



Fall 2024 Community-Engaged Learning Courses with Minimal (or no) Prerequisites

- Students often express the wish that they had discovered community-engaged courses (Civic Learning & Service Learning) earlier in their time at UVM, as these provide community connections and real-world learning opportunities that many students value.
- To find Civic & Service Learning courses in the SOC, use the filter in the “new” SOC titled “Any Service Learning” OR search in the traditional SOC for the designations with “CL:” or “SL:”.
- Civic Learning courses are often intended for first-year students or sophomores, so that’s a good place to start.
- Below, find a list of courses with no or fewer prerequisites that will be offered in the fall.

No prerequisites

ALE 2990 CL: Plant-Based Healing Medicine (special topics)

Students study plant-based medicine, covering harvesting, preparation and more. Students gather herbs to benefit community members through Railyard Apothecary.

CDAE 2590 SL: Consumer Law in Action

In addition to a weekly class meeting, students experience hands-on learning with the VT Attorney General's Consumer Assistance Program located on UVM campus with six lab hours per week. Excellent introduction to poverty studies, advocacy + social justice.

CIS 1010 CL: Cybersecurity Law & Policy

U.S. statutes, regulations, and judicial decisions dealing with cybersecurity; politics and policies that are relevant to cyberspace governance; ways to create digitally resilient organizations; the relationship between cybersecurity and sustainability.

EDEC 1010 CL: Intro to Early Care & Education

A Civic Learning course that introduces and explores current issues, policies and practices in early care and education, which impact families and young children of diverse backgrounds. Emphasis on self-study, anti-bias frameworks, inclusion, and advocacy as well as civic engagement and cross-cultural communication. All students warmly welcome. Includes 16 hours of fieldwork with young children in the community. Course is part of the new Childhood Studies Minor.

EDML 2890: Teachers and the Teaching Process

Students work with a rubric for culturally sustaining pedagogies, which was designed by middle-school students themselves in a youth participatory action research process. UVM students use the rubric to observe and provide feedback to educators on their teaching practice. (Required walking to Edmunds Middle School during class time.)

HSCI 1100 CL: Introduction to Public Health

An introductory investigation of public health that explores the development and scope of the discipline of public health, and issues that have been raised with regard to the practice of public health.

SWSS1990 SL: Local Environmental Action
Open to First-Year and Sophomore students.

This service learning course uses field experience as a foundation. Students will contribute to the work of a local organization, which provides applied, practical context for topics discussed in the classroom. In addition, this course guides students to explore topics in “environmental social work,” which refers to ways in which the field has understood and responded to environmental justice and climate-crisis issues. Students will gain exposure to a broad range of environmental social work topics and then, in groups, focus on a topic of their choice for deeper exploration.

SWSS 1040 SL: Working with Refugees

Provides students an interdisciplinary, entry-level opportunity to learn about the social construction of refugees, the experiences and circumstances of people who become refugees and the apparatus set up to support them using social work/social justice approach.

Requires at least sophomore standing (or instructor permission)

[CAS COMMUNITIES of PRACTICE \(cohort-based, mentored internships\)](#)

CAS 2920 CL: COP: Sustainable Urban Planning

Join fellow students and working professionals to examine this question, exploring the intersections between transportation, land use, and human settlement patterns. Discuss concepts related to social equity, environment, climate, green energy, and community planning, while learning methods to make transportation systems more sustainable.

CAS 2920 CL: COP: Nonprofits & Social Change

Students in this program will intern with a nonprofit organization. The organizations' missions will be varied in size, mission, staffing, and impact, and students may experience working with many sides of a given organization. This program will help students develop many skills that are essential for working with nonprofits.

CAS 2920 CL: COP: Environmental Stewardship

Focused on the field of environmental conservation work, this Community of Practice places students with government agencies, non-profit organizations, and private sector mission driven organizations. The objective of this course is to get real-life experience interning for an environmentally focused organization as well as learning the needed skills to be hireable person in the environmental field. Students skilled in or looking to develop skills in communications, environmental studies, science, and more are invited to participate! All majors welcome.

CAS 2920 CL: COP: Student Legal Services

Student Legal Services (SLS) provides UVM students with free legal advice and is the oldest continuous student-run legal program in the country (founded in 1977). Interns for the SLS program play a crucial role in the functioning of the program, working with consulting attorneys to intake and process legal concerns.

Few prerequisites

CDAE 2230 CL: Media-Policy Action

Prerequisites: ENGL 1001, ENGL 1740, POLS 1300, CDAE 1020, CDAE 1150, -or- CDAE 1240

If a student takes CDAE 1020: World Food Population & Development (SU, D2), they can then take:

CDAE 2660 CL: Intro to Community Entrepreneurship (also requires sophomore standing)

CDAE 2020: SL: Sustainable Community Development

CDAE 2140: SL: Documentary Film for Social Change

CDAE 2230 CL: Media Policy Action

CDAE 2860/70 SL: Sustainable Development St. Lucia (also requires instructor permission)

Span 1200/2100 SL: Elementary Spanish I/II – Adriana Sanchez-Gutierrez

Prerequisite: Span 1100

When taught by Prof. Sanchez-Gutierrez, these Spanish sections often have a community-engaged component where students work with local organizations to promote visibility of Spanish-speaking people and cultures. Check for designation each semester.

Open to all majors, minimum junior standing

NR 3940 SL: Energy and Climate Law

Focus on the intersection of energy law, environmental law, and climate law, including the regulations that empower government agencies to enforce the laws, and the policies that implement this enforcement. Partnership with Vermont Law School's Institute for Energy and the Environment provides an experiential learning opportunity for students

NR 4080 SL: Birding to Change the World

Requires instructor permission.

Place-based course and service learning lab that pairs UVM students as enviro-mentors with children in Burlington schools in an after-school birding and nature study club. Application and background check are required of enrolled students.