



RESIDENT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Residents participating in the Resident Leadership Academy will be required to complete the following four courses (16 credits):

Public Housing (4 credits)

This course will provide an introduction to public housing. The course will cover issues related to public housing including, history of public housing, HUD policies and procedures, resident' rights, financing mechanisms, NYCHA programs and resources, and local power and decision-making.

Community Organizing and Community Organizations (4 credits)

This course will examine the historical development and contemporary practice of community organization. Students will examine why and how people in urban communities and neighborhoods have organized to protect their rights and their entitlements to public services; to acquire resources for development; and to improve their quality of life. Through readings, students will develop a historical and theoretical perspective on community organization and explore the range of issues around which communities organize. They will gain familiarity with various models and strategies of community organizations in New York City and will acquire practical knowledge and skills for effective grassroots organizing. They will also examine the effectiveness of coalitions and alliances, including relationships between community organizations, public agencies, and labor unions.

Introduction to Nonprofit Leadership (4 Credits)

This course provides an introduction to the field of nonprofit management. The class will cover issues that arise for leaders of these kinds of organizations, including governance and boards, strategic planning, fundraising and philanthropy as well as grant-writing, administration, personnel management, and ethical questions. The class will focus on nonprofits broadly but investigate variations in the sector, from public-sector organizations to education, labor organizations, 501c (3) organizations, and others. The class will emphasize issues related to best practices needed for nonprofit leaders to successfully meet the mission of their organizations.

Research Seminar on Public Policy (4 credits)

This course is a seminar in public-policy analysis that will focus on a single topic, such as health care, housing or criminal justice, which will change each semester. Using a task force model, students will survey the literature in the topic under consideration and work in teams on particular aspects of the social problem and policy. The task for each team is to identify, analyze and evaluate an existing policy or set of policies related to the selected topic. Students will develop criteria for evaluation and assemble data to support an argument concerning the viability and effectiveness of policies under examination. The goal for each task force is to recommend modifications or alternatives to existing policy that effectively address the needs and concerns of various constituencies and interest groups in the decision making process.