

On the program, you will:

Engage

- Use the program's flexible curriculum — the seminar, internship, and independent study project that you choose — to fit your academic interests and needs.
- Examine information and issues from a variety of perspectives — artistic, entrepreneurial, social justice, and more.
- Compare, contrast, and synthesize what you learn in the classroom, what you see on the city streets, and what you experience in your internship.

Experience

- Explore Chicago's diverse neighborhoods.
- Meet Chicagoans from every corner of the city and all walks of life.
- Apply your knowledge and increase your skills in an internship.



Create

- Develop your interests into a substantial independent project.
- Build a network of people — professionals, mentors, peers — to share ideas and contacts.
- Become an active and aware citizen of the city.



A student on the glass-enclosed "Ledge" extending out from the 103rd floor of the Willis Tower, overlooking Chicago's West Loop.

ACM ASSOCIATED COLLEGES OF THE MIDWEST

Expand your world.

ACM brings a liberal arts perspective to your off-campus experience by emphasizing:

- Diverse viewpoints and ways of learning,
- Interdisciplinary courses and seminars,
- Personal attention, working closely with faculty and local experts,
- Independent projects tailored to your academic interests, and
- Education that provides the cultural and intellectual context to understand the world around you.

The Associated Colleges of the Midwest (ACM) is a consortium of independent liberal arts colleges in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Colorado. ACM offers distinctive off-campus study programs in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the U.S.

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Chicago Program

Arts ♦ Entrepreneurship ♦ Urban Studies



- *Expand your academic & personal horizons*
- *Challenge yourself through civic engagement*
- *Discover entrepreneurial opportunities in everyday life*
- *Explore the creative process*

www.acm.edu/chicago

ACM Chicago Program

The ACM Chicago Program gives students a solid grounding — knowledge, resources, and connections — and the flexibility to follow their passions.

Students are encouraged to explore the big issues facing cities today and relate those issues to their own lives, education, and career aspirations.

The program offers three main areas of emphasis:

- Arts,
- Entrepreneurship, and
- Urban Studies.

Students can choose to focus on one of these topics or to engage in classes and projects across the disciplines.



Academic components:

- Core Course
- Seminar
- Internship
- Independent Study Project

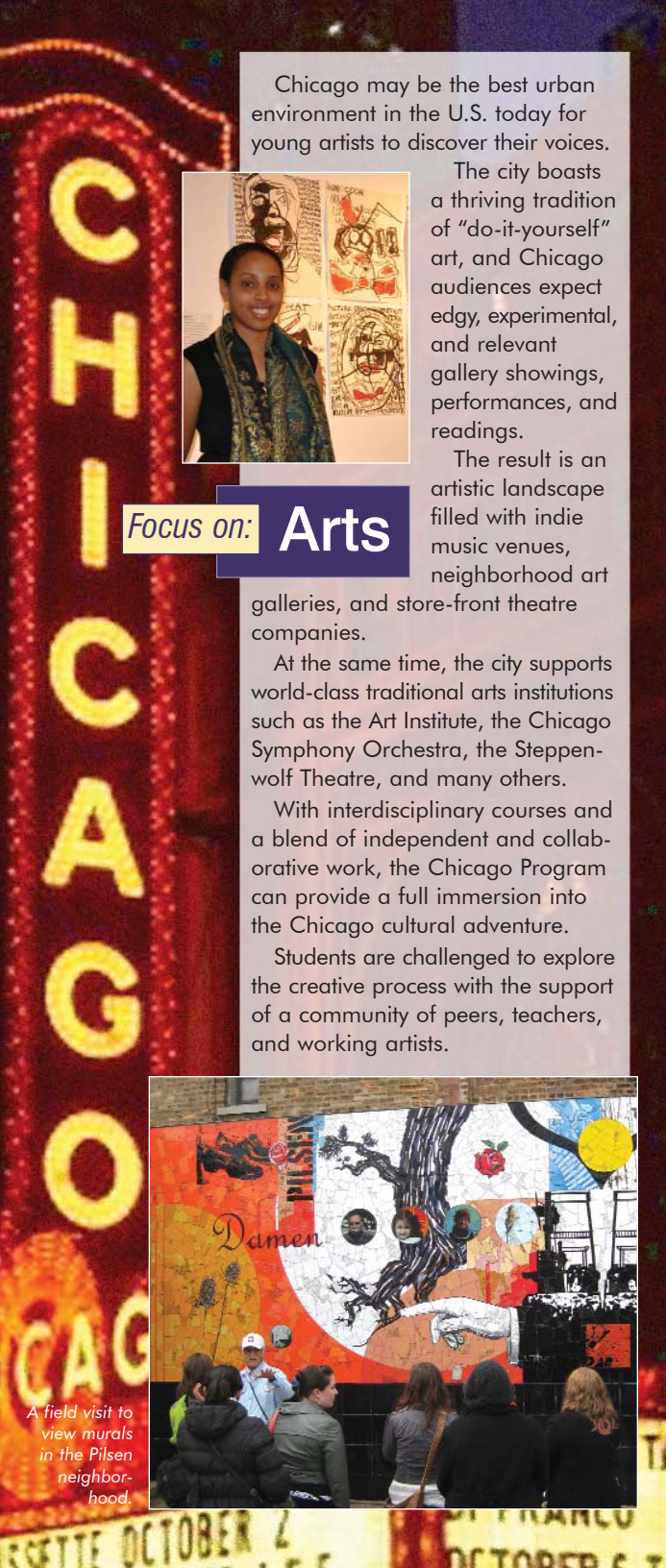
All students take the team-taught Core Course, which draws on the three themes to introduce students to Chicago and give context to the environment in which they are living and learning.

