

All You Need to Know to Complete the Civic Scholar Senior Project

What is the senior civic project?

As one requirement for graduation with Civic Honors, your Civic Scholar Senior Project should be the four-year culmination and statement about your civic work, drawing from your experiences in and out of the classroom. The Senior Civic Project may focus on research, advocacy or service. It must provide a clear and measurable benefit to a community outside of Drew.

How Do I Start?

- We encourage you to begin by talking with community partners that you have already worked with to learn about what they need and how you can contribute or collaborate.
- Talk with other civic scholars both in and not in your cohort about their interests, connections and Civic Project. It cannot be repeated enough- COLLABORATE!
- Consider the issues, community partner, service work that you find most engaging and begin with one idea that you'd like to explore, research or act on.

What are the acceptable kinds of senior civic projects? See below for unacceptable projects.

- **Community-Based Research:** An applied collaborative approach that enables community members and researchers to combine knowledge and action for social change. It is an orientation to research which equitably involves all partners in the research process and recognizes the unique strengths that each brings.
- **Community Capacity Building:** Engagement with the assets and needs of a community partner or partners that facilitates a sustainable increase in the capacity to serve clients and meet expressed community needs.
- **Issue Advocacy:** activities undertaken to change or influence lawmakers and other decision-makers to change, strengthen, or revise current laws and policies on a specific issue.
- **Action for Impact:** Direct engagement with or response to an underserved or at-risk population, threatened environment, or natural/human-made disaster that addresses an immediate need.
- A combination of not more than two of the above categories

What is the timeline for project completion?

Spring Junior year

- Present your project ideas as a Junior at the Spring Wrap-Up to connect with rising Juniors and other Civic Scholars with interest in your issue area.
- Begin exploring how you can document your process either digitally or through some other format such as an off-campus event. Consider future use of this documentation for graduate school, resumes, conferences, interviews or presentations. At this point your project will not be fully realized but you should think about the presentation format.
- At the end of the semester enroll in Civic Engagement Senior workshop (1 credit, P/F) for the fall of your senior year. In this class you will workshop your ideas and plans with your peers.
- Early in your planning process, you should consider the location of your event or project. Keep in mind that it can be difficult to schedule space and gather audience for projects in the spring semester on campus. It may be more beneficial to locate the project in the community you seek to benefit.

Fall senior year

- Complete a minimum of 25 community engagement hours in activities related to your senior project or its issues. Also complete another 75 hours of community engagement and attend required Civic Scholar events. In sum, during your senior year you should complete 100 hours of community engagement.
- Demonstrate your leadership skills by collaborating with 1-3 Junior Civic Scholars or recruiting other Drew student as project assistants who may also want to maintain your project in the following years.
- Take and complete Civic Engagement Senior Workshop to prepare and finalize your project. In this class you will develop a project description and rationale, your project logic model, descriptions and images of actions taken.
- All on-campus activities associated with your Senior Civic Project to take place in the spring semester MUST be scheduled with Drew's Office of Conferences and Events before the end of the fall semester.
- You will also reflect on and evaluate your process and the final project. This includes a personal statement that answers these questions and concerns: What is the background to your interest in this project? Explore your experience with the process (i.e. how did you work, collaborate or confront challenges? What did you learn about implementation, leadership, collaboration, advertising, raising money, etc.
- Document your Senior Civic Project by submitting an illustrated description of and reflection on your project to the Center for Civic Engagement by April 1.

Spring Senior Year

- Document the completion of your Senior Civic Project by submitting an illustrated description of and reflection on your project to the Center for Civic Engagement
- Finish and present your Senior Civic Project at the CCE Showcase
- GRADUATE WITH CIVIC HONORS!!

And finally, what are not acceptable projects?

Except under the conditions noted in parentheses below, if your civic project falls into one of these categories, you will not graduate with civic honors, even if you have completed all of the other requirements.

- Invited speaker(s) or awareness event on an issue held on Drew's campus and aimed primarily at a Drew audience. This may be part of a project with other components but it is not enough as a stand-alone project because it does not engage enough with outside community and relies too heavily on someone else's work as presenter.
- An awareness event held on Drew's campus aimed primarily at a Drew audience (unless connected to a project predominantly focused on one of the above categories).
- A project benefiting a community or community-based organization that has not been consulted or involved in an on-going manner in the planning of the project. This kind of project does not demonstrate collaboration and can potentially harm a relationship with community partner.
- A fundraising event benefiting an organization outside of Drew aimed primarily at Drew faculty, staff, and students. While community organizations benefit from more money, we need to be thoughtful about how many fundraising events we have on campus and the demands we make on colleagues who may have limited resources.

How will my senior civic project be evaluated?

See attached rubric.

Rubric for Senior Civic Project

EXPECTATIONS	Goes Beyond	Fully Meets	Partially Meets	Does not Meet	Comments
<p>PARTNERSHIPS The degree to which you actively consult with and make use of pre-existing connections, partners, and projects. Makes use of strategic opportunities to expand partnerships</p>					
<p>SUSTAINABILITY Have you identified others to continue the project? Are the relationships strong enough to have continued impact? Does it rely too heavily on one person?</p>					
<p>RELEVANCE To articulate the larger problem addressed by this project and communicate connections to current issues of local, national or global importance</p>					
<p>VALUE-ADDED Takes an ongoing project or partnership and adds a new or broader dimension and increases impact</p>					
<p>LEADERSHIP abilities, as evidenced by effective communication, delegation and teamwork with community partner and/or Drew student assistants</p>					