This graduate certificate prepares you to think critically about social, cultural and political dimensions of social transformation. Pursuing this certificate, you will explore historical and current dynamics from diverse theories, conduct interdisciplinary research and equip yourself with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively contribute toward social change.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: Certificate Social Transformation Certificate

The graduate certificate in social transformation is designed for graduate and postbaccalaureate students interested in how change is catalyzed by social movements, protest, law, social entrepreneurship, activism and community organizing. Through the exploration of theories and research related to social change, students are able to augment their disciplinary degrees and be prepared to contribute as leaders and change-makers in their communities.

At a Glance

- College/School: The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Location: Downtown Phoenix campus, Polytechnic campus, Tempe campus, West campus

Degree Requirements

15 credit hours and a practicum

Required Core (3 credit hours)
SST 501 Foundations of Social Transformation (3)
Electives (9 credit hours)

Culminating Experience (3 credit hours)
SST 580 Practicum (3)

Additional Curriculum Information
The electives taken are selected with the faculty advisor. The faculty advisor helps to directionalize the electives to ensure they have a common theme. This helps to ensure students' experiences in the courses align with the learning goals outlined for the certificate.

The culminating experience is a community-based practicum experience and a paper that synthesizes students' interests with their implications for social transformation. The practicum placement will be with a local nonprofit or governmental organization working toward social innovation and social change. Students are assisted in identifying a practicum placement by the program advisor. At the end of the practicum, students produce a paper which analyzes the social and political dimensions of some issue within social transformation or some aspect of it. The paper also should identify the implications of this aspect or issue for social policy and social justice. The paper should begin within the context of the practicum experience and will be presented to the designated subset of the certificate executive board for final approval. Students take SST 580 Practicum to complete the practicum and then revise, improve and finalize the paper with a certificate faculty member.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree, in any field, from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. statement of purpose
4. proof of English proficiency
Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency.

Students must submit a statement of purpose to the School of Social Transformation that is no longer than 250 words. The statement should indicate any demonstrated interest in the study of social transformation (e.g., previous coursework, professional experience, internships, career plans).

Applicants must meet the above criteria as judged by the School of Social Transformation graduate committee to have strong academic credentials, undergraduate or graduate GPA, as well as demonstrated interest in the area of social transformation. The committee reviews applications for the certificate program in the fall and spring semesters of each year and make its admission recommendations to Graduate Admission Services.

Contact Information

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