Program Offered:
Certificate - Community Based Learning

Program Overview
Students may earn a certificate in community based learning by taking courses in various subject areas that incorporate a hands-on learning experience. This is a coherent, yet flexible, program that documents students’ experiences at putting theoretical concepts to use in applied community settings. This program contributes to the university's mission by consistently connecting students to the community through experiential learning opportunities connected to course learning objectives.

Community based learning experiences are intended to strengthen students’ ability to contribute meaningfully to the community, enhance their professional preparation and provide relevance to course work. Community based learning courses are designed to help students:

1. Become involved in civic affairs by:
   - Recognizing community issues that exist locally or globally
   - Realizing their commitment to learning about and solving those issues
   - Acquiring the skills and knowledge to take action effectively
   - Becoming actively engaged.
2. Participate effectively in dialogue around community issues;
3. Maximize their learning of concepts presented in the classroom in both major and general education courses;
4. Understand how knowledge gained in the classroom can be applied to solving practical problems in both the workplace and in the larger community;
5. Develop skills such as teamwork, problem solving, and public speaking making presentations, both inside and outside of the classroom;
6. Gain experience in working with diverse groups;
7. Make relevant professional contacts in the community.

Requirements for Admission to the Certificate in Community Based Learning (CBL)
Complete a program declaration (plan declaration form). Declarations must be approved by the faculty director or the community based learning coordinator. The forms are available in the Academic Advising Center.

Requirements for the Certificate in Community Based Learning (12 credits)
The certificate requirements include two required courses and two elective courses that offer CBL credit.

A. Introductory Course Required (3 credits)
   CBL 101  Introduction to Community Based Learning ........................................ 3 cr

B. Elective Courses (6 credits)
   Two additional courses that offer a CBL project or placement:
   1. Courses designated in the course schedule as community based learning (CBL) courses (other than CBL 101 and 495);
   2. Students interested in completing a community project or placement may incorporate the experience into a course with the permission of the instructor and approval by the CBL coordinator or faculty director and have it count toward the Certificate in CBL.
   3. Internships may be used for CBL credit and should conform to UW-Parkside policies and procedures for internships (see the Programs and Policies section of this catalog).

C. Capstone Required (3 credits)
   CBL 495  Capstone in Community Based Learning* ........................................ 3 cr

* Note: Another 495 capstone course may be used to fulfill this requirement with approval from the faculty director or CBL coordinator.
Courses in Community Based Learning (CBL)

101 Introduction to Community Based Learning............................3 cr
Prereq: None. Freq: Fall, Spring.
Prepares students for community based learning experiences by exposing them to relevant philosophical and/or theoretical approaches, good practice and applied exercises related to civic engagement and community development. Provides a common understanding of the intent of these experiences, including the relevance to academic and career objectives.

290 Special Topics in Community Based Learning .......................1-3 cr
Prereq: None. Freq: Occasionally.
Selected topics in community based learning will be examined.

390 Special Topics in Community Based Learning .......................1-3 cr
Prereq: None. Freq: Occasionally.
Selected topics in community based learning will be examined.

495 Capstone in Community Based Learning.........................3 cr
Prereq: CBL 101 or consent of instructor. Freq: Fall, Spring.
This course provides an integrative experience for students after they have completed extensive community based learning work, helping them connect these experiences more fully to other academic principles and to their occupational aspirations, and making certain all intended learning outcomes of the community based learning certificate have been accomplished. Students will do this integration while completing a major community project, with the support of other students also doing community projects, and complete a portfolio documenting the value of the community based learning experience. Major community building perspectives and theories are incorporated into the course.

499 Independent Study in Community Based Learning .............1-4 cr
Prereq: Consent of instructor and department chair.
Freq: Occasionally.