



Undergraduate Certificate in Community-Based Research

Information Sheet

About the Certificate

Administered by the **School of Public Affairs**, the Certificate in Community-Based Research is for any undergraduate student interested in applying community-based research methodology and social science research methods to community-based settings, domestically or internationally. Think of it like a minor, but with a focus on applied skill-building in the local community.

What is Community-Based Research?

Community-based research is an orientation, based on the philosophy that any research to inform solutions for a pressing community problem should involve the community. In this certificate program, students learn to collaborate with community partners to conduct research aimed at meeting community-identified needs, and apply what they learn in a final independent capstone project.

Admission to the Program

Open to undergraduate degree and nondegree students.

Requirements

- 15-18 credit hours of approved coursework with at least 9 credits at or above 300-level with grades of B or better. Grades of B- or lower in certificate program courses will not be accepted toward the fulfillment of certificate requirements, although these grades will be included in the calculation of the cumulative grade point average.
- Students must have a minimum 3.00 cumulative GPA in certificate courses in order to be awarded a certificate. Students in certificate programs must take a minimum of 6 credit hours during each 12-month period after admission. International students must enroll in 12 credit hours each semester (except for summer). A maximum of 3 credit hours earned at an accredited college or university may be applied toward the certificate as transfer credit.

HOW TO ENROLL

To enroll in the CBR Certificate program, please complete this form:



Please send any questions to:
cbr@american.edu.

REQUIREMENTS

Community-Based Learning Course (3 credit hours)

Note: The list of approved Community-Based Learning (or CB) courses is published each semester by the Center for Community Engagement & Service. Alternatively, students can search for the Community Based Learning course type in Student Planning.

Contact volunteer@american.edu with any questions about approved CB courses.

Community-Based Research Course (3 credit hours)

Students IDIS 341 in the fall for 1 credit and IDIS 342 in the Spring for 2 credits.

Research Methods (6-7 credit hours)

Complete 6-7 credit hours, with at least 3 credit hours at or above 300-level, from the following list, or use other courses approved by the certificate program director.

Click [here](#) for the current list of approved courses. Contact the program director (cbr@american.edu) to request approval for a course not on this list.

Community-Based Experience (0-3 credit hours)

Complete one of the following:

- Community Service-Learning Program (1 credit)
- 1-3 credit hours in additional coursework (with course type "Community Based Learning")
- 0-3 credit hours approved by the program director. This could include participation in a for-credit or non-credit relevant community-based experience, such as an internship, significant volunteer experience, paid employment, or community-based research project. After completion of a 0-credit option, submit a letter from the supervisor to confirm at least 40 hours with the program.

Capstone (3 credit hours)

Complete one of the following:

- 3 credit hours of an independent research project conducted in collaboration with a community-based or community-oriented non-profit organization and approved by program director.
- Capstone conducted in combination with another capstone requirement, with approval from the program director.
- HLTH-480 Public Health Capstone, offered every semester for seniors in the Public Health Scholars or Public Health majors (BA or BS).

CAPSTONE

Purpose of the Capstone Project

The purpose of the Capstone Project provides students with a multifaceted community-based research assignment, combining academic studies and intellectual experience while helping a real-world community partner better service their clients.

Capstone Project Requirements

The capstone, which should be relevant to the student's major (and can be combined with a major or other capstone project), must involve a research project for a non-profit organization and a report or product that is useable for the community partner. The idea for the research project should be generated by the non-profit, not the student.

I am a DC Community-Impact Scholar or a Public Health Scholar; what credits do I already have toward the certificate?

Requirement	DCCIS	PHS
Community-Based Learning	X	X
Community-Based Research	X	
Two research methods or statistics classes (one at 300-level or above)		X
Community-Based Experience	X	X
Capstone		X

QUESTIONS?

Contact

School of Public Affairs Student Services

202-885-6200

EMAIL: CBR@AMERICAN.EDU