

Milestones

The Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College (SSSW), in collaboration with 12 undergraduate departments and programs in the School of Arts and Sciences as well as the Community Health program, has established a 15-credit, interdisciplinary undergraduate minor in Community Organizing (C.O.). To our knowledge, this is one of few credentialed, academic, bachelor's-level community organizing programs in the United States. Housed at the Silberman School of Social Work, the C.O. minor will be open to all Hunter undergraduates in their junior and senior years. It is based on innovative classroom and field education courses (Introduction to Community Organizing; Internship; and Field Seminar) that have been offered since 1995.

- **Spring 1985 – President Donna Shalala** brought together three faculty members from Social Work (Terry Mizrahi); Public Health/Community Health (Nick Freudenberg); and Urban Affairs (Hans Siegel) to stimulate cross-school community collaboration, providing open-ended seed money.
- **1986-1988 – This inter-professional faculty group expanded, worked together on several joint community projects**
- **1994 – CUNY (central) issued an RFP: *New Visions in Higher Education*. Our Hunter community collaborative received two consecutive grants (1995-1996; 1996-1997) to establish a community organizing concentration/program beginning with an interdisciplinary introductory course (3 credits) and internship (3 credits). Over 900 students came through the program.**
- **1995 to present – Introduction to CO Course is offered** (cross listed with COMHE, ANTHC, SOC, and URBS; and previously with POLSC and WGS), plus Internship listed as SOSCI 397. Course was developed and taught for many years by Esperanza Martell, and is supported by Provost's office. Internship is supported through SSSW CO faculty and students.
- **2004 – Attempt to establish a CO minor through Urban Studies or Sociology was not successful.**
- **2013 – President Jennifer Raab issued a call for proposals to establish interdisciplinary Minors or Certificate Programs. Faculty collaboration revived** with old and new department/faculty stakeholders from: Anthropology; Africana & Latino/Puerto Rican Studies; Film & Media Studies; History; Political Science; Psychology; Public Policy; Sociology; Urban Studies; Women & Gender Studies; Community Health. Proposal was submitted, but not funded.
- **2014 – President Raab provided Silberman SSW (Mizrahi) with a planning grant to develop an interdisciplinary undergraduate Community Organizing Minor, in collaboration with 12+ Hunter departments which all together designed the new Minor.** Model program from University of Michigan used as a template.
- **2015-2016 – Proposal to establish 15-credit CO Minor, with support of (Acting) Social Work Dean, was passed by Silberman Curriculum Committee and Faculty, and by the Undergraduate Course of Study Committee and the Hunter Senate. Published in June 2016 CUNY Chancellor's Report.**