During a semester on the Chicago Programs, you will:

**Experience**

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

**Cross boundaries**

- Examine information and issues from a variety of perspectives.
- Compare, contrast, and synthesize what you learn in the classroom, what you see on the city streets, and what you experience in your internship.

**Create**

- Develop your particular interests into a substantial independent project.
- Build a network of people — professionals, mentors, peers — to share ideas and contacts.
- Find your place as a citizen of the city.

**Interested in education?**

- For student teaching in Chicago, check out the Urban Education program at [www.acm.edu/teaching](http://www.acm.edu/teaching).
- For students interested in education studies, the Urban Studies program offers an education-related seminar and internships.

**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.

205 W. Wacker Drive, Suite 220, Chicago, IL 60606
312.263.5000  Fax 312.263.5879  [www.acm.edu](http://www.acm.edu)

**ACM Chicago Programs**

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

The Chicago Programs include three distinct but interlinked programs:

- **Business, Entrepreneurship, & Society**
- **Chicago Arts**
- **Urban Studies**

Students in these programs complete four academic components: the Chicago Core Course, a program-specific seminar, an individualized internship, and an independent study project.

The programs enrich each other through the team-taught Core Course, which draws on the program themes to introduce students to the city.

Through the programs’ interdisciplinary approach, students are encouraged to explore the big issues facing cities today and relate those issues to their own lives, education, and career aspirations.

A fourth program, Urban Education, offers mentored student teaching experiences that tap the resources of Chicago’s diverse schools (see [www.acm.edu/teaching](http://www.acm.edu/teaching)). These programs take 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 Programs**

**Experiential Learning**

- **Business, Entrepreneurship, & Society**
- **Chicago Arts**
- **Urban Studies**

**www.acm.edu/chicago**

ACM Chicago Programs students with Mayor Richard Daley at City Hall.
Fall semester
Open to all majors. Students must be sophomores, juniors, or seniors in good standing to participate. More semester program students take all four academic components distributed before enrolling in the program. Spring quarter/trimester students receive credit equivalent to a quarter/trimester on the home campus. Semester program students take all four academic components distributed before enrolling in the program. Spring quarter/trimester students receive credit equivalent to a quarter/trimester on the home campus.

Chicago businesses have a long tradition of creativity and innovation. In the BES program, the entire city becomes a “business lab” in which students:
• Explore case studies of Chicago entrepreneurs;
• Gain hands-on experience in an internship;
• Use an independent project to develop a tangible result or “product” to demonstrate the quality of their work; and
• Develop contacts with Chicago-based business leaders and entrepreneurs.

The result is an artistic landscape filled with indie music venues, neighborhood art galleries, and hole-in-the-wall theatre companies. At the same time, the city supports world-class traditional arts institutions, such as the Art Institute, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and many others. With its interdisciplinary focus and blend of independent and collaborative work, Chicago Arts is 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.

Immerse yourself in a Chicago cultural adventure
Chicago may be the best urban environment in America 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.

Become skilled in the actions of social change
Chicago is a city that is always changing, remaking itself, and challenging itself to respond to the needs of its citizens. Actions of everyday people, in their neighborhoods or at City Hall, create the possibility for a quality life. As participants in the Urban Studies program, students engage the social and political context of the urban community as they:
• Learn how communities and groups negotiate for power and resources, and how public officials, community leaders, and city residents 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 groups;
• Examine educational issues, policy, and innovation;
• Learn strategies for developing innovative programs designed to improve people’s everyday lives.

Urban Studies

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 Courses
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. Students must be sophomores, juniors, or seniors in good standing to participate.

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 Programs.

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 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
  December 15 — Spring quarter/trimester deadline

www.acm.edu/chicago