

Cultural Competency Certificate

Frequently Asked Questions

General Information:

The School of Social Sciences offers a Cultural Competency (CC) Certificate to all undergraduates at UCI interested in supplementing their education with cultural awareness, knowledge, and skills. Requiring a minimum of five courses, the certification facilitates the study of cultural knowledge and diversity, inequalities and advocacy, cultural gaps, and culturally effective leadership.

Why is this training important?

Many students seek to attend graduate school or receive a solid placement in their field of interest post-graduation. This certificate is an excellent complement to a major or a minor offering a skill that will help serve students in all work settings.

As the US is rich with diversity, there is a need to understand multicultural and multiethnic communities, their experiences, and histories. The CC Certificate provides students with a better understanding in diversity, culture, sexuality and gender, and globalization.

Although UCI has a diversity requirement, a deep-structured understanding of race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality in America is still needed. The CC Certificate training will take a community-empowerment approach to help students promote social justice while learning skills that will enhance their quality services and leadership skills.

Can any student outside the School of Social Sciences earn the certificate?

Yes, all UCI students are encouraged to consider the certificate to augment their academic portfolios. Although the certificate is offered through the Associate Dean's Undergraduate Studies of the School of Social Sciences, students from all majors in the school and across the university can take the series of courses.

What are the requirements for the certificate?

There is a total of 5 courses required for the certificate. As you are seeking a communitarian model for education, the cultural competency certificate will require a class in (1) Diversity in America, (2) Culture and Politics, (3) Gender and Sexuality, (4) Global Aspect, and (5) History. Please consult the list of pre-approve classes that fit under the identified categories.

Can I petition for another class to qualify for the certificate?

If you have taken a course not on the list that you feel fulfills one of the 5 domains of training, you can share the name of the class and description of the course with the coordinator of the certificate program. If the curriculum properly overlaps with the area you wish to fulfill, the request will be considered.

When should I start to pursue the Cultural Competency Certificate?

Students are encouraged to start planning to complete certificates during their junior and senior years. It is recommended that students take the general breadth requirements to facilitate their educational learning. If you are an early planner, you can visit an academic advisor to start identifying a good set of classes to facilitate some overlaps between your major's requirements and certificate classes.

How do I apply for the Cultural Competency certificate?

The Cultural Competency Certificate is accepting applications year-round to facilitate the completion of the certificate. Please review the Cultural Competency certificate form to fill out highlighting the classes you have taken to fulfill the requirements.