The University Community Service Center (UCSC) connects students to civic engagement opportunities, on and off campus, that complement the University of Chicago’s rigorous academic experience. Part of the Office of Civic Engagement, UCSC is located at the Student Civic Engagement Center at 6030 S. Ellis Ave., and provides a range of resources that contribute to student civic learning and impact across the city of Chicago.

**WHAT WE DO**

Founded by Michelle Obama in 1996, UCSC helps students make meaningful connections with Chicago’s diverse communities and prepares them to become productive, thoughtful leaders in their civic, academic, and professional lives.

Through UCSC, students can learn from, and contribute to, organizations and initiatives making a meaningful impact across Chicago’s neighborhoods.

Students are connected to a broad spectrum of engagement opportunities and commitment levels tailored to a range of interests.

By working with UCSC, students can:

- Learn about Chicago’s rich cultural landscape
- Explore civic engagement and social impact concepts
- Apply classroom learnings to the world around them
- Connect with and learn from community and civic leaders
- Gain an understanding of existing community organizations serving neighboring communities and advancing an array of social issues
- Support local neighborhoods and residents by contributing their energy, skills, and ideas to the missions of nonprofit organizations across the city

**UCSC PROVIDES:**

- Student civic education through experiential learning
- Short- and long-term volunteering opportunities
- Civic advising on student-led projects and initiatives
- Connections to civic-focused jobs and internships
STUDENT CIVIC EDUCATION

The UCSC team helps students prepare themselves to become civic leaders and engaged community members by offering a core series of workshops that encourage critical thinking, cultural humility, and collaborative skill building. UCSC also provides leadership development and social change programming that enables students to apply these skills in ways that foster greater social impact.

• **Student Civic Education Series:** Chicago-centered experiential learning workshops led by UCSC staff cover a range of civic engagement and social impact concepts designed to prepare students to engage with and enter neighboring communities thoughtfully. The trainings are scaled to strengthen students’ civic participation skills, preparing them for direct engagement with diverse stakeholders on and off campus.

Concepts covered in the series include: effective community partnering, cultural awareness and reflective practice, an introduction to the University’s history and present-day partnerships with the South Side, and how civic skills can be translated for diverse career pathways.

• **City Chats Series:** Informal conversations with local civic and community leaders explore their lives, careers, and civic engagement work.

• **Leadership Development and Social Change Programs:** Through intensive leadership development and social change programs, students learn about effective community partnering, issue advocacy, and how to translate those learnings to academic and professional settings in ways that make a more inclusive world.

  ‣ **Chicago Bound:** Week-long pre-orientation program for incoming first-year students that advances community awareness and civic engagement while introducing students to the city of Chicago

  ‣ **Seeds of Justice:** Academic year-long student leadership development program focused on social change for selected first-year students

  ‣ **Roots of Justice:** Advanced year-long student leadership development program focused on incorporating social change concepts into career identification and mobilization for selected students in years two through four

  ‣ **Summer Links:** 10-week cohort program that pairs undergraduate students with internships at local community-based organizations and explores social issues impacting the city of Chicago

  ‣ **Bronzeville Youth Identity Collaborative:** A weekly series, in partnership with UChicago Hillel, that creates co-learning spaces for UChicago students and Bronzeville high school students to reflect on identity through storytelling and art

SHORT- AND LONG-TERM VOLUNTEERING

UCSC builds relationships with the most impactful nonprofit organizations in Chicago and creates opportunities for students to contribute their time and energy to local communities by volunteering.

• **Annual Service Events:** Engage Chicago orientation event for incoming students provides an introduction to the city of Chicago and principles of effective community partnering, as well as a direct community service experience.

  Annual days of service on Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Earth Day connect students to community-based organizations serving the South Side.

• **Extended Volunteer Opportunities:** Ongoing partnerships with community-based organizations connect students to recurring individual and/or group service opportunities.
STUDENT CIVIC ADVISING
The UCSC team helps students identify and navigate pathways to civic participation at UChicago, connecting them to civic engagement programs and projects across campus and in the community through individual and group advising, and offering project-based support to develop and activate student-led projects and initiatives.

- **1:1 Pathmaking Advising:** UCSC staff connect with students to craft unique University experiences that build on their academic, personal, and professional interests.

- **Community Service Recognized Student Organizations:** UCSC staff coordinate and support a network of 50+ Community Service Recognized Student Organizations (CSRSOs) which partner with community leaders and organizations to support a variety of social causes in Chicago.

- **Civic Engagement Representatives in Residential Life:** Through group civic advising meetings, students serving as civic engagement representatives within the Housing and Residence Life communities build volunteer partnerships with local community organizations and inspire their peers to become civically engaged.

CIVIC-FOCUSED JOBS AND INTERNSHIPS
UCSC places students in civic-focused jobs and internships at Office of Civic Engagement programs that support local K-12 students and schools, strengthen nonprofit organizations, and help South Side small businesses address challenges and grow. UCSC staff also serve as a resource for students to learn about other civic-focused jobs on campus. Students must be Federal Work Study-eligible.

- **Neighborhood Schools Program:** Students support South Side PK-12 schools and students as classroom assistants, technology coordinators, and tutors.

- **Community Programs Accelerator:** Students support local community organizations through consulting engagements, summer internships, and field placements.

- **Polsky Small Business Growth Program:** Students work closely with small businesses on the South and West sides of Chicago to address challenges related to growth and innovation.
Student Civic Engagement Center
6030 S. Ellis (Edelstone Center)
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Chicago IL 60637

CONNECT WITH US

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http://UCSC.uchicago.edu

Visit the portal for Office of Civic Engagement job and volunteer opportunities on and off campus
http://pathfinder.uchicago.edu

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