

CIVIC AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, MINOR

Requirements for a minor may be completed at any campus location offering the specified courses for the minor. Students may not change from a campus that offers their major to a campus that does not offer their major for the purpose of completing a minor.

Program Description

Administered by the Department of Communication Arts and Sciences in the College of the Liberal Arts, the Intercollege Minor in Civic and Community Engagement (CIVCM minor) is appropriate to undergraduate students seeking to apply domains of knowledge from their majors or General Education programs to issues of consequence beyond the classroom. In the minor students integrate democratic, professional, and creative development. In particular, the minor serves to encourage, recognize, and systematize student participation in public service or problem-based fieldwork and research that:

- is substantial, sustained, and includes structured opportunities for student reflection and critical assessment; and
- is integrated with and supported by traditional, classroom-based coursework.

Specifically, the minor consists of one prescribed course, Foundations of Civic and Community Engagement (CAS 222N or CIVCM 211N or AYFCE 211N), a supervised fieldwork experience, and supporting coursework selected with the advice and consent of a faculty minor adviser. The minor culminates with an approved capstone project, which may be a significant paper, or annotated portfolio, or other demonstration of substantial assessment and integration of the minor experience and the broader issue of application of academic theory and practice in the civic community. Capstones may be composed and delivered for academic audiences or as public scholarship – or as some combination of the two – depending on a student's professional and civic goals. The completion of the minor is reflected by a formal notation of the student's official record at the time of graduation. To enter the program, a student must submit an application at <https://civcm.psu.edu/requirements-how-to-apply>.

What is Civic and Community Engagement?

The Intercollege Minor in Civic and Community Engagement provides an opportunity for students to extend their education beyond the classroom through engagement in socially meaningful public scholarship in both pre-existing and newly developing community projects. This minor entails situated as well as experiential learning. Students apply, test, analyze and re-formulate academic material in the context of public problems and community settings. Engaging in "learning-by-doing" allows students to communicate across differences, deliberate public problems, fulfill civic responsibilities, gain insight into personal values and world-views, develop civic skills including observation and listening, and further develop career interests and professional goals.