

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT MINOR

MINOR DESCRIPTION

The Civic Engagement Minor (CEM) enables students to exercise their social consciousness through various formal and informal civic activities in Middletown and around the world. These activities include volunteer work, practica, and community-engaged learning. The minor requires six courses across multiple categories exploring issues related to civic engagement. Categories include: The Individual in Society; The Practice of Democracy; Ethical Reasoning; Volunteerism and Activism; Education and Public Scholarship; and Civic Engagement in a Cross-Cultural Perspective. Students also complete at least 40 hours of service work coordinated through the Office of Community Service and Volunteerism. Students apply for the minor by submitting a reflection paper explaining the place of civic engagement in the applicant's life and their plans to fulfill the CEM requirements.

ADMISSION TO THE MINOR

Students will be admitted to the CEM by self-declaration. They will be considered part of the minor after they have formally applied to participate and discussed their plans with the faculty coordinator. The application will consist, in part, of a reflection paper explaining the place of civic engagement in the applicant's own life and plans to fulfill the CEM requirements.

MINOR REQUIREMENTS

During their sophomore through senior years, Civic Engagement Minor (CEM) students will complete a series of structured academic and cocurricular activities, including courses, volunteering, practica, and opportunities for reflection that will enable them to develop a broad understanding of the varied components of civic engagement.

We can think of civic engagement as applied democratic theory. As "theory," mastery requires the development of a theoretical understanding of both the principles of democracy and the institutional and social requisites of a democratic society (see Requirements 1 and 5 below). As "applied," mastery of civic engagement requires the practical understanding of social processes that results from actual engagement in the community (Requirements 3 and 4). Thus, the minor requires students to take a set of courses to acquire an understanding of how democratic processes (including the practices and institutions of civil society) work; to acquire the firsthand experience of civic engagement and civic life by participating in approved civic activities; and, finally, through both coursework and other means, to reflect on the connections among these and to integrate them effectively (Requirements 1, 2, and 5).

- **Requirement 1:** Six courses dealing with civic engagement are required. Courses are grouped into the following categories (listed on WesMaps (<http://www.wesleyan.edu/wesmaps/>))
 - **The Individual in Society**
 - **The Practice of Democracy**
 - **Ethical Reasoning**
 - **Volunteerism and Activism**
 - **Education and Public Scholarship**
 - **Civic Engagement in Cross-Cultural Perspective**

- The six courses must come from at least *three* of these categories and one must be from The Practice of Democracy category.

- **Requirement 2:** Three reflection papers are required, one per year of the minor. These papers, along with one document from each relevant course, will be archived during the process of completing the minor.
- **Requirement 3:** A minimum of 40 hours of service work coordinated through the Office of Community Service and Volunteerism (OCS)
- **Requirement 4:** A practicum
- **Requirement 5:** The senior seminar, a .25 credit capstone course (CSPL302)

Note: CEM requirements fulfilled before a student is admitted may be counted toward the minor at the discretion of the CEM Advisory Panel.

Admission. Students will be admitted to the CEM by self-declaration. They will be considered part of the minor group after they have formally applied to participate and discussed their plans with the faculty coordinator. The application will consist, in part, of a reflection paper explaining the place of civic engagement in the applicant's own life and plans to fulfill the CEM requirements.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CONTACT

Contact a faculty co-coordinator, Amy Grillo at agrillo@wesleyan.edu or Barbara Juhasz at bjuhasz@wesleyan.edu.