

Minor in Peacemaking Studies: Conflict Resolution and Mediation

The College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), through the Office of the Dean, offers a minor in Peacemaking Studies. The minor is an interdisciplinary program that draws from four disciplines in the college: Criminal Justice, Psychology, Social Work, and Sociology. The program's focus is on conflict resolution and the mediation process. Mediation is a confidential and voluntary process that employs a neutral third party as a mediator to help disputing parties make decisions that concern the future of the dispute and lead to an agreement. Conflict resolution is a strategy used to resolve disputes among two or more parties. The minor prepares students for mediation in a wide variety of settings including social service, business, health services, and education. Students able to demonstrate fluency in languages other than English can receive certification from the Department of Foreign Languages that they have the skills to work in the relevant bilingual context. The program is managed by a steering committee consisting of representatives from the College of Arts and Sciences (Criminal Justice, International studies, Psychology, and Social Work), the College of Pharmacy, The College of Business, the College of Health Sciences, and the College of Education. Accelerated courses are offered over the summer to facilitate matriculation for those students whose regular schedule accommodates only courses for the major. The minor requires students to complete 18 credit hours distributed as follows.

Mediation Seminar (2)

CFR 4000

Core Courses (6)

CFR 4100; CFR 4250

Electives (6)

Students must complete six credit hours of elective courses. Elective courses can be selected from the list below which contains courses drawn from programs throughout the university. Through their elective course work, students are able to focus their study and prepare for mediation in specific areas. **NOTE:** Students should be aware that many of the elective courses have prerequisites which must be met **before** the course can be taken.

Elective courses: CJ 2245-Introduction to Restorative Justice; CJ 4303-Problems in Social Justice; CJ 4306-Counseling in Social Justice Areas; CJ 4359-Family Crisis Intervention in Social Justice Areas; MGMT 3020-Organizational Behavior; POL 3000-International Law; POL 4040-Contemporary International Relationships; PSYC 2100-Social Psychology; PSYC 3160-Industrial Psychology; SOC 1110-Social Problems; SOC 3200-Race Relations; SOC 3430-Dealing with Diversity; SOC 3560-Crisis Intervention in Social Work; SOC 3570-Methods of Social Work Intervention.

Internship (4)

CFR 4900 (Specific to students' disciplinary interests)

Peacemaking: Conflict and Resolution Course Offerings (CFR)

4000 INTRODUCTION TO PEACEMAKING STUDIES (2)

Prerequisite: Sophomore Standing

This course is designed to introduce the student to the major theoretical perspectives that inform dispute resolution and mediation. This course will examine key issues including violence, oppression, social justice, peace studies, and the dynamics of reconciliation and forgiveness. This course will further provide the student with an overview of the intervention methods for dealing with conflict at the interpersonal and group level to include cultural diversity and non-Western cultural and community contexts.

4100 THE MEDIATION PROCESS (3)

Prerequisite: CFR 4000

This course will discuss common U.S. models of mediation (evaluative, facilitative, and transformative) with emphasis given to the facilitative model. This course provides an overview of the theoretical and practical aspects of the mediation process. Participants will learn a step-by-step process to conduct mediations and will practice fundamental dispute resolution skills such as listening, reframing, summarizing, problem-solving, and creating a safe, non-threatening environment. Through lecture, discussion, video simulations and interactive exercises, and role plays participants will gain a functional knowledge of the power and practice of mediation.

4250 CONFLICT RESOLUTION (3)

Prerequisite: CFR 4000

Survey of key conflict resolution themes, theories, practices, and intervention methods.

4900 INTERNSHIP IN MEDIATION (4)

Prerequisites: CFR 4000, 4100, 4250, and six credit hours from the list of elective courses.

Supervised experience in mediation practice. Students integrate theory, knowledge, and practice in a culminating experience of a conflict resolution program. One hundred twenty-two clock hours for three credit hours.