

Loyola University Chicago School of Communication

Alternative Ways to Earn Course Credit

Forms are available online or at the SOC reception desk from Administrative Staff

Directed Study (COMM 398)

Students may sign up for a one or three credit hour course to work independently in the student's area of interest with a supervising faculty member whose expertise is in that area. Projects may include, but are not limited to: a reading course, where the student contracts to read and create an annotated bibliography of research materials, a writing course, where a student has developed a strong paper for a course and wants to refine it for possible conference presentation and/or publication. Other possible projects include assisting faculty mentors with research projects, journalistic endeavors or public campaigns. Students may only be registered for this credit once they have reached a signed agreement with the supervising faculty member and received SOC dean's office approval. Meetings and progress reports are expected of both faculty and students engaged in Directed Studies. Larger projects would merit 3 credit hours and more limited projects would merit 1 hour of course credit. When completed, this course would count as elective credit toward the student's major or minor.

Practicum Credit (COMM 380-384)

Students working on hands-on educational projects that involve hours doing volunteer service, website development, production activities, community service activities, etc. are eligible to receive 3 credit hours for doing a significant project that is connected to their educational experience. This could include but is not limited to organization of a symposium, educational fair or special event. While Directed Studies are more research-focused, Practicum credit calls for engaged learning supervised by a faculty member whose area of expertise is in the area of activity. Students must sign an agreement with a supervising faculty member and provide some kind of progress reports throughout the semester. Practicum credit is only available for 3 credit hour courses, so the equivalent of one regular academic course is the standard for what would count as a "significant" project. A signed agreement between student and supervising faculty member and SOC dean's office approval are required to register.