

Interdisciplinary Programs of Study

The College offers a variety of programs of study that are informed by more than one disciplinary field. They include the college's Honors Program, the major in Latin American and Latino Studies, and several minors, including Community Service Learning (CSL); Core Texts and Enduring Questions (CTEQ); Law, Ethics, and Constitutional Studies (LEX); Medieval and Early Modern Studies (MEMS); and Women's Studies (WMS).

Minor in Community Service Learning (CSL)

Community Service Learning (CSL) utilizes community service as part of the academic inquiry in a wide variety of courses. Among other things, CSL courses allow students to test classroom learning against their off-campus experiences, as well as put their academic insights and practical skills to use serving the greater Worcester community. Some CSL courses involve students volunteering multiple times at local agencies; most courses, however, involve specific service projects students do together. For example, CSL students have explored management principles while working on a Habitat for Humanity construction site, explained biology concepts to elementary school students, and used graphic design skills to help real-life, non-profit community partners. For questions, contact Community Service Learning Director Mike Land (miland@assumption.edu) or Partnership Coordinator Susan Hayes (shayes@assumption.edu).

The Community Service Learning Minor

Many students find themselves more than halfway to the CSL Minor without even realizing it; a few have even earned it as part of a triple-minor, with CSL courses double-counting for requirements in a major or minor. The minor gives students who like experiential learning an opportunity to take multiple courses in that educational format, but also allows students to reflect on the variety of kinds of service, and various ways different disciplines can contribute to the broader community. CSL minors are also asked to reflect on their service journey as a whole.

Requirements

The CSL Minor consists of five (5) elective courses that have been approved by the CSL director, plus a capstone independent study course. CSL students also must complete 125 hours of service during their time at Assumption.

The heart of the minor is the taking of CSL courses in at least three different disciplines. A fourth course – IDS 425, the CSL Minor Capstone independent study – also requires community service. The remaining two courses consists of (1) a theology course and (2) either a fifth CSL course or any course that engages social justice issues in some way. (Ask the director if a course counts.) CSL minors must also accumulate 125 hours of community service while at Assumption. Students often earn most of these hours through the CSL courses themselves, but the minor also requires at least some hours through some other form of service at Assumption, usually either volunteering locally through the Reach Out Center or going on a SEND mission trip through Campus Ministry.

Sample CSL Courses

Often a single academic course will be offered in a CSL format one semester, but not the next. Thus the list of CSL courses is always changing – and growing. As examples, here is a list of courses taught as CSL in 2015-2016. When registering in a particular semester, look for the CSL designation.

- ARD 115 and 215, Graphic Design I and II
- BIO 102 Human Biology, Health and Disease
- BUS 330 Global Social Entrepreneurship
- CRM 255 Prisoner Rehabilitation and Reentry
- EDU 260 Teaching Students with Special Needs
- EDU 302 Teaching English Language Learners
- ENG 202 Introduction to Journalism.
- ENG/SOC 225 Literature of Social Responsibility
- ENG 309 Creative Nonfiction
- ENG 415 Writing Mass Communication Capstone
- HIS 181 U.S. History II

HIS 366 Vocations in Public History
HON 100 Life Stories
HRS 340 Principles of Case Management
IDS 250 Individual Income Tax Assistance
MGT 311 Diversity in the Work Force
PSY 190 Infancy and Childhood
PSY 230 Positive Psychology
SPA 400 Special Topics in Latin American Studies

Course Descriptions

IDS 425 SEMINAR IN SERVICE LEARNING

The capstone course for CSL minors, IDS 425, an independent study course, combines interdisciplinary readings, critical thinking and analysis, and community service. Students are encouraged to explore the connections between text and experience, between ideas and lived events. Students are engaged in 45 hours of community service throughout the semester. They pursue a research project of their choice. The culmination of the seminar is a research paper and a formal presentation.
Land/Three credits