

The Civic Leadership Program University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

The Civic Leadership Program (CLP) offers students an informed appreciation of American democracy, the values and structures on which it is based, its successes and its weaknesses, and the challenges it will face in the 21st century. Because the potential benefits of democratic governance cannot be realized without an abundant supply of capable and committed civic leaders, the Civic Leadership Program takes on the mission of generating a stream of highly motivated, exceptionally capable, ethically aware, and broadly-trained individuals who will be prepared to assume leadership positions in civic affairs in both the private and the public domains.

The CLP's academic home is the Department of Political Science, and it benefits from its association with the Cline Center for Democracy, a product of the vision of University of Illinois alums and benefactors Richard G. and Carole J. Cline and Peter Nardulli, former Head of the Department. The success of the CLP also rests on the involvement of a community of alumni who support student scholarships, assistantships, internships, and special programs. With the growth of the undergraduate program beginning in Fall 2014, the Department is eager to work with and expand the network of alumni who contribute to CLP initiatives and serve as mentors to students.

The Undergraduate Program

Undergraduate students participate in the Civic Leadership Program through two paths: the Civic Leadership Concentration (for political science majors) and the Political and Civic Leadership Minor (for students majoring in other fields). Admission to the program is competitive and based on academic performance, demonstrated leadership achievement, and the potential for meaningful civic engagement. Students admitted to the program will be designated as Civic Leadership Fellows. Successful completion of either the concentration or the minor requires three components: foundational coursework in political science and/or related disciplines, specialized coursework in civic leadership, and an internship. The Program also offers extracurricular and networking opportunities.

The Program is designed to appeal to students with interests in American politics, public policy, and civic engagement. The curriculum points CLP students toward coursework inside and outside the Department of Political Science that will provide them with the substantive background and theoretical foundations to understand leadership and policymaking in the U.S. context and to participate as civic leaders. This involves understanding of:

- The civic and political dimensions to societal problems and issues;
- The opportunities, constraints, and limits to addressing those problems collectively;
- The importance of adhering to ethical principles in the formulation of collective actions;
- The relationships between public policy and competitive free-enterprise, market-based economic principles;
- The interpersonal skills needed to work effectively toward a consensus with diverse groups of individuals;
- The elements of effective and ethical leadership

The Graduate Program

The Department of Political Science administers the M.A. program through its Graduate Office. Completion of the undergraduate concentration or minor is a prerequisite for the M.A., but does not assure admission. The CLP graduate program marks a heightened level of achievement above the undergraduate program. In particular, completion of the graduate program requires an additional full year of advanced classes on campus, including a two-semester capstone experience, the Civic Leadership Practicum. The practicum culminates in a collaborative project and white paper on a topic of contemporary importance. Throughout the year of classes, students have an opportunity to draw together courses from diverse curricula that build their knowledge, skills, and abilities. The first new M.A. cohort will be admitted once there is a sufficient number of interested and qualified CLP concentrators and minors.

Details on Undergraduate Curricula (from the University's Programs of Study Catalog)

The Civic Leadership Program

Students are admitted to the Civic Leadership Program through a competitive process administered by the Department of Political Science. The Civic Leadership Program offers a plan of study to enable students with the capacity, skills, and knowledge to provide informed, principled, and effective civic leadership. Students can participate either as Political Science Majors with a concentration in Civic Leadership or as majors in other fields with a Minor in Political and Civic Leadership. All students in the Civic Leadership Program must complete 17 hours of courses related to and distributed within the Civic Leadership Program.

Civic Leadership Concentration

The Civic Leadership Concentration is for political science majors. Those wishing to pursue the concentration must be admitted to the Civic Leadership Program and complete all of the following requirements.

Hours	Requirements
12	Political Science Major Core Requirements: PS 101 – Intro to US Gov and Pol And, select three from the following: PS 100 - Intro to Political Science OR PS 200 - Foundations of Political Science PS 220 - Intro to Public Policy PS 230 - Intro to Pol Research PS 231 - Strategic Models PS 240 - Intro to Comp Politics PS 270 - Intro to Political Theory PS 280 - Intro to Intl Relations
12	At least four political science courses at the advanced level
20	Supporting coursework is required and must be selected in consultation with the student's adviser. Supporting courses should complement subfields in political science chosen by the student. At least 12 of these 20 hours must be in courses numbered 200 or above.
2	At least two sections of PS 199 designated as pertaining to the Civic Leadership Program. A list of such sections is available in the Undergraduate Studies Office of the Department of Political Science.
3	Internship Course (PS 491)
1-3	One additional course (1-3 credits) in political science at any level
50-52	TOTAL (30-32 in political science and 20 in supporting coursework)

Note: Completion of the Civic Leadership Concentration must include either as major or supporting coursework one course in each of the following areas, chosen from a list maintained by the Department: 1) An intermediate or advanced course in public policy; 2) A course examining the construction and consequences of social identity relating to race, religion, ethnicity, or gender; and 3) A course exploring different perspectives on a just, ordered, and moral society

Minor in Political and Civic Leadership

The Minor in Political and Civic Leadership is for students who are not political science majors. Minors must be admitted to the Civic Leadership Program and meet all of the following requirements. At least three courses (nine hours) must be at the advanced level.

Hours	Requirements
3	One foundation course: PS 100 - Intro to Political Science OR PS 200 - Foundations of Political Science PS 101- Intro to US Gov & Pol GLBL 100- Intro to Global Studies GLBL 220- Governance
9	One course in each of the following areas, chosen from a list maintained by the Department: 1. An intermediate (200 level) or advanced (300 level) course in public policy 2. A course examining the construction and consequences of social identity relating to race, religion, ethnicity, or gender 3. A course exploring different perspectives on a just, ordered, and moral society
3	PS 491, Internship, or approved internship course in another department
2	At least two sections of PS 199 designated as pertaining to the Civic Leadership Program. A list of such sections is available in the Undergraduate Studies Office of the Department of Political Science.
17	TOTAL

If you have questions about the Civic Leadership Program or wish to get involved, please free to contact us at ps-civicleadership@illinois.edu.