

KINGSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
The City University of New York
CURRICULUM TRANSMITTAL COVER PAGE

Department: **Physical Sciences**

Date: **March 2026**

Title Of Course/Degree/Concentration/Certificate:

Civic Engagement Degree Requirement in All Degrees

Change(s) Initiated: (Please check)

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Closing of Degree | <input type="checkbox"/> | Change in Degree: Adding Concentration |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Change in Degree or Certificate | <input type="checkbox"/> | Change in Degree: Deleting Concentration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Closing of Certificate | <input type="checkbox"/> | Change in Prerequisite, Corequisite, and/or Pre-/Co-requisite |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | New Certificate Proposal | <input type="checkbox"/> | Change in Course Designation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | New Degree Proposal New Course | <input type="checkbox"/> | Change in Course Description |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | New 82 Course (Pilot Course) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Change in Course Title, Number, Credits and/or Hours |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Deletion of Course(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Change in Academic Policy |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pathways Submission: |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> | Life and Physical Science |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> | Math and Quantitative Reasoning |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> | World Cultures and Global Issues |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> | U.S. Experience in its Diversity |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> | Creative Expression |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual and Society |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> | Scientific World |
- Change in Program Learning Outcomes
- Other (please describe):

PLEASE ATTACH MATERIAL TO ILLUSTRATE AND EXPLAIN ALL CHANGES

DEPARTMENTAL ACTION

Action by Department and/or Departmental Committee, if required:

Date Approved: **March 2026** Signature, Committee Chairperson: *John Mikalopas*

I have reviewed the attached material/proposal

Signature, Department Chairperson: *John Mikalopas* **March 2026**

If submitted Curriculum Action affects another Department, signature of the affected Department(s) is required:

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|---|
| Department: Allied Health, Mental Health and Human Services Date Approved: March 2026 Signature, Department Chairperson: <i>Tyronne Johnson 3/13/2026</i> |
| Department: Art Date Approved: March 2026 Signature, Department Chairperson: |
| Department: Behavioral Sciences Date Approved: March 2026 Signature, Department Chairperson: <i>Stuart Parker 3/12/26</i> |
| Department: Biological Sciences Date Approved: 3/12/2026 Signature, Department Chairperson:  |
| Department: Business Date Approved: March 13, 2026 Signature, Department Chairperson: <i>Jeffrey Lax</i> |
| Department: Communications & Performing Arts Date Approved: March 2026 Signature, Department Chairperson: |
| Department: English Date Approved: March 2026 Signature, Department Chairperson: |
| Department: Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Date Approved: March 2026 Signature, Department Chairperson: |
| Department: History, Philosophy and Political Science Date Approved: March 2026 Signature, Department Chairperson: |
| Department: Library Date Approved: March 2026 Signature, Department Chairperson: |
| Department: Mathematics and Computer Science Date Approved: March 2026 Signature, Department Chairperson: |
| Department: Nursing Date Approved: March 2026 Signature, Department Chairperson: |
| Department: Tourism & Hospitality Date Approved: March 2026 Signature, Department Chairperson: |

Resolution to Remove the Mandatory Civic Engagement Degree Requirement While Affirming the Importance of Civic Engagement

Whereas, the college recognizes that civic engagement is an important component of an educated and informed citizenry; and

Whereas, curricula across many academic disciplines already provide students with the knowledge, analytical skills, communication abilities, and ethical perspectives necessary to participate meaningfully in civic life; and

Whereas, higher education plays a crucial role in preparing students to understand social issues, evaluate public information, and make informed decisions about community participation; and

Whereas, students often develop an appreciation for civic engagement through coursework, academic discussions, research, and exposure to diverse perspectives without the need for a specific mandated activity; and

Whereas, students should have the autonomy to determine how and when to apply their education to civic engagement activities in ways that align with their interests, schedules, and personal responsibilities; and

Whereas, opportunities for civic engagement can continue to be offered through voluntary programs, service-learning courses, student organizations, internships, and community partnerships;

Be it RESOLVED, that the Curriculum Committee recommends the removal of the Civic Engagement requirement as a mandatory degree requirement; and

Be it further RESOLVED, that the college continue to support and promote civic engagement as a valuable educational and community activity through optional courses, co-curricular opportunities, and institutional initiatives; and

Be it further RESOLVED, that the institution reaffirm its commitment to equipping students with the knowledge, skills, and critical thinking necessary to understand civic issues and to choose to participate in civic engagement throughout their lives.

Justification

Civic engagement has always been historically valued at Kingsborough Community College, helping students understand social issues, participate in community life, and develop a sense of responsibility toward society. The college formally adopted the Civic Engagement requirement in 2011, implemented in 2013, mandating that students complete at least one civic engagement experience before graduation, either through a course, course component, or approved activity.

While fostering civic participation remains essential, making it mandatory for all students is no longer necessary. --- **The college's curriculum already fulfills its mission to provide students with the knowledge to understand civic issues and the skills to participate meaningfully in civic life.** --- Many students develop this understanding and engagement through coursework, discussions, research, and exposure to diverse perspectives without a separate mandated activity. In practice, the outcomes the requirement seeks to achieve are already embedded in students' academic experiences.

Students manage multiple responsibilities beyond academics, such as employment, family obligations, and personal commitments. Requiring a specific civic engagement experience can create unnecessary logistical and administrative burdens without substantially enhancing learning outcomes. --- **Providing students the flexibility to decide if, when, and how to participate empowers students to engage in ways that fit their individual circumstances.**

Removing the mandate would not diminish the college's commitment to civic engagement. Voluntary opportunities—through courses, internships, student organizations, and community partnerships—can continue to provide meaningful and impactful experiences. Encouraging rather than requiring participation preserves the college's dedication to preparing students for civic life while offering flexibility and choice.

This proposal also **paves the way for future consideration of a different college-wide requirement**, should the institution wish to establish a framework that promotes another important but currently under-emphasized educational outcome.

For these reasons, the Curriculum Committee urges the college to remove the mandatory Civic Engagement requirement while continuing to support and promote voluntary civic engagement opportunities. Doing so will uphold Kingsborough's historical commitment to civic learning, provide students with the knowledge and skills to engage thoughtfully in their communities, respect student autonomy, and strengthen the overall educational experience for all students.