At the time of applying, students should already have completed at least one of the course requirements (preferably including a core course) and 20 hours of co-curricular activities. To ensure curricular coherence, each student will be required to obtain approval from their program adviser.

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

- a) A brief essay (1,000 word max) outlining:
 - The reason for pursuing this certificate.
 - An overview of completed and intended/potential courses to fulfill requirements.
 - Civic and/or community activities engaged in/planned to fulfill the required hours.
 - Potential community partner organization to fulfill co-curricular hours.
- b) An email acknowledging advisor approval

Program Governance

At AQB, the certificate program will be supervised by the Civic Engagement Certificate committee, a three-person faculty committee appointed by the Dean, with staff assistance from the AQB Civic Engagement/SLI Fellow. Applications to the program, applications for substitute courses, and approval of capstone projects will be determined by the CEC committee. The committee will also review the curriculum annually and propose updates to the AQB College Council, the Joint Academic Committee, and the OSUN Secretariat.

The AQB Civic Engagement/SLI Fellow will advise and assist students with respect to the co-curricular activities, as well as manage the local tracking of the co-curricular hours required for completion of the certificate.