Nexus in Nonprofit Organizations

The Nexus in Nonprofit Organizations is administered by a faculty advisory group led by Professor Robinson (economics); Assistant Professor Schmeiser (economics).

Overview

The Nonprofit Organizations Nexus focuses on the study of organizational settings in the nonprofit sector. The word “nonprofit” refers to a type of business—one which is organized under rules that forbid the distribution of profits to owners. The Internal Revenue Service describes nonprofit organizations as serving charitable, religious, scientific, or educational purposes. Nonprofit organizations include global nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) such as Oxfam and Greenpeace as well as local community organizations such as the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts and Historic Northampton Museum. Students may pursue internships with nonprofit organizations to complete the experiential requirement for this Nexus.

Contact Info

Eleanor Townsley, Nexus director
Michael Robinson, track chair
Steven Schmeiser, track chair

Requirements for the Nexus

Courses

- Two 200-level, 4-credit courses, chosen from the faculty-approved list for the Nexus
  - In selecting courses from the approved list for the track, students will complete at least one course particular to nonprofit organizations and will generally also select one of the approved Complex Organizations courses.
- College 210 (the 2-credit “pre-experience” course) or a suitable substitute, chosen in consultation with the track chair
- College 211 (the 2-credit “post-experience” course), culminating in a public presentation at the annual LEAP (Learning from Application) Symposium
- One 300-level, 4-credit course in a relevant topic, chosen from the faculty-approved list for the Nexus

Other

- An approved internship, research project, or summer job, completed as the “experience” between College 210 and 211
- The sequence of a Nexus is part of what makes it unique. It is essential that College 210 (or an appropriate substitute) be taken before the internship or research project and that College 211 be taken after the internship or research project

Courses Counting toward the Nexus

Anthropology

212 Shopping and Swapping: Cultures of Consumption and Exchange

College

210 Ready for the World: Preparing for Your Internship and Research Project
211 Reflecting Back: Connecting Internship and Research to your Liberal Arts Education

Complex Organizations

205 Financial Accounting
212 Individuals and Organizations
218 Perspectives in Global Business
249 Non-Profit Business Practice

Economics

215 Economics of Corporate Finance
307 Seminar in Industrial Organization
310 Public Finance Seminar

Mathematics

339PT Topics in Applied Mathematics: ‘Optimization’

See Also

- Complex Organizations