The Office of Civic Engagement is committed to strengthening the University of Chicago’s impact on the lives of people living in Chicago and demonstrating the transformative civic role leading urban research institutions can have in cities around the world.

Our Student Civic Engagement team supports this commitment through meaningful collaborations and innovative programs that connect our students and faculty with neighbors and civic partners. We help students connect to programs and projects across campus and in the community through advising, and offer project-based support to develop and activate student-led projects and initiatives.

Through our programs, workshops, and advising, we strengthen the connections and communication between the Office of Civic Engagement and the many student-led community initiatives across campus.

Learn more at civicengagement.uchicago.edu/for-students

PROGRAMS

NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS PROGRAM
nsp.uchicago.edu

The Neighborhood Schools Program (NSP) is one of UChicago’s longest-standing community outreach programs. Founded in 1976 as a way for the University to connect to local schools, NSP has grown to partner with 50 schools and community sites and annually engages more than 500 University student volunteers and employees. NSP includes Maroon Tutor Match, which provides one-on-one tutoring to students on the South Side, and Jumpstart which works with local pre-schools.

NSP welcomes all UChicago students interested in making a difference in local education. Students involved can take on a number of different roles: tutor, teaching assistant, administrative intern, and technology coordinator. NSP hires students who are work-study eligible (and a limited number of non-work-study students) and has many opportunities for sustained volunteering. NSP offers flexible scheduling, competitive pay, and transportation to sites beyond walking distance from campus.
UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER
ucsc.uchicago.edu

Founded as a University office in 1996 by Michelle Obama, the University Community Service Center (UCSC) prepares students to become effective, inspiring leaders in their communities and professions.

UCSC provides a platform for students to engage in service and social change opportunities that complement UChicago’s rigorous academic experience. We do so by encouraging students to explore Chicago and make meaningful connections with diverse communities throughout the city. UCSC helps students connect to short or long-term volunteer opportunities, and provides access at multiple domains such as social justice education programs, civic-focused summer internships, non-profit employment, and Chicago-centered experiential learning.

Each year, more than 2,000 students participate in UCSC programs and events in partnership with more than 250 organizations throughout Chicago.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS ACCELERATOR
communityprograms.uchicago.edu

The Community Programs Accelerator at the University of Chicago develops and strengthens the capacity of South Side community organizations to address neighborhood-level opportunities and challenges. The Accelerator’s goal is to increase neighborhood vitality and quality of life by strengthening South Side nonprofit organizations and leaders through capacity building, technical assistance, and coordination of other University resources.

Students have opportunities to support local community organizations through paid and pro bono consulting engagements, summer internships, and field placements. Student support is focused in several areas of nonprofit capacity building, including fundraising, program design and evaluation, communications and marketing, governance, and strategic planning, with some potential additional projects supporting Accelerator initiatives.

POLSKY SMALL BUSINESS GROWTH PROGRAM
polsky.uchicago.edu/programs-events/polsky-small-business-growth-program/

The Polsky Small Business Growth Program supports small business owners and helps them grow and scale their businesses through consulting projects completed by student consultants. This program is a great way for undergraduate and graduate students to gain real-life experience in consulting under the mentorship of Booth faculty and current practitioners while helping small businesses on the South and West sides of Chicago to grow.

Selected student consultants will work in teams with business owners on 10-week project engagements throughout the school year and summer (consultants can join for one or more quarters). The weekly time commitment will vary, but typically is about 10 hours per week, and includes a student stipend.

civicengagement.uchicago.edu/for-students