

CITIZENSHIP & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, BA (NOT ADMITTING STUDENTS, FALL 2025)

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Faculty

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Program Description

The Maxwell Program in Citizenship and Civic Engagement (CCE) is a double-major undergraduate B.A. program of the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs and the College of Arts and Sciences. It offers an individualized curriculum through which students explore and contribute to the public good in intellectual and practical ways.

Class-year cohorts are limited to 30 students with CCE course sections ranging from nine to 17 students. Students apply directly to CCE during senior year of high school or, for students already at SU, before the end of their sophomore year. Admitted students pair CCE with a “concurrent major” of their choice to explore its connections to citizenship and civic engagement.

Eight required courses (24 credit hours) introduce CCE majors to important interdisciplinary concerns in the Maxwell School (including the topics of deliberative citizenship; community engagement; social movements; institutional and civic leadership; data-driven research; policy analysis; conflict and crisis management; public administration; and nonprofit management). By offering these courses each semester, CCE affords students the flexibility to participate in SU Abroad and/or the Maxwell in Washington semester.

An additional 9 hours of CCE elective connective coursework provide further background and skills necessary to complete the required senior capstone project, the CCE Action Plan (done individually or in small groups). For the Action Plan, the student designs and implements, as much as possible, a concrete strategy for addressing a societal problem. This community-based intervention builds on earlier course requirements, including rigorous independent research conducted about the societal problem during the student’s junior year. The Action Plan also requires the student to promote change by engaging nonprofit, government, and business organizations in Central New York or elsewhere. Through this experience, the student demonstrates community-based research and civic engagement proficiency and will be prepared to pursue many post-graduation options: a career in a nonprofit organization or public sector agency or business, graduate school training in fields that stress community-based research and action, and life as an engaged citizen who stays involved in their community after SU.

This major may be combined with any other undergraduate major with approval by the program director.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Values & Ethics - Students will be able to evaluate ethical practices of citizenship and civic and community engagement in light of different public philosophies, societal and community values, and their own experiences.
2. Research & Discovery - Students will be able to utilize social science research methodologies to discover community and societal facts and values.
3. Community & Context - Students will be able to analyze and evaluate the development of civic life in specific locational settings, from global to local.
4. Collaboration & Engagement - Students will be able to interact and work with diverse communities using appropriate and ethical practices.
5. Design & Implementation - Students will be able to create a feasible and sustainable community and/ or civic engagement project or policy with a partner organization.

Program Requirements

Successful completion of a concurrent major, in one of the existing Maxwell undergraduate programs or in a suitably related discipline, is a requirement for graduation in the Maxwell Program in Citizenship and Civic Engagement; declaration of that major is not a requirement for entry into the program.

All students complete the Liberal Arts Core requirements. Under the guidance of faculty mentors and the Program’s board, Core courses should be selected to provide the broadest possible methodological foundation for a student’s particular interests in civic engagement.

All students must complete a lower-division foundation sequence, an upper-division sequence, and a “connective coursework” sequence, as follows:

Code	Title	Credits
Lower Division Experience		
<i>First-year Foundations</i>		
MAX 123	Critical Issues for the United States	3
or MAX 132	Global Community	
One additional entry-level course (200-level or below) in any Maxwell department (three hours). A student may take both MAX 123 and MAX 132 to fulfill this requirement. This requirement must be completed during a student’s first (freshman) year at Syracuse University.		3
<i>Social-Science Methodology</i>		
MAX 201	Quantitative Methods for the Social Sciences	3
One additional course (at least three hours) on methodology, selected from the following list:		3
ANT 453	Poverty, Policy, and Human Services	
ANT 481	Ethnographic Techniques	
ANT 482	Life Histories/Narratives	
GEO 381	Cartographic Design	
GEO 383	Geographic Information Systems	
GEO 386	Quantitative Geographic Analysis	
GEO 482	Environmental Remote Sensing	
HST 201	Research Seminar in History (topic varies)	
HST 401	Senior Seminar (topic varies)	

PST 315	Methods of Public Policy Analysis and Presentation	
PSC 202	Introduction to Political Analysis	
SOC 318	Introduction to Research	
SOC 319	Qualitative Methods in Sociology	
Upper-Division Sequence		
Students take four courses, all designed specifically for the Program in the sophomore, junior, and senior years (ten credit hours):		
CCE 301	Civic Engagement: Theories and Social Impacts (Seminar in ethics and political/social justice as they pertain to citizenship and civic action. Course covers historical and contemporary approaches to citizenship.)	3
CCE 302	Civic Engagement Research Seminar (Readings and research on application of social-science methodologies to concrete civic, political, and global issues. Initial focus on Maxwell-based research; case studies of academically informed civic engagement; final project proposal on topic of student's choice.)	3
CCE 310	Community Engagement Internship (Introduces students to a variety of non-profit and governmental agencies through service-learning. This course is to be taken in conjunction with MAX 301)	3
CCE 401	Civic Engagement Capstone (Capstone course for Maxwell Citizenship/Civic Engagement Program. Design and implementation of "Action Plan" to improve social, economic and/or political conditions at the local, state, federal or global level.)	3
Total Credits		24

Connective Coursework

Students enroll in three upper-division courses (nine credit hours) clearly related to the design and execution of the final Action Plan. Courses are selected with the help of the student's faculty advisor and approved by the Program's Advisory Board. The courses must come from at least two different academic departments or units within Maxwell; one of the courses may be taken from any unit in the University. These courses should be selected to provide a broad substantive background for a student's Action Plan; students will be encouraged to integrate into their studies civically engaged research from outside the Maxwell School.

Concurrent Major

All students must complete, in addition to the requirements for the Maxwell Program in Citizenship and Civic Engagement outlined above, a concurrent major.

Students singly enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences choose the concurrent major from the existing social-science disciplines within Maxwell, or from suitably related disciplines in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Students enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences dual programs with S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications or the School of Education, or students enrolled in other schools/colleges in majors not directly related to the social sciences, may apply for a dual or double major, respectively, in Citizenship and Civic Engagement if their intended course of study and goals for academically informed civic engagement

fit with the structure and capacities of the Program. In such cases, the Program Chair, Coordinator and Board will ensure that the student's program of study provides sufficient background in the social sciences to complete the Action Plan.

College of Arts and Sciences Requirements

For all Arts and Sciences|Maxwell students, successful completion of a bachelor's degree in this major requires a minimum of 120 credits, 96 of which must be Arts and Sciences|Maxwell credits, completion of the Liberal Arts Core (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/#text>) requirements, and the requirements for this major (30 credits) that are listed above.

Dual Enrollments:

Students dually enrolled in **Newhouse*** and Arts and Sciences|Maxwell will complete a minimum of 122 credits, with at least 90 credits in Arts and Sciences|Maxwell coursework and an Arts and Sciences|Maxwell major.

*Students dually enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences|Maxwell as first year students must complete the Liberal Arts Core (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/#text>). Students who transfer to the dual program after their first year as singly enrolled students in the Newhouse School will satisfy general requirements for the dual degree program by completing the Newhouse Core Requirements.

Undergraduate University Requirements

The following requirements and experiences apply to all Syracuse University Undergraduate matriculated degree programs.

- IDEA Course Requirement (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/undergraduate/idea-course-requirement/>)
- First Year Seminar (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/undergraduate/courses/fys/>)