The Philadelphia Center – Philadelphia, PA Fall 2016

Focus

The Philadelphia Center program is open to all majors and is of special interest to Anthropology, Sociology, Human Development, Political Science, Economics, and Business majors. The nature of the program is truly interdisciplinary, providing students of all majors an opportunity to explore urban issues and define their own personal and professional goals through hands-on experience. The multidisciplinary focus combines internship opportunities, academic seminars, and urban living experiences in order to help undergraduate students make decisions about life after graduation.

The Philadelphia Center is an urban field-based experiential education program that was founded in 1967 by the GLCA. Since its inception, the Philadelphia Center has hosted thousands of college students.

Location

Rich in history and culture, Philadelphia has been in the forefront of the nation's intellectual, economic, and humanitarian development for more than three hundred years. Today its efforts are being directed to restoration with an emphasis on preserving the best of the past while allowing for the development of a vigorous new city. A city of neighborhoods, trees, parks, and open spaces, Philadelphia offers the advantages of living in a big city while maintaining a small-town atmosphere and preserving reminders of its dignified past. The greater Philadelphia area has been on numerous best city lists as a good place to balance work and family life.

According to a past participant, “The entire program is like a practice run for life after college.” Another says “The Philadelphia Center was a journey to self-discovery. It was a wonderful learning experience, not only academically, but also socially.”

Application Info

**Application Due Date:** Apr 14, 2016

**Class Standing Requirement:** Sophomore or Junior

**GPA Requirement:** Minimum of 2.5

**Eligibility:** Students are eligible to apply regardless of major.

Program Info

**Program Type:** Study away

**Program Length:** One semester

**Program Fee:** $15,185 (2014-2015), not including additional out-of-pocket expenses

**Program Dates:** Sept to Dec

**Housing:** With the assistance of the TPC, students find their own housing in a Philadelphia neighborhood. Students prepare their own meals.

**Enrollment:** Max of 6

P 269.337.7133
E cip@kzoo.edu
W https://reason.kzoo.edu/cip/
More on Philly Center…

The Internship

At The Philadelphia Center, you will work 32 hours per week at an internship you choose upon arriving in Philadelphia. The comprehensive placement process distinguishes The Philadelphia Center from other internship programs. You will not be pre-placed in your internship because TPC believes you should have the freedom to tailor your internship to your interests and needs.

While working closely with your faculty advisor and the placement director, you will identify several job options that feel right for you. TPC has a database that contains more than 800 possibilities for you to choose from, and is constantly developing new placement opportunities to respond to student interests. Researching internship opportunities and interviewing with at least three organizations for positions that fit your professional goals and personal needs are important parts of your experience at The Philadelphia Center.

TPC encourages you to arrive in Philly with an open mind and a willingness to explore different options. They will ensure that you find a meaningful internship that will help you find your professional direction in life and make connections for the future.

The City Seminar

The multidisciplinary seminars are different from traditional courses. They incorporate the urban environment as both resource and subject. You’ll also use experiential education to reflect on, analyze, and learn from your personal experiences. You’ll have opportunities to interact with guest speakers from the Philadelphia community; visit local institutions and landmarks; interview a CEO; or perhaps you’ll discuss missions with the managing director of a local nonprofit. The courses integrate theory with practice and help you examine what you learn as you work and live in Philadelphia.

Grades and Credits

Grades from all study away courses will appear on the Kalamazoo transcript but are not included in the Kalamazoo grade point average. Students must earn the equivalent of a C in the local grading system to receive credit for coursework completed in study away programs. Coursework and all projects, etc. must be completed and turned in before the end of the academic program or no credit will be given. Students are eligible to earn three K units; two for the internship, and one for a seminar.

Want to Learn More?

- Learn more about this program here: http://www.tpc.edu/
- E-mail your CIP Peer Advisors: cippa@kzoo.edu. They may be able to connect you with students who have returned from this program!
- Look for announcements for the Smorgasbords, Sophomore Meeting and the Study Abroad Study Away Fair.

The Application Process

Program information sessions will be scheduled around the campus visit by a program representative. In addition, program alumni will serve as marketing coordinators to inform their peers about the program.

Application meetings will be scheduled during Winter Quarter, with applications due Spring Quarter, followed by interviews with the campus selection committee.

The application consists of an application form, unofficial transcript, advisor's statement, and two references.

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