

Community Leadership Minor

Community Understanding

Goal Description:

Minors in Community Leadership will demonstrate an understanding of ways to apply disciplinary knowledge to understand and address community needs.

Providing Department: Community Leadership Minor

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Community Understanding

Learning Objective Description:

Upon completion of the foundations course Intro to Community Leadership, students in the Minor in Community Leadership will recognize their abilities to apply disciplinary knowledge to understand and address community needs.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Community Understanding

Indicator Description:

At least 80% of students will report 4 or higher on questions asking them to evaluate their ability to apply disciplinary knowledge to understand and address community needs.

Criterion Description:

Please see the attached instrument (ComLeadershipBACESurveyExcerpt)

Attached Files

 [ComLeadershpBACESurveyExcerpt.doc](#)

Findings Description:

To measure student ability to apply disciplinary knowledge to understand and address community needs, students were asked to indicate their level of agreement with a number of statements about community engagement on a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). Scores on four statements were evaluated for this indicator.

1. The community engagement in this course helped me to connect theory with practice. In fall 2022 82% of students responded 4 or higher.
2. The community engagement in this course helped me to apply the subject matter in a “real world” situation. In fall 2022 91% of students responded 4 or higher.
3. This course helped me become more aware of the needs in my community. In fall 2022 91% of students responded 4 or higher.
4. This course helped me understand that I can make a difference in my community by being involved. In fall 2022 100% of students responded 4 or higher.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Community Understanding

Action Description:

The goal was exceeded. No action will be taken in the upcoming cycle.

Contribute to Civic Life

Goal Description:

Minors in Community Leadership will demonstrate a combination of knowledge, skills, values, and dispositions necessary to contribute to civic life in their communities.

Providing Department: Community Leadership Minor

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Contribute to Civic Life

Learning Objective Description:

The summary assignment of the capstone internship course will be evaluated for evidence of the knowledge, skills, values and dispositions that contribute to effective community leadership.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Contribute to Civic Life

Indicator Description:

The summary assignment from the capstone internship course will be evaluated by members of the Sociology Department’s Undergraduate Committee according to the attached rubric. 80% of assignments should receive an average score of 2.5.

Criterion Description:

Please see the attached rubric (CivicEngagementRubric).

Attached Files

 [Comm Certificate Scoring Rubric.docx](#)

Findings Description:

No students registered for internships in either fall 2022 or spring 2023 therefore, no data were available to assess and no findings to report.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Contribute to Civic Life

Action Description:

The number of interns this year was lower than usual. The program advisor will undertake efforts to increase Community Leadership minors. Please see the Plan for Continuous Improvement.

Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

Previous Cycle's Plan For Continuous Improvement (Do Not Modify):

Closing Summary

The Community Understanding goal for the foundational course was met. The goal for the capstone course was not met. To increase possibility of increased understanding of how the capstone experience can develop the knowledge, skills, values, and dispositions that can contribute to effective community leadership, course assignments will be added to encourage student reflection prior to the final capstone assignment. Discussion prompts for two brief writing assignments will ask students to connect their internship experience to participation in civic life and how they might make a difference in their communities drawing on their internship experience.

Additionally, the assessment process will be initiated immediately following the spring semester to allow more time to recruit faculty reviewers, meet with them to discuss the rubric and scoring process, and to give more turnaround time for reviewers to read and evaluate the assignments.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

1. The Community Understanding goal for the foundational course was met. The goal for the capstone course was not met. To increase possibility of increased understanding of how the capstone experience can develop the knowledge, skills, values, and dispositions that can contribute to effective community leadership, course assignments will be added to encourage student reflection prior to the final capstone assignment. Discussion prompts for two brief writing assignments will ask students to connect their internship experience to participation in civic life and how they might make a difference in their communities drawing on their internship experience.

The capstone course was modified accordingly. As indicated by the community understanding learning objective, student knowledge of community needs and engagement increased. The goal was exceeded this cycle.

2. Additionally, the assessment process will be initiated immediately following the spring semester to allow more time to recruit faculty reviewers, meet with them to discuss the rubric and scoring process, and to give more turnaround time for reviewers to read and evaluate the assignments.

This was implemented and the assessment was successfully completed.

New Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

Closing Summary:

The number of Community Leadership minors decreased due to the COVID-19 shutdown and is struggling to recover. The foundational course Intro to Community Leadership is typically the recruiting mechanism for students to become minors. This course still attracts a full roster, but a larger proportion of the students are taking the course late in their degree plan without sufficient time to add a minor. To address the recruiting issue, in fall 2023 the department will establish an interdisciplinary advisory group for the minor from departments that have historically had Community Leadership minors (sociology, psychology, political science, communication studies, mass communication, criminal justice). The advisory group will help draft a recruitment plan to strengthen numbers. Additionally, CHSS has created an incentive stipend for experiential learning that will hopefully help build the number of students participating in the internship program.