All of this takes place in a dynamic city that has, from its founding, been built on connections and innovation.

At the center of the country, Chicago has always been a hub of communication, commerce, and transportation. Through the years, Chicago has continued to produce leaders across the spectrum of its artistic, business, educational, activist, social, and cultural arenas.



Chicago Program students at the Museum of Science and Industry.



Chicago may be the best urban environment in the U.S. today for young artists to discover their voices.



The city boasts a thriving tradition of “do-it-yourself” art, and Chicago audiences expect edgy, experimental, and relevant gallery showings, performances, and readings.

The result is an artistic landscape filled with indie music venues, neighborhood art galleries, and store-front theatre companies.

At the same time, the city supports world-class traditional arts institutions such as the Art Institute, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Steppenwolf Theatre, and many others.

With interdisciplinary courses and a blend of independent and collaborative work, the Chicago Program can provide a full immersion into the Chicago cultural adventure.

Students are challenged to explore the creative process with the support of a community of peers, teachers, and working artists.

Focus on: Arts



A field visit to view murals in the Pilsen neighborhood.

Focus on: Entrepreneurship

Creativity, innovation, problem-solving — all are fundamental tools used by successful entrepreneurs. Whether they are creating new products, opening new markets, or



A student in front of the Merchandise Mart, where her internship was located.

developing new ways of operating, businesses and organizations of all types must continually innovate to remain competitive.

Chicago businesses have a long tradition of creativity and innovation. On the Chicago Program, the entire city becomes a “business lab” in which students:

- Explore case studies of Chicago entrepreneurs who are building businesses and organizations;
- Gain hands-on experience through real-world assignments and projects;
- Learn relevant strategies and best practices from practitioners and industry experts; and
- Develop contacts with Chicago-based business leaders and entrepreneurs.



A project team of students works with program faculty to fine-tune a business presentation.

Focus on: Urban Studies

Chicago is always changing, remaking itself, and challenging itself to respond to the needs of its citizens.

The Chicago Program enables students to engage the social and political context of the urban community as they:

- Learn how community leaders, public officials, and city residents negotiate for resources and shape public policy;
- Become skilled in the language and actions of social justice;
- Discuss issues with experts and insiders from government, the media, social service agencies, and community organizations;
- Learn strategies for developing innovative programs designed to improve people’s lives.



Visiting Operation PUSH and meeting the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

Dates Fall semester (early September - mid-December)
Spring semester (early February - mid-May)
Spring quarter/trimester (mid-March - mid-May)

Curriculum

Semester program students take all four academic components listed below. Spring quarter/trimester students take three, choosing either an Internship or an ISP.

- **Core Course** Learn about Chicago through its history, neighborhoods, and current issues. Meet and learn from people who are making the city a dynamic place to live and work. (4 semester credits)
- **Seminar** Explore a program-related topic through readings, field trips, and guest lectures. (4 semester credits)
- **Internship** Participate in a supervised work experience with a business, not-for-profit, or governmental organization. (4 semester credits)
- **Independent Study Project (ISP)** Draw upon the city’s vast resources to develop a guided project of your choice. (4 semester credits)

Eligibility Open to all majors. Participants are typically sophomores, juniors, or seniors during the program.

Credit distribution Most semester program students receive 16 semester credits, or the equivalent. Spring quarter/trimester students receive credit equivalent to a quarter/trimester on the home campus.

We strongly recommend that students consult with their academic advisors about how the credits will be distributed before enrolling in the program.

Housing arrangements Students live in apartments in the city provided by the Chicago Program.

Costs For information about program costs and an expense budget, go to www.acm.edu/chicago. Students also should check with their Off-Campus Study Office or Financial Aid Office for information about their college’s pricing policies for off-campus study.

How to apply

- Access the ACM application at www.acm.edu/apply.
- Students should check with their Off-Campus Study Office about their college’s application procedures and deadlines.
- ACM must receive completed applications by:
March 15 — Fall semester deadline and early deadline for spring programs in the following academic year
October 31 — Spring semester deadline
November 15 — Spring quarter/trimester deadline

www.acm.edu/chicago