

## Catalog Entry for the Community Studies Minor

### Community Studies

Advisory Committee: **Griffin** (Director, Sharpe Community Scholars Program, Sociology); **Schwartz** (Director, Charles Center, Government); **Charity** (William and Mary Professor of Community Studies, English/Linguistics); **Joyce** (Sharpe Professor of Civic Renewal and Social Entrepreneurship, Sociology).

The minor in Community Studies, administered through the Charles Center for Honors and Interdisciplinary Studies, offers students a structured opportunity to integrate community-based research and community engagement activities with academic courses. The Community Studies Minor is designed to augment and complement academic concentration in any discipline at the College, starting possibly from a student's first year and continuing through their senior year at William and Mary. Community Studies students are required to design an academic path of study that meaningfully integrates continuing community-based research and engagement with their course work, and leads to the fulfillment of their plan with a capstone research experience or Honors thesis.

#### Declaration Process

Each year Community Studies will announce a date in the fall term by which students must apply to declare the minor. To be eligible, students must have attained sophomore status and have either completed, or currently be taking, the required introductory course (either a Sharpe freshman seminar or CMST 250). To declare, students must meet with a member of the Advisory Committee prior to this deadline.

#### Requirements:

**Introductory Engaged Learning Seminar Requirement:** Candidates for the Community Studies Minor must enroll in at least one engaged learning seminar which can be satisfied by a freshman seminar in the Sharpe program or by the sophomore-level alternative for students who would like to do the minor but were not in the freshman Sharpe program: CMST 250 Introduction to Community Studies.

**Core Courses Requirement:** The following core courses are required of all Community Studies Minors:

CMST 350	Critical Engagement in Context
CMST 351	Methods in Community-Based Research

**Electives:** At least five (5) credit hours must be drawn from the College's existing curriculum, in courses that will enrich the student's understanding in a subject area and advance their development toward completing a community-based research project. Elective credit hours for the minor must be approved by a Community Studies advisor as part of the student's academic plan of study.

**Capstone Research or Honors Thesis:** All Community Studies Minors are required to complete a senior research paper, which can be either a 1-semester independent study or a 2-semester honors project. Either of these can be done in the department of the student's major or in Interdisciplinary Studies.

**Community Engagement Requirement:** Students are expected to engage in a minimum of 60 hours of work in the community that is associated with their Minor courses. Their fulfillment of this requirement will be monitored and subject to evaluation by the Sharpe Program.

## Description of Courses

Community Studies courses support enrollment for the freshman Sharpe Community Scholars Program, the Community Studies Minor, and upper-level students who want to integrate community-based projects into academic classes.

### **CMST 100. The College and the Community.**

*Fall and Spring (1,1) Griffin. Co-requisite: Must be taken along with a designated Sharpe freshman course.*

This course introduces freshman Sharpe Scholars to Williamsburg, especially its history and prominent social issues that its citizens confront. It also introduces students to ethics, forms, and various challenges of civic participation, and provides them with the skills to carry out academically grounded, community-based projects. Sharpe Scholars all take this course in both the fall and spring of the freshman years. Repeatable for credit.

### **CMST 250. Introduction to Community Studies.**

*Fall or Spring (4, 4) Staff.*

This course is an introductory engaged learning seminar for Community Studies students and requires community service or research in the community, in addition to in-class hours. Major topics for the course and community partnerships will vary by teaching professor.

### **CMST 350. Critical Engagement in Context.**

*Fall or Spring (4, 4) Staff.*

This course will survey a range of critical theories and perspectives about civic engagement, including but not limited to philosophies of citizenship, organizational structure and efficacy, social justice and inequality, social movements, and others. Students will be encouraged to use an interdisciplinary lens for understanding principles and practices of civic engagement in this course, delving more deeply in areas of faculty expertise but covering a range of theoretical and critical perspectives that “complicate” notions of identity, community, and effective engagement depending on social, economic, and global contexts of participation for example.

### **CMST 351. Methods in Community-Based Research.**

*Fall or Spring (4, 4) Staff.*

This course is intended to survey a variety of community-based participatory research methods, including but not limited to survey research, individual and focus group interviewing, ethnographic field methods, documentary activism, and others. Students will be guided through critical thinking about community issues and their involvement, while assessing the utility and relevance of research-based responses to those issues in partnership with a community organization or agency.

### **CMST 450. Topics in College and Community.**

*Fall or Spring (1-4) Staff.*

Topics courses taught under this number all provide students with significant and sustained community-based research, or engaged learning experiences. Some topics may have co-requisites.