

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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## What's the time commitment?

CHI is an intensive 8-week program. Participants will work at their placement sites 2-3 days a week (or 16-24 hr/wk) and attend a weekly 3-hour seminar. Participants should also allow for occasional site visits, panels or workshops that may be scheduled outside of class time.

## Where can I pursue my practicum?

The Center for Civic Engagement has relationships with hundreds of organizations across Chicagoland—and reaches out to new partners all the time. Typically, but not exclusively, we have helped place graduate students at non-profit and governmental organizations. Some past examples include:

American Indian Center	City of Evanston	Museum of Contemporary Art
American Writers Museum	Congress of New Urbanism	Museum of Contemporary Photography
Applesseed Fund for Justice	Ethiopian Community Association of Chicago	National Museum of Mexican Art
Art Institute of Chicago	Evanston Scholars	Newberry Library
Asian Human Services	Field Museum	NU Press
Bloomingdale Trail (The 606)	Guild Literary Complex	Open Books
Chicago Cultural Alliance	Haymarket Opera	ReClaim Chicago
Chicago Public Schools	Heartland Alliance	Shorefront Legacy Center
Chicago Taskforce on Violence against Girls and Young Women	Illinois Humanities	Sierra Club
Chicago Video Databank	Kuumba Lynx	Street Level Youth Media
Chicago Youth Shakespeare	Museum of Broadcast Communications	The Nature Conservancy
City of Chicago		

Students may apply with a specific organization in mind, but this is by no means a requirement. Once admitted to the program, students will work one-on-one with CCE staff to secure a placement that matches their interests.

continued →

More information about CHI can be found at:  
[www.engage.northwestern.edu/programs/chi](http://www.engage.northwestern.edu/programs/chi)

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## **What kind of work will I be doing as part of the practicum?**

The Center for Civic Engagement has relationships with hundreds of organizations across Chicagoland—and reaches out to new partners all the time. Typically, but not exclusively, we have helped place graduate students at non-profit and governmental organizations. Some past examples include:

- Develop a toolkit for Illinois public schools to use archival materials related to immigration
- Direct a performance of writing produced by women exiting the Illinois prison system
- Process collections at the National Museum of Mexican Art and Shorefront Legacy Center
- Create a financial aid database for a college-access organization
- Develop a media toolkit for journalists covering sexual violence
- Coordinate a community discussion series around health equity using expertise in GIS and data analysis
- Produce a 90-minute CD for an urban arts organization
- Perform archival background research for public programming at the Newberry Library
- Teach a weekly philosophy seminar to adult learners
- Edit academic manuscripts for NU Press
- Analyze data to help the City of Evanston plot a shuttle route for seniors
- Build curricula for an ESL program serving immigrant and refugee clients
- Script a video marketing campaign for Haymarket Opera

## **Should I apply only if I'm interested in non-academic jobs?**

Not necessarily! Through CCE's practicum programs, graduate students have seeded research collaborations, refined their dissertation topics, established public-facing work as part of their academic profiles—and have gone on to tenure-track jobs as well as positions beyond the academy.

Still have a question? Contact Ruth Curry, Program Director, at [ruth.martin@northwestern.edu](mailto:ruth.martin@northwestern.edu).