



CHICAGO STUDIES CERTIFICATE



Study

Discover

Engage

Impact

The **Certificate in Chicago Studies** recognizes students' meaningful integration of academic inquiry with positive, impactful engagement in Chicago.

the college
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



“I maintain that University men and women owe something as an institution to the people who are without its walls. Our obligation does not cease when we give instruction to those who come to us; it is our business to go beyond just as far as our means and opportunities permit.”

WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER (1894)
First President of the University



Design Your Chicago is a series of standalone workshops that teach students to apply design thinking to the creation and execution of a vibrant life in the city during their College years. Although not required for completion of the certificate, participation in all four sessions directly contributes to the development of a certificate plan. Taken together, they also fulfill one of the Module requirements for the certificate itself.

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THE CERTIFICATE IN CHICAGO STUDIES

The College's Certificate in Chicago Studies offers students the opportunity to integrate their academic inquiry with experiential learning in the city to build social responsibility; real-world skills; and respectful, reciprocally-beneficial connections within Chicago's diverse communities. The program combines preparatory “experiments” in Chicago with curricular study (three Chicago-focused classes) and hands-on engagement. Students complete their certificate by executing a collaboratively-developed capstone project to benefit a specific Chicago community or organization.

Certificates may focus on discipline-based, academic study of the city; pre-professional experience with one or more Chicago institutions; deep engagement with a particular Chicago community; or social change. Regardless of focus, all certificate recipients must demonstrate the positive impacts of their work on the city and on their own development as engaged scholars.

The certificate is available to all undergraduate students in any field of study. Students may enroll in the program and complete its requirements at any time during their College careers. Students' completion of the certificate is noted on their academic transcripts alongside their major(s) and minor(s), and celebrated during the week of graduation.

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MODULES: EXPERIMENTAL ENGAGEMENT



As they are developing their personal plan for discovering, studying, engaging, and impacting Chicago, the certificate program invites students to identify and participate in three or more preparatory “experiments in Chicago-ing” (modules) to prototype key elements of their proposed project. Students may fulfill this requirement by participating in relevant student-focused programming or by engaging in meaningful, competency-building experiences that directly relate to their learning goals. Such experiences can take place on- or off-campus.

Regardless of where or how they take place, all such experiments should help students build critical and ethical frameworks for their subsequent experiences in the city; develop focused knowledge, values, abilities, and practical skills for executing their eventual certificate project; and reflect on their own positionality as engaged scholars resident in Chicago. The experiences chosen should complement, build upon, and amplify one another, introducing students to new networks for collaboration and building key competencies for further meaningful engagement with the city's diverse communities.

Students must document completion of at least three (3) modules to earn the Chicago Studies Certificate. Questions about identifying and documenting experiences as modules may be directed to the Chicago Studies office.

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CHICAGO-FOCUSED COURSEWORK



UChicago offers a wide range of classes that let students study aspects of “the City that Works,” including not only courses that take Chicago as their central theme but also classes that make it a principal example in exploring one or more urban issues. Some classes integrate community-based learning that directly engages students in the city’s diverse communities.

In order to receive the Certificate in Chicago Studies, students must successfully complete at least three Chicago-focused classes. The Chicago Studies Quarter automatically fulfills this requirement. Students unable to complete the Quarter may propose, receive approval for, and complete an interdisciplinary sequence of courses relevant to their personal certificate project, only one of which may be a required course for their declared major.

The College’s Chicago Studies Course Cluster provides a list of current and proposed Chicago-focused classes suitable for inclusion in a personal sequence of courses for the certificate.

Advising on and approval of courses for the certificate is provided by the Program on the Global Environment, academic home to both Chicago Studies and the College’s Environmental and Urban Studies major. Completion of the Certificate in Chicago Studies fulfills that major’s practicum requirement.

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DIRECT ENGAGEMENT IN THE CITY



Students in the College have extensive opportunities for Chicago-based experiential learning and engagement, including internships, apprenticeships, volunteerism, student organization leadership, community-based Federal Work-Study employment, and research fellowships. Some of these experiences may be connected to University programs such as the Jeff Metcalf Scholars Program, the Odyssey Scholars

Fellowship, the Pozen Family Center for Human Rights Internship Program, or the Office of Civic Engagement’s Summer Links program. Others may be citywide experiences students identify and obtain on their own, or in collaboration with the Office of Career Advancement.

Students must complete at least 200 hours of relevant, direct engagement in Chicago (usually with a single partner or organization) and receive a positive recommendation from their Chicago-based supervisor/collaborator in order to fulfill the requirements of the Certificate in Chicago Studies. Such engagement may be completed either intensively (in a single summer or quarter through near full-time engagement) or longitudinally (over a period of several terms through regular part-time engagement).

Questions about whether a particular engagement coheres with a specific certificate project may be directed to the Chicago Studies office.

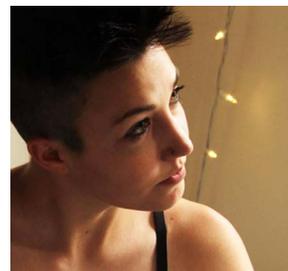
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Chicago Studies Quarter offers students a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in interdisciplinary study of Chicago. Admission to the Quarter, held in the Spring, is by application; admitted students study an aspect of life in Chicago or one of its communities through three interrelated courses that are enriched by citywide experiential learning.

CHICAGOSTUDIES.UCHICAGO.EDU/QUARTER

“I have loved learning about the rich histories of the city’s specific neighborhoods, and have uncovered storied histories of systemic injustices that, while often hidden, color our everyday interactions with and understanding of Chicago as a whole.”



DREW DEPINTO (2018)

Chicago Studies Certificate recipient
Capstone: Documentary film about LGBTQ identities created on behalf of Lakeview’s Broadway Youth Center

CAPSTONE PROJECT



To complete the requirements of the Certificate in Chicago Studies, students must propose and complete a capstone project that responds to a community-defined priority, answers a Chicago-focused question, or otherwise benefits a specific Chicago community. The project should clearly integrate students' learning from their different experiences studying and engaging with the city across their College careers.

Capstone projects may be highly academic (e.g. a discipline-based research project, including an application of/re-presentation of one's B.A. thesis work for an external audience), highly applied (e.g. a community-based program, community organizing campaign, or student-organized intervention), or somewhere in between (e.g. an investigative journalism series, creative production, action research product, or oral history collection).

Regardless of their form, ALL Chicago Studies capstones must:

- demonstrate a meaningful connection to a Chicago community, topic, institution, or issue;
- evidence authentic connection(s) within Chicago's diverse communities;
- build upon existing assets and networks;
- aim at relevant and meaningful impacts for their Chicago-based collaborators;
- integrate academic knowledges with community-based experiences;
- establish or extend a legacy with University and/or external partners; and
- be publicly presented, published, or otherwise shared with relevant publics in the community, including those who informed their design and execution.

Chicago Studies staff can provide one-on-one advising and support in all aspects of developing the capstone project, including identifying appropriate partners and supporting the project's particular engaged learning design.

[CHICAGOSTUDIES.UCHICAGO.EDU/CERTIFICATE/CAPSTONE](https://chicagostudies.uchicago.edu/certificate/capstone)

Learn more here.

[CHICAGOSTUDIES.UCHICAGO.EDU/CERTIFICATE](https://chicagostudies.uchicago.edu/certificate)

SOUTH SIDE WEEKLY

FEBRUARY 13, 2019 * ARTS, CULTURE, POLITICS * SOUTHSIDEWEEKLY.COM * FREE



A Palace for the People

The long campaign to make the South Shore Cultural Center a space for community arts

"A Palace for the People" was published by author Jeanne Lieberman (2016) as a B.A. Thesis (see *Chicago Studies*, volume 8, pages 275-322). Her essay was based on hours of interviews with protagonists of the struggle to create the South Shore Cultural Center, as well as significant archival work. As a capstone, Jeanne presented her carefully archived materials, as well as transcripts of her interviews, to the Cultural Center/Chicago Park District for their collection and developed a more popularly accessible version of her B.A. in collaboration with *South Side Weekly* (published February 13, 2019).

[CHICAGOSTUDIES.UCHICAGO.EDU/ANNUAL](https://chicagostudies.uchicago.edu/annual)

Chicago Studies offers curricular and co-curricular opportunities to discover, study, engage with, and positively impact the diverse communities of our world-class city.