Chicago Field Studies

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Chicago Field Studies (CFS) offers undergraduates a thoughtful view into life after college, in college. Through a combination of academic coursework, field trips, and internship experiences, students explore a range of subjects through the lenses of work and critical issues in their future fields. CFS offers a variety of courses - each quarter this includes some combination of law, civic engagement, humanities, public health, business, social justice, the environment, and the modern workplace.

A student takes a CFS course while interning, and the credit may in some cases count toward Weinberg College distribution requirements (a limit of one unit per internship experience) and toward select majors, minors, certificates, and programs, as well as general elective credit (see Internships (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/#academicoptionstext) for the policy limiting the number of internship credits that may be applied towards the Weinberg College degree).

CFS courses are open to students from every academic discipline who have completed one year of study. Admission is by application only, and students must complete an information session before applying. More information can be found on the CFS website.

Major/Minor Credit

A number of departments and programs allow students to use CFS courses to fulfill major or minor requirements. The type and number of credits applicable, if any, are determined by the student's department.

Other Programs

In addition to the courses listed here, CFS periodically develops new programs focusing on different fields and topics, for which credit is variable. These programs are described on the CFS website.

Chicago Field Studies Courses

Note that where a Weinberg College distribution area is listed, a student may use a maximum of one unit of credit towards that area (even if the student earns more than one unit for the course). Where more than one distribution area is listed for a course, the student may choose to where to apply that one unit of credit. More information about distribution requirements and Interdisciplinary Studies distribution courses may be found on the page describing College Requirements (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/#schoolrequirementstext).

CFS 291-0 Analysis of Field Experience (0.25-1 Unit) This online course requires students to read, reflect upon and discuss work and workplace issues. Students examine the structure and purpose of organizations as well as workplace inclusion (race, age, ethnicity, nationality), teamwork and productivity, leadership styles and the ways that we influence each other. Students intern 10 to 40 hours a week in firms and organizations throughout the world.

CFS 387-0 Field Studies in Environment, Science, and Sustainability (1-4 Units) How conflicting political, economic, and social interests and values contend for influence and exert power in the realms of governance and urban landscapes. Students intern 10 to 40 hours a week. Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area

CFS 388-0 Field Studies in Business Culture (1-4 Units) Online course focusing on critical issues shaping business culture, especially pertaining to interns and internships. Students intern 10 to 40 hours a week in firms and organizations throughout the world. Course Meets Online

CFS 391-0 Field Studies in Social Justice (1-4 Units) Approaches to social change with focus on particular justice issues and current events. Students intern 10 to 40 hours a week in advocacy, policy, and social justice organizations. Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area

CFS 392-0 Field Studies in Public Health (1-4 Units) Critical issues in health; interplay between the public and academy. Students intern 10 to 40 hours a week in health- and medicine-related organizations. Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area

CFS 393-1 Modern Workplace Culture (2 Units) Workplace culture and political theory of labor. Students intern 24 to 40 hours a week in a variety of professional fields. Taken with CFS 393-2. Historical Studies Distro Area Interdisciplinary Distro - See Rules (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/ undergraduate/arts-sciences/#schoolrequirementstext) Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area

CFS 393-2 Contemporary Issues in the Workplace (2 Units) Workplace culture and political theory of labor. Students intern 24 to 40 hours a week in a variety of professional fields. Taken with CFS 393-1.

CFS 394-1 Legal Culture & Process (2 Units) Contemporary issues and workplace culture in the legal field. Students intern 24 to 40 hours a week in legal organizations. Taken with CFS 394-2. Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area

CFS 394-2 Contemporary Issues in Law (2 Units) Contemporary issues and workplace culture in the legal field. Students intern 24 to 40 hours a week in legal organizations (primarily finance, consulting, and marketing). Taken with CFS 395-2. Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area

CFS 395-1 Business Workplace Culture (2 Units) Contemporary issues and workplace culture in business. Students intern 24 to 40 hours a week in business organizations (primarily finance, consulting, and marketing). Taken with CFS 395-2. Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area

CFS 395-2 Contemporary Issues: Business Field Studies (2 Units) Contemporary issues and workplace culture in business. Students intern 24 to 40 hours a week in business organizations (primarily finance, consulting, and marketing). Taken with CFS 395-1.

CFS 397-0 Field Studies in Civic Engagement (1-4 Units) Forms of civic engagement with emphasis on local issues and approaches. Students intern 10 to 40 hours a week in civic, educational, legal, governmental, nonprofit, or community-based organizations. Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area

CFS 398-0 Field Studies in Humanities (1-4 Units) Labor issues through arts and cultural history, with additional emphasis on the humanities in white-collar culture and the public sphere. Students intern 10 to 40 hours a week in a variety of professional fields, including but not limited to arts and cultural organizations. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area