UCSC WELCOMES YOU TO THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO!

UCSC prepares students to become productive, thoughtful citizens and inspiring leaders in their communities and professions. We provide a platform for students to engage in service and social change opportunities that complement UChicago's rigorous academic experience. We also encourage students to explore Chicago and make meaningful connections with diverse communities throughout the city. Along with short or long-term volunteer opportunities, we support students by providing access at multiple domains such as social justice education programs, civic-focused summer internships, non-profit employment, and Chicago centered experiential learning.
Meet Our Team

Kafi Moragne-Patterson, PhD, MSW
Director of Student Civic Education & UCSC

Need advice on navigating COVID-19 with small children who are vampires, translating civic engagement experiences into career competencies for the social justice landscape, graduate school pathways, or training groups of University members to enter and exit communities thoughtfully? Contact our resident Hyde Parker and mom, Kafi Moragne-Patterson, at kafi@uchicago.edu.
Sarah Wagener
Assistant Director of Student Leadership Development & Advising

Going crazy trying to map out Community Service Registered Student Organization (CSRSO) processes, Summer Links information, leadership development opportunities, or avenues into improv acting? Contact our resident actress, Sarah Wagener, at swagener@uchicago.edu.
Syedah Cabell
Assistant Director of Programming

Want to learn more about cohort programs like Seeds of Justice, “Discover Chicago” programming like Chicago Bound, virtual training opportunities, or charcoal drawings? Look no further than our resident artist, Syedah Cabell, at symc@uchicago.edu.
Marquita Amoah
Assistant Director of Community Partnerships

Got questions about work with community partners, the Federal Work Study Program, Days of Service, or unique, homemade ice cream flavors? Contact our native New Yorker, Marquita Amoah, at mamoah@uchicago.edu.
Chicago Bound is the University Community Service Center’s signature pre-orientation program, co-sponsored by the Institute of Politics. While virtual this year, Chicago Bound is still committed to giving first-year students a solid foundation to continue in their development toward becoming well-informed, active members of the city.

Participants of Chicago Bound will learn about a number of Chicago communities, including those neighboring the University, through virtual engagement with community partners and community-based organizations, documentaries, and other forms of learning and engaging. Students will also become more informed about Chicago and methods of affecting social change, including: direct service, research and evaluation, advocacy and activism, community organizing, public policy, social entrepreneurship, and philanthropy. For more information about Chicago Bound, please visit https://ucsc.uchicago.edu/for-students/chicago-bound.
Seeds of Justice is a community-building and leadership development program for 20 selected first-year students in the College. The program provides students with the opportunity to have and reflect on meaningful service and social change experiences, increase their awareness of the complexity of social justice issues (such as healthcare, housing, and education) as they are manifested in the city of Chicago, and practice valuable leadership and community-building skills to guide their work in creating change on and off campus.

This program runs from the beginning of fall quarter until the end of spring quarter! If you have more questions, please visit https://ucsc.uchicago.edu/for-students/seeds-of-justice, or email Syedah Cabell, the Assistant Director of Student Programming at symc@uchicago.edu.
Summer Links is a 10-week internship program where rising second through fourth year students in the College intern at non-profit organizations who are leaders in advocacy, education, and social justice on Chicago’s South Side. Summer Links interns receive valuable professional development in the non-profit sector, and the program’s unique cohort model allows students to build community with peers who are interested in social justice and receive leadership development coaching from University Community Service Center staff.

Starting with a week of training that expands students’ knowledge of Chicago’s South Side and its impactful non-profit landscape, students complete nine weeks of internship and receive a $5,000 stipend. For more information about the program, email UCSC Assistant Director Sarah Wagener at swagener@uchicago.edu.
Bronzeville Youth Identity Collaborative

The Bronzeville Youth Identity Collaborative is a collaborative between the University Community Service Center, UChicago Hillel, and Bright Star Community Outreach, which aims to create an environment of co-learning, growing, respect, and self-discovery through partnership between UChicago students and high school students in the greater Bronzeville area. This is a new initiative that will officially launch in the 2020-2021 school year! For more information, please email Syedah Cabell, the Assistant Director of Student Programming at symc@uchicago.
Local Federal Work Study Opportunities

The Federal Work-Study program provides an excellent opportunity for students to earn money through part-time employment, which is paid by both the government and the off campus employer. Eligible students are allowed to work for on-campus departments or local off-campus employers. Federal Work-Study funds are awarded based on financial need. FWS can be accessed throughout the school year and also in the summer.

The University Community Service Center has a unique relationship with over 80 off-campus partners who are located in the local and surrounding communities. Some of these include:

- Kids in Danger
- Project Syncere
- Teamwork Englewood
- One on One
- Metrosquash

For more information about Federal Work Study, including contact information and how to access awards please visit https://financialaid.uchicago.edu/undergraduate/types-aid/federal-work-study-and-employment.
Service Opportunities

UCSC hosts 3-4 large scale service days for multiple departments on campus over the course of the year. Our largest day is “Engage Chicago,” where all 1800 incoming students visit community organizations on the South Side to co-learn and support in service projects. Other major service days have included MLK Jr. Day and Earth Day. Prior to the service day students are part of a presentation and activity that help them:

- Begin to think about how they can enter and exit communities thoughtfully
- Break myths and misconceptions of Chicago, particularly the South Side
- Build community with each other
- Learn myriad ways to be civically engaged

To learn more about service days and how UCSC aims to change the landscape of volunteering, please visit our website: https://ucsc.uchicago.edu and/or email Assistant Director of Community Partnerships, Marquita Amoah at mamoah@uchicago.edu
COMMUNITY SERVICE RSOs:
Community Service RSOs are recognized student organizations who are committed to civic engagement on the South Side of Chicago, nationally, and internationally.

With nearly 60 student-run organizations focused on community service, there are lots of opportunities to partner with community members and organizations near campus. Categories of Community Service RSOs include:

- Advocacy
- the Arts (creative writing, music, visual arts)
- Education
- Food Justice and Housing Stability
- Immigration
- Legal Services and Criminal Justice Reform
- Public Health and Medicine
- Senior Support
- Youth Mentorship

ADVISING:
University Community Service Center staff are available to meet with students for one-on-one or small group advising on a variety of topics related to social change and community engagement, including:

- how to start a program with a community partner
- Community Service RSO development or support
- post-graduate service opportunities
- community-engaged research opportunities
- devising effective methods for program assessment and evaluation
- job skills in the nonprofit sector

To identify interesting service and civic engagement experiences, individuals may meet with the Civic Match team, who will learn about your interests and help you create a path into the kind of civic engagement work that is most appealing to you. Email civicmatch.ucsc@gmail.com to set up an appointment.

To discuss partnership development and other kinds of organizational support for RSOs, email UCSC Assistant Director Sarah Wagener at swagener@uchicago.edu.
Helpful Links

- University Community Service Center (UCSC) website
- Office of Civic Engagement website
- Graduate Student Job Openings can be found here
- Community Service Registered Student Organization (CSRSO) information here
- Join the UCSC Mailing List here (click subscribe at the bottom of the page)