

Advanced Certificate in Community Leadership

Email Contact: Julman Tolentino, Julman.Tolentino@cuny.edu

The Program

The curriculum of the Advanced Certificate in Community Leadership draws on a variety of academic disciplines and combines theory with practical applications in order to prepare students for leadership roles in community change organizations. Students learn how communities are organized, how nonprofits serve constituents, how to analyze the contemporary forces and trends in the field of community development and social change, and build the skills necessary for fostering community empowerment. Students who complete the program may apply their certificate credits towards the **MA in Urban and Studies degree program**.

Admissions:

To qualify for the certificate, students must possess a B.A. or a B.S. with at least a 2.5 GPA or higher from an accredited undergraduate institution. Applicants will be required to write a personal statement.

Requirements:

Students will complete 12 credits, as outlined below.

Program Requirements

Students must complete nine credits in the following:

URB 635 - Community Organization (3 Credits)

Prerequisite: None

This course will examine the historical development and contemporary practice of community organizing. Students will examine why and how people in urban communities and neighborhoods have organized to protect their rights and their entitlements to public services, to acquire resources for development, and to improve their quality of life. Students will develop a historical and theoretical perspective on community organizing and will explore the range of issues around which communities organize. They will acquire practical knowledge and skills for effective grassroots organizing, including coalition-building and alliances between community organizations and labor. Through readings and presentations by guest speakers, they will gain familiarity with various models and strategies of community organizations in New York City. Following each presentation by a guest speaker, students will submit a 1-2 page paper, reflecting on a key theoretical or practical concept in the presentation. The course is divided into three parts: I. History and Theory of Organizing, II. Organizing Tools and Techniques, and III. Issues and Case Studies. As a final project, students will work in groups to design a grass-roots campaign to address a particular issue or problem. Each group will make a presentation and submit a written report, summarizing the project and its desired outcomes. In doing so, students should utilize class readings and discussions and refer to historical, theoretical, and political models and examples.

URB 639 - Fieldwork (3 Credits)

Prerequisite: Permission of the Department Chair

Class meets for a total of 16 instructional hours.

A minimum of 6 hours per week of faculty approved internship is required.

Students in this course will combine a 15-week internship with readings and analysis appropriate to the mission and practices of the host organization. Host organizations could include municipal administrative agencies, government offices, unions, community organizations, and other urban-based institutions. In eight two-hour class meetings, students will reflect on their internships, comparing their experiences with those of other students and discussing them in relation to course readings on selected urban issues. Through a combination of field work and scholarly analysis, students will explore the relationship between urban theory and practice, and will acquire multiple perspectives on administrative structures and urban policy, including the policy-making process and the role of interest groups and various urban constituencies and communities.

LPOL 602 - Work, Culture, and Politics in New York City (3 Credits)

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to provide an interactive overview of the constantly changing worlds of work, culture and politics in New York City. We will learn about where New Yorkers live and work, how specific urban communities develop, and assess how the cultural and political institutions of New York serve the city's diverse population. The class uses an historical frame to situate the contemporary city, spending equal time on past and present inquiries. Field trips to significant spaces, and visits to and from NYC organizers, policy makers, artists and scholars will take place on a near weekly basis. Throughout, we will learn about New York's key industries, trends in immigration, economic development, public policy, public and private space, popular culture, urban social identity, community organizations, and labor's contributions to building the city's institutions.

[Electives](#)

Students must also complete three credits from the following:

URB 612 - Urban Social Problems and Community Development (3 credits)

Prerequisite: None

"Community development" refers to strategies in which neighborhood residents come together to generate and implement solutions to shared problems, and this course will explore the theory and practice of community development. The main emphasis of the course is a broad examination of the issues that have confronted communities since the mid-20th century. First, it studies the historical development of urban communities and the structural roots of urban social problems. Second, it traces the community development movement from its historic connections to the civil rights movement and the War on Poverty to its present-day manifestations. Third, it introduces students to various community development approaches and the complex constraints residents, activists, and organizations face as they confront common challenges. Finally, this course will use New York City as its main "case," relying on New York-focused studies to illuminate the theoretical and practical issues outlined above. This course of study will provide students with basis for a final research paper.



**CUNY SCHOOL OF LABOR
AND URBAN STUDIES**

URB 622 - Nonprofit Governance and Management (3 credits)

Prerequisite: None

This course focuses on basic issues of governance, accountability, and strategic leadership in non-profit management, power relationships within and outside of non-profits, stakeholder identification, management techniques, organizational skills, and the relationship between non-profits and social movements.

URB 651 - Special Topics (3 Credits)

Prerequisite: **Permission of the Department Chair**

This course will offer qualified students the opportunity to study special topics within the scope of Urban Studies that are not covered, or are only partially covered, in courses offered. Topics may vary from semester to semester and could include in-depth study of particular urban issues or problems; comparative studies of urban regions; examinations of urban working-class experience; demographic research; neighborhood environmental problems; urban coalitions with labor and other advocacy groups; case studies of particular community or political mobilizations for urban justice.