



Inspiring Excellence

Certificate in Civic Engagement

The School of General Education at Brac University provides a foundation for students to be civically engaged. They offer “engaged” courses that actively build bridges between the classroom and the outside world, highlighting both theory and practice. In addition, SGE organizes civic engagement activities for students to participate in, starting with the Residential Semester. Students are heavily encouraged to continue to participate in other community-based activities, initiate projects and raise awareness on the importance of civic engagement. SGE, in collaboration with Brac U student life, thus, offers a convening platform for students engaging their community towards change for the better.

What does a Certificate in Civic Engagement Entail?

The certificate aims to make the students’ degrees practical, broad-based, and humanistic and inculcate in students the spirit of problem-solving, collective learning, and community leadership.

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?

Students who have finished their Residential Semester can apply. Students may use the next three years to accumulate the courses and accomplish the activities that will lead up to the certificate. 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 SGE.

What are the Requirements?

1. Courses: A total of 4 courses (12 credits) that focus on the theory and practice of civic engagement. These can be based in-home institutions, or be a mix of home and OSUN courses. At least one course needs to be an OSUN network or OSUN course. The courses taken must include:
 - A. a core course (3 credits);
 - B. two or more Community-Engaged Courses that connect classroom learning/theory with practice such as CST courses, ENV103, or Social Entrepreneurship (minimum 6 credits);
 - C. one course that teaches civic engagement, social action, democracy, Human Rights, Peace, and Justice, etc in theory and practice (3 credits)



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Below is a list of courses students can choose from:

A. Core Course:

- POL201: Introduction to Civic Engagement

B. Community Engaged Courses:

- CST301: For the Love of Food
- CST303: Law for Life, Peace and Justice
- CST304: Documentary Theory and Practice
- CST305: Borders and Beyond
- CST306: Ethical Leadership
- CST307: Arts, Community and the Future
- CST308:
- CST309: Global Citizenship
- ENV103: Elements of Environmental Science
- Social Entrepreneurship (course code needed)

C. Civic engagement, Social action, Democracy, Human Rights, Peace, and Justice, etc in theory and practice

- ANT330: Anthropology of Development
- ANT325: Theories and Problems of Nationalism
- ANT345: Social Networks and Social Capital
- ANT351: Gender and Development
- ANT355: Law, Human Rights, and Justice
- ANT415: Understanding Secularism
- ANT418: Environmental Anthropology
- Law447: Human Rights
- POL101: Introduction to Political Science
- POL102: Comparative Governance

2. Culminating Project

During the third or fourth year, students prepare a project with a written analytic essay or other forms 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 or departmental thesis.

3. Co-Curricular Activities:

Students must participate in 100 hours of co-curricular civic engagement activities during their course of study.



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- RS civic engagement gives students 30 hours in their first year
- If students do Duke of Edinburgh, that will be counted too
- CE program around the environment: will give additional 30 hours
- Club activities: Student Life Director will have a list of students doing the CE certificate and will sign off on the activities and hours they covered.
- Departmental internships- Department will sign off on the completion of this
- Personal internships- the organization will sign off on the completion of this
- Co-curricular workshops on leadership, and project management offered by Brac University and OSUN

How to Apply

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

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

- A brief essay (1,000-word max) outlining:
 - reason for pursuing the 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.
- An email acknowledging the approval of the School of General Education.

This will be sent to the SGE Civic engagement cluster. SGE will sort through applications, liaise with departments, and administer and grant the certificate. The CE certificate course enrollment will start after you have completed your Residential Semester.

Deadline

The deadline for applications for Fall 2022 is September 30, 2022. Deadline dates will be posted each semester. Students will be notified of acceptance into the program within 30 days of the application deadline.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Fahmida Rahman
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