Community Semester – Frequently Asked Questions

How do I apply for Community Semester?

In order to qualify for admission to Community Semester, undergraduate applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of at least 2.5; and meet the University's College Readiness Requirements in reading, writing, and mathematics. Graduate applicants must have a bachelor's degree and at least a 3.0 GPA or higher from an accredited undergraduate institution. Qualified applicants will be contacted by the Program Coordinator for a phone interview.

Applications for Spring 2022 are due by December 15, 2021 – To get started you must Apply to SLU and complete the Supplemental Application [Community Semester]

If you have questions about whether the program is a good fit for you, email the Community Semester Program Coordinator at CommunitySemester@slu.cuny.edu.

What if I'm already a CUNY Student?

Community Semester applicants enrolled at other CUNY campuses should request an e-permit from their home school prior to submitting the the Supplemental Application [Community Semester]. Please contact your academic department or advisor to be sure you understand the ePermit guidelines, procedures, and deadlines. Colleges need ample time to review and approve ePermit requests. The applicant's ePermit for each of the four courses must be submitted to SLU at least 10-days prior to the semester's first official day.

What if I have been nominated?

As a nominated candidate, your nominee's letter serves as your first of two required letters of recommendation. In addition to completing the supplemental application, if you are a new applicant, please refer to "*How do I apply for Community Semester?*" If you are a current CUNY student, refer to "W*hat if I'm already a CUNY Student?*"

When should I apply for Community Semester?

Applications for Spring 2022 are due by December 15, 2021 – Apply Now

Applications can only be submitted electronically and are accepted on a rolling basis. Early applications are given priority. There are a select number of placements and the program coordinator will match the student with the best-fit for their service learning placement.

Do Community Semester students get paid?

The Community Semester program subsidies your tuition and fees up to $7,000. Any amount in excess of tuition costs are issued to interns for living and other personal expenses.

Where are Community Semester NYC students placed?

Community Semester students work alongside a NYC community-based organization for 28 hours each week. Examples of community-based organization include: a multi-organizational, issue-based campaign or; city agencies or political offices focused on constituent services, legislative policy and community outreach.

Placements vary by semester and are contingent upon the needs of the organizations. Current host organizations work on a range of issues including:

- Economic justice and job creation
- Community empowerment
- Racial justice
- Immigrants' rights and education
- Housing rights
- Homelessness
- Neighborhood housing and preservation
- Youth development
- Cultural revitalization

How much does the program cost?

With the exception of currently enrolled CUNY students, all students pay an application fee when submitting their applications ($70 for undergraduates, $75 for graduate students). Students are responsible for the tuition and fees, which are due the first day of class.

[Tuition and Fee Schedule](#)

All tuition charges and fees are subject to change by action of the Board of Trustees of The City University of New York without prior notice. In the event of any increase in tuition charges and fees, payments already made to the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies will be treated as partial payment, and notification will be given of the additional amount due and the time and method of payment. Students are responsible for their travel to and from New York City, their tuition and fees, housing, and other living expenses. Students who have concerns about managing their finances may speak with the Community Semester NYC Program Coordinator who can answer questions, give suggestions and help students develop a budget.

Will my college or university accept the credits that I earn as a Community Semester NYC student?

Students who successfully complete Community Semester earn a total of 16 undergraduate credits or 12 graduate credits. It is their responsibility to follow the procedures of their college or university for transferring these credits. Upon acceptance to the program, it is recommended that students consult with their faculty advisor and registrar concerning transfer credit policies. Students who participate in Community Semester while they are not attending a college or graduate program will need to discuss transferring credits should they be accepted into a program.

I have a BA, but not sure I want to go to graduate school. Can I do the undergrad program?

Yes, you have the option of doing either the undergraduate or graduate certificate program. However, the Advanced Certificate program will give you the option of transferring credits into a graduate program, should you decide to pursue graduate studies.

If I participate in the graduate program, does it count towards the Master's degree in Urban Studies?

Absolutely! In the graduate program of Community Semester, students earn 12 credits. The [MA in Urban Studies](#) at the School of Labor and Urban Studies requires 30 credits and earned credits can be applied to this program. If you are interested in the MA, contact [Cherise Mullings](#), Enrollment Specialist.