

Civic Engagement + X

Guidelines for the CivX Track Within the Bachelor's Degree with Individualized Concentration (BDIC)

The BDIC program allows you to design your own concentration, studying the fields and issues you care about. The CivX track within BDIC allows you to explore issues of civic engagement in combination with a disciplinary or interdisciplinary area which interests you. It combines conventional course work with community service learning and internships, exposing you to multiple career paths in public service and preparing you for a life of active citizenship.

OVERVIEW:

In the "Civic Engagement + X" (or "CivX") concentration, you fill in the "X" with courses that explore your special interest. "X" could be the arts, environmental justice, social entrepreneurship, community health, youth development, information technology, or whatever field of study you choose.

At the same time, you also take courses in the five Civic Engagement fields:

- Civics and Political Theory
- Civic Leadership and Community Organizing
- Public Policy
- Issues of Social Justice
- Diverse Publics

At least **four** of your courses will be Community Service Learning courses, placing you in community settings where you will integrate community service with academic learning.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The CivX track aims to develop in you the following knowledge and skills:

Knowledge:

1. A core of knowledge from a particular disciplinary or inter-disciplinary area of your choice: “X”.
2. Political knowledge for democratic citizenship: the functions of government, the roles of citizens in a democracy, and the ways that citizens can influence the status and actions of government.
3. Service-Learning: an understanding of service that locates it within a broader framework of civic engagement, involving mutual and reciprocal relationships with community members, and an understanding of learning through reflection on experience.
4. Social theory and social analysis: an understanding of how social theory works to illuminate the root causes of social problems, and how social analysis is useful in addressing manifestations of social injustice.
5. Communities and community-based organizations: an understanding of the complex dynamics at work in a specific local community and a detailed knowledge of how at least one community-based organization addresses local problems—including mission, budget, structure, staffing, and policy.

Skills:

1. Cultural competence: the ability to enter and work within a community unlike your own as an effective ally.
2. Civic leadership: the ability to take on leadership roles (both formal and informal) and to follow the leadership of others; the ability to facilitate group discussion and deliberation; the ability to work with others using principles of reciprocity, collaboration, negotiation and compromise; organizing—the capacity to mobilize others to action.
3. Praxis: the ability to engage in reflective practice, translating thought into action and using experience to build or modify theory.
4. Systems thinking: the ability to see social problems as complex products of multiple and inter-related causes, often requiring complex strategies for solution.
5. Communication: the ability to communicate ideas clearly and effectively to a range of audiences using a variety of appropriate media. The ability to listen thoughtfully and attentively.
6. Critical Thinking and Deliberation: the ability to weigh competing arguments and come to formulate new arguments based on the consideration of evidence. The ability to bring theory to bear on argumentation and action. The ability to sincerely consider perspectives that are at odds with your own.

CURRICULUM STRUCTURE:

The program begins with the **BDIC Proposal-Writing Course**. You will plan your path through the CivX concentration alongside other students planning to enter the BDIC program. You must complete the proposal course and have your proposal accepted by the BDIC faculty supervisor committee; you may consult with the Civic Engagement Faculty Supervisor as you plan your concentration.

In accordance with BDIC guidelines, you will take courses that total a minimum of 36 credits above the 100 level (in most cases, at a level of 300 or above). Courses will be chosen in consultation with an advisor to fulfill two Content Requirements and a “Praxis” Requirement. The combination of the three Requirements must yield courses in at least three different departments.

Content Requirement 1: You and your advisor will select courses at a level of 300 or above from a disciplinary area of your choice to total at least 18 credits. (The “discipline” could include two or more departments. For example, if the discipline were information technology, courses in computer science, digital art, and other fields might be chosen.)

Content Requirement 2: The student and advisor will select at least one course from each of the five Civic Engagement areas below. (100-level courses will satisfy a Civic Engagement area requirement but are not counted toward the 36 credits required for the major.)

- **Civics and Political Theory** – Courses that explore the meaning and the practice of citizenship in a democratic society including the formation and operation of civic organizations, or courses that offer foundational knowledge in political theory that would enable you to construct a theoretical understanding of power and governance.
- **Civic Leadership and Community Organizing** – Courses that introduce the theory and practice of civic leadership and the ways that citizens mobilize to use their collective power and to make change.
- **Public Policy** – Courses that provide an understanding of the legislative process, how policy gets made, how it affects our lives, and how we can affect it.
- **Issues of Social Justice** – Courses that introduce the bases for different kinds of injustice in contemporary society, the theories explaining that injustice, and the theory and practice associated with creating a more just society.
- **Diverse Publics** – Courses that help you complexify your understanding of “public” by offering an in-depth exploration of different constituencies within American society and the global community.

Praxis Requirement: “Praxis” is the integration of theory and action. The CivX concentration requires that you ground your theoretical studies in real-world experience, and inform your action through disciplined thinking. At least four courses must be Community Service Learning (CSL) courses from the Content Requirement Areas 1 and 2 or from a list of additional Praxis courses. All of these courses provide opportunities for hands-on work that connects the classroom to the larger world and the world to

the classroom through guided community service learning classes or through guided internships with a substantial civic engagement orientation. They connect theory and life, ideas about civic engagement and public service to direct action.

- One of the four CSL courses must be a **CSL Foundation** course (marked **CSL-F** on the list below) which is designed to introduce you to the integration of community service and academic learning.
- **Capstone or Internship:** The Praxis Requirement must be completed with either an internship of 3 credits or more or a CSL Honors Capstone course (either an individual capstone or a Capstone Experience course) approved by the advisor.

***COURSES WHICH FULFILL THE FIVE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AREAS
AND THE PRAXIS REQUIREMENT***

Some Praxis courses are listed separately; others are listed in the various areas and marked as CSL or CSL-F (for a CSL Foundation Course). This list will be reviewed and updated periodically by the Provost's Committee on Service-Learning.

Civics and Political Theory:

Anthro 336	Political Anthropology
Anthro 364	Problems in Anthropology I
Econ 105	Political Economy
Econ 144	Political Economy of Racism
Geosci 397	Alternative Economies
Pol Sci 101	American Politics
Pol Sci 171	Intro to Political Theory
Pol Sci 253	Globalization
Pol Sci 307	Black Politics
Pol Sci 360	Constitutional Law
Pol Sci 361	Civil Liberties
Pol Sci 373	Contemporary Political Theory
Soc 327	Social Change

Civic Leadership and Community Organizing:

AfroAm 236	History of the Civil Rights Movement
AfroAm 391A	Political Thought of Martin and Malcolm
Anth 297	Community Organizing for Diverse Publics
Anth 397H	Grassroots Community Development (CSL-F)
Anth 397L	Leadership and Activism
Anth 497H	Community Development in Holyoke (CSL)
Soc 329H	Social Movements (CSL)
Hon 191T	Leadership and Service (CSL) (limited to IMPACT! Program)

- Hon 499S Service-Learning Capstone: Organizing: People, Power, and Change (CSL)
(limited to Citizen Scholars Program)
- WOST 392 Women of Color Activism
- WOST 499 Transnational Women's Activism

Public Policy:

- ENVIRDES 553 Resource Policy and Planning
- ENVIRDES 575 Environmental Law and Resource Management
- ENVIRDES 577 Urban Policies
- ENVRSCI 213 Introduction to Environmental Policy
- ENVRSCI 342 Pesticides and Environmental Policy
- Hon 499R Service-Learning Capstone: Public Policy and Citizen Action (limited to Citizen Scholars Program)
- Poli Sci 181 Controversies in Public Policy
- Poli Sci 220 Public Administration
- Poli Sci 280 Public Policy
- Poli Sci 380 Social Welfare Policy
- PubP & Adm 197A Controversies in Public Policy
- Soc 341 Social Welfare

Issues of Social Justice:

- Anth 205 Inequality and Oppression
- Anth 397H Grassroots Community Development (CSL-F)
- Anth 397T Racism and Testing in Public Education
- Educ 115 Embracing Diversity
- Educ 255 Social Justice and Diversity through Peer Theater (CSL)
- Educ 392D Multicultural Workshops
- Educ 393B Exploring Social Justice in the Community (CSL)
- Hon 393T Tools for Change (CSL) (limited to Citizen Scholars Program)
- Soc 106 Race, Gender and Ethnicity
- Soc 224 Social Class and Inequality
- Soc 340 Race Relations
- Theater 100H Introduction to Theater – Honors (CSL)

Diverse Publics:

- AfroAm 170 and 171 The Minority Experience in American Life
- Anth 297H The Good Society (CSL-F) (limited to Citizen Scholars Program)
- Anth 360 Urban Anthropology
- Anth 370 Contemporary Issues for Native Americans
- Anth 397 Public Anthropology (CSL)
- Educ 4971 Tutoring in Schools (CSL)
- Educ 597b Leadership in Multi-Cultural Education
- Envsci 462 Principles of Environmental Assessment

Hon 292D	American Diversity (with CSL: CSL-F)
Hon 292S	Engaging with the Community (CSL-F)
Service-Learning 293	Learning Through Community Engagement (CSL-F)
Service-Learning 393	Advanced Topics in Community Service Learning (CSL)
Soc 291	The Asian American Experience
Soc 360	Urban Sociology
WOST 295	Asian American Women's Experience

Additional Praxis Courses:

AnSci 397G	Therapeutic Riding (CSL)
Anth 397I	Leadership and Activism(CSL)
Anth 497H	Community Development in Holyoke (CSL)
Educ 597b	Leadership in Multi-cultural Education (CSL)
ENVIRSCI 462	Principles of Environmental Assessment (CSL)
Hon 291R	CSL Honors Seminar (CSL)
Hon 292V	Violence in American Culture (CSL)
Hon 499 C and Hon 499D	Capstone Course—CSL Sections only (CSL)
Hon 499R and 499S	CSL Capstone Experience (all sections) (CSL)
Journ 394C	Community Journalism Project (CSL)
Approved Internship for 3 credits or more (CSL)	

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Advising in the CivX Track follows the model for other BDIC students. You find a faculty Sponsor who will help you plan your program proposal and will advise you as you go through your concentration. In order to get the maximum benefit, you are encouraged to maintain an active relationship with your faculty Sponsor. Your faculty Sponsor should be in one of the fields prominent in your BDIC concentration, and ideally will be among the faculty who teach the 105 recognized CSL courses on the campus. The Provost's Committee on Service-Learning maintains and updates annually a list of faculty who could be approached to serve as Sponsors.

As you fill in the "X" with the field of your choice, the concentration will bear the name of that field, so your transcript will eventually read "Civic Engagement and Resource Economics" or "Civic Engagement and the Arts" or "Civic Engagement and Environmental Justice" or whatever you have chosen.

The junior year writing course is generally taken within your disciplinary area or may be fulfilled through an Honors CSL Capstone course.

Students in multi-semester CSL programs (IMPACT!, Citizen Scholars, UACT, Student Bridges) will find that courses from those programs satisfy many of the Civic Engagement field requirements.

You may petition the BDIC faculty supervisor to count Five College or other transfer courses toward the five Civic Engagement fields and the Praxis Requirement.