



Certificate in Community Leadership

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The Program

The curriculum of the Certificate in Community Leadership draws on a variety of academic disciplines to provide students with the knowledge and experience needed to address issues facing urban residents through community level work. Students will learn how communities are organized, how nonprofits serve constituents, and will gain the skills needed to foster community engagement that can result in social progress and political power. Students who complete the program may apply their certificate credits towards the **BA in Urban and Community Studies degree program**.

Admissions Criteria

Candidates for admission to undergraduate level certificate programs must possess a high school diploma or a High School Equivalency (HSE) diploma from New York State (also known as TASC or GED). Applicants are also required to write a personal statement and upload a resume.

Program Requirements

Students will complete 16 credits.

URB 321 - Community Organizing and Community Organizations (4 Credits)

Prerequisite: None

This course will examine the historical development and contemporary practice of community organization. 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. Through readings, students will develop a historical and theoretical perspective on community organization and explore the range of issues around which communities organize. They will gain familiarity with various models and strategies of community organizations in New York City and will acquire practical knowledge and skills for effective grassroots organizing. They will also examine the effectiveness of coalitions and alliances, including relationships between community organizations, public agencies, and labor unions. Weekly sessions will periodically include guest speakers; site visits will be scheduled, allowing students to learn first-hand about specific strategies or issues. Following each guest presentation or site visit, students will submit brief reflection papers relating experiential learning to theoretical concepts encountered in class readings.

URB 339 - Urban and Community Studies Field Work (4 Credits)

Prerequisite: **Permission of the Department Chair**

This course augments traditional classroom-based learning with experiential learning through an internship or field project at a public agency, city government office, community organization or public-sector union. The field work is guided and supervised by a mentor. Students and the course instructor will meet in a weekly class in order to reflect analytically on the field experience and to discuss related readings.

LPOL 301 - Work, Culture, and Politics in New York City (4 Credits)

Prerequisite: None

This course explores the work, culture and politics of New York City, examining where New Yorkers live and work, how communities develop, and questioning whether or not the cultural and political institutions of New York adequately serve the city's diverse population. Major topics covered include the history of New York, New York's key industries,



trends in immigration, economic development, public policy, public and private space, high culture, popular culture, urban social identity, community organizations, and labor's contributions to building the city's institutions.

Electives

Students must also complete 4 credits from the following:

URB 323 - Community Development (4 Credits)

Prerequisite: None

Community development is a term used to describe strategies for improving the standard of living in low-income communities, often, but not always, in urban environments. The term is used widely and in varied contexts—sometimes applied to physical infrastructure; sometimes to quality-of-life issues. In this course, topics covered under the rubric of community development include: housing and infrastructure, economic activity, education, commercial outlets, access to healthy food, and public safety. The course will examine the way the term “community development” has been defined and used historically in the U.S. It will address the role of government and policy in community development, including the role of Community Development Corporations. Students will explore concepts of community development, focusing on current theories and empirical data to evaluate the effectiveness of different strategies for community development. They will seek to answer central questions, concerning community development: who sets goals; who has agency; how are diverse interests and needs balanced-or not balanced. Students will analyze case studies of specific community development projects. These case studies will provide the basis for a final research paper.

URB 324 - Introduction to Nonprofit Leadership (4 Credits)

Prerequisite: None

This course provides an introduction to the field of nonprofit management. The class will cover issues that arise for leaders of these kinds of organizations, including governance and boards, strategic planning, fundraising and philanthropy as well as grant-writing, administration, personnel management, and ethical questions. The class will focus on nonprofits broadly but investigate variations in the sector, from public-sector organizations to education, labor organizations, 501c(3) organizations, and others. The class will emphasize issues related to best practices needed for nonprofit leaders to successfully meet the mission of their organizations. Students will be required to engage in discussion and exercises that explore the relationship between theories and practices of nonprofit leadership and management.

URB 451 - Urban and Community Studies Special Topics (4 Credits)

Prerequisite: None

This course will offer students the opportunity to study special topics within the scope of Urban and Community Studies that are not covered, or are only partially covered, in courses offered. Topics may vary from semester to semester and could include study of particular urban populations or communities, urban worker centers, coalitional campaigns including labor, community, and political groups, or particular urban institutions.