

Undergraduate Minor in Community Organizing at Hunter College

FAQ

What is the Community Organizing Minor at Hunter College?

The Community Organizing (CO) Minor is a new 15-credit, interdisciplinary minor program at Hunter College. The Community Organizing Minor is open to all Hunter College undergraduates in their junior and senior years. The new minor provides students with unique opportunity to learn and utilize the fundamentals of effective community organizing. This includes how to mobilize both people and resources to solve social problems at the neighborhood, city, state, and national levels; and execute social reform initiatives for community well-being, change, and social justice.

What are the Core Courses?

Students who pursue the Community Organizing Minor will take three core courses (3 credits each) including **SW 36000** Introduction to Community Organizing; **SW 46000** Advanced Community Organizing Theory and Practice; and **SW 37000** Community Organizing Internship and Field Seminar. Students will also enrich these core preparations with two additional electives (3 credits each), chosen from a list of approved courses across several Hunter College departments and programs.

What electives are approved to be a part of the Minor?

The Community Organizing Minor has an approved list of classes from different departments that can be included as part of the Minor as electives. Departments include Community Health, Urban Policy & Planning, Sociology, African & Puerto Rican/Latino Studies, Anthropology, Psychology, Public Policy, Film and Media Studies, History, Political Science, and Women and Gender Studies. Please see approved list of electives [here](#).

Is there a field component required?

Yes. The Introduction to Community Organizing course (SW 360) has a required 20 - hour volunteer experience with a community-based organization. Additionally, students enrolled in the Minor are required to enroll in SW 370, a separate 3-credit 80-hour supervised internship with a bi-weekly seminar. The Internship and Field Seminar is offered in both Fall and Spring Semesters.

Are there specific days and times already established for volunteer internship? Is there flexibility with hours and days?

No. Internship hours, days and assignments are established by the organization and student depending on requirements of the organization and the needs of the student, which are then approved by the Internship Coordinator. There can be some flexibility as agreed to by all parties.

What types of internships are available? How will I know which to choose from?

In the beginning of the semester of SW 360, organizational representatives come to class for “Internship Fair” where they share their work and assignment possibilities. Students have the opportunity to ask questions and to make their selection by contacting the agency supervisor and scheduling an interview. Students select from a list of internships in community- based organizations (CBOs) approved by the Minor Coordinator. Students will be acquiring skills through experiential learning while supporting the organization in carrying out their work. Students who successfully complete their volunteer experience or internship will leave with Letter of Recommendation from the organization that they can use for future jobs or internships.

How do I declare a Minor? Which department should I declare my Minor for Community Organizing? Do I need special permission if it is listed in a different department?

Students do not need to declare their Community Organizing Minor with their major department. The Community Organizing Minor exists independently from any department and does not require special permission. Students will fill out the Minor Declaration Form and then bring form to CO Minor Program Coordinator. The Minor Declaration Form can be found on the One Stop website or outside the One Stop Office. After the form has been approved student must submit it to One Stop Office (HN 217).

Do I need to declare the Minor before enrolling in the Community Organizing Courses?

No. A student may take a core course or all three core courses - SW 360, SW 370 and SW 460- without declaring CO as a minor. A student does not need to declare a Minor before taking core courses. Student can declare the CO Minor at any time while enrolled at Hunter College before their last semester assuming the student has also taken an additional two approved elective courses.

Can courses that count towards my Major count towards my Minor?

No. Hunter College has strict policies for “double-dipping” courses that are used for your Major also being used for your Minor. Students are allowed to use classes listed under their Major that are not being used as credits towards their Major requirements as electives for the Community Organizing Minor. Electives for the Minor can be from any semester, including before you declared the Minor.

I am a transfer student, do my classes from my previous school count for the Minor?

We understand that Hunter College has many transfer students. The Program Coordinator will determine on a case-by-case basis whether courses from a transfer school can be counted for the Minor core classes or electives. A student must show the syllabus and transcript from the course to be credited toward the CO Minor.

Is the Community Organizing Minor a part of the BSW Program?

The Community Organizing Minor is distinct from the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) program. The BSW grants a separate bachelor’s degree. The minor allows undergraduates to complement their chosen major *in a non-social work field* with a special focus on community organizing. Students who minor in Community Organizing may also be interested in applying in the future for Silberman’s MSW with a concentration in [Community Organizing, Planning and Development](#). While the BA level courses do not count toward the MSW degree, the successful completion of the CO minor will be viewed favorably as part of the Admissions process.

For additional questions, please contact Program Coordinator Elizabeth Rossi at ero0051@hunter.cuny.edu