A Guide to The Hamilton Certificate Program

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

THE ALEXANDER HAMILTON CENTER
The Alexander Hamilton Center at New York University fosters the competition of ideas about policy solutions to pressing domestic and international issues. It does so based on rigorous logic and evidence. The Center emphasizes political economy approaches that draw out how individual economic and political incentives interact to create constraints and opportunities for citizens, political leaders, and entrepreneurs in the private or public sector to address policy issues. The Center’s teaching and research functions emphasize such considerations as the design of governing institutions, the development and distribution of human capital, and the means by which fundamental policy issues can be resolved or advanced through the promotion of efficient and effective solutions that are sensitive to political, economic, and social realities.

THE CENTER’S CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES
The Alexander Hamilton Center aims to teach undergraduate students how to evaluate competing ideas about public policy based on the strictures of logic and evidence grounded in the scientific method rather than based on personal beliefs or opinion or on what is politically popular at any given moment. For example, during the past academic year, the Alexander Hamilton Center has offered 13 undergraduate courses. It is telling that only during this Spring 2008 semester, more than 360 undergraduate students have enrolled in Hamilton courses. The faculty affiliated with the Alexander Hamilton Center includes some of the world renowned members of the NYU faculty in the Department of Politics and Economics. The affiliated faculty members have a stellar reputation in their respective fields. They have expressed their steady support for the mission of the Alexander Hamilton Center and have expressed their commitment to teaching Alexander Hamilton Center undergraduate courses in the future.

APPLICATION PROCESS

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
The Alexander Hamilton Center welcomes and encourages all undergraduate students from all disciplines — and not just Politics or Economics — to apply. In light of the high demands placed on students by undergraduate study and the Alexander Hamilton Center’s Certificate Program, we would require that students have completed a minimum of two years of undergraduate education. They also must have some formal training (or its equivalent) in statistics, microeconomics and one or more Hamilton courses before being admitted to the Certificate Program.

PREREQUISITES
Consideration for acceptance into the Alexander Hamilton Certificate Program requires:

1. A GPA of at least 3.3. In the spring semester of their sophomore year, students with at least a 3.3 GPA will be invited to an informational meeting about the Hamilton Certificate in Political Economy and will be advised of the course requirements for admission to the Hamilton Certificate in Political Economy. Exceptions will be made only in the case of those students who may have a lower GPA but come strongly recommended by one of the Alexander Hamilton affiliated faculty.
2. The completion of or enrollment in Quantitative Methods for Political Science (V53.0800). However, students who have taken Microeconomics (Economics) or Quantitative Methods for Behavioral Sciences (Psychology) may have them count towards the Certificate.
3. Completion of at least one Alexander Hamilton Course.

WEBSITE: http://alexanderhamilton.as.nyu.edu/page/home -- CONTACT: thecenter.alexanderhamilton@nyu.edu
APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Prospective undergraduate students should submit a completed application form to the Deputy Director of the Alexander Hamilton Center or to the Center’s Administrator.

- Application forms may be downloaded from the Alexander Hamilton Center’s website or found in the AHC offices in the Department of Politics.
- Completed applications can be emailed to thecenter.alexanderhamilton@nyu.edu or dropped off in person to the AHC offices or directly to the AHC mail box.

The application form and supporting documentation will be used in the admissions procedures for both the CAS or the respective department and the Alexander Hamilton Center. Continuing students may apply at any time during the academic year. However, we recommend that the application to the Hamilton Certificate in Political Economy take place in the spring of junior year.

Fulfilling the Certificate

REQUIREMENTS

The Hamilton Certificate in Political Economy requires:

1. Five 4-point courses (20 points) designated as Hamilton courses chosen in consultation with Alexander Hamilton Center student adviser and completed with a grade of B or better. Only courses with a V07 number (which may be cross-listed and that may also count toward a given major or minor) can be counted toward the Hamilton Certificate in Political Economy.*

2. Hamilton students must have an overall 3.3 GPA. The overall GPA requirement can be waived under special circumstances.

3. The prerequisite is the completion of or enrollment in Quantitative Methods for Political Science (POL-UA 800) This course counts as one of the five 4-point courses. Quantitative courses in other social sciences such as economics or psychology or certain math courses may be considered to fulfill this requirement. Students should consult the Associate Director for alternate course approval for this prerequisite.

4. Completion of or enrollment in at least one undergraduate Hamilton Seminar, or 1000- or 2000- level graduate course. Some Hamilton Seminars have a GPA admissions requirement of 3.5 overall and are designed to permit students to apply research skills in a specific area of Political Economy.

5. Completion of a 20-25 page (5000 word) paper. If you are an Honors Student, you could complete this requirement by submitting you thesis.

6. Presentation of their paper at the Alexander Hamilton Center Junior Researchers Conference to be held every May at the end of their senior year.

*A any number of independent research courses may also qualify for the Hamilton Certificate if the requisite permission is obtained and an appropriate research paper is produced. A maximum of one internship may be counted toward the Certificate. The internship must be in an applied professional setting where they would be exposed to the professional applications of the political economy approach. No other coursework, such as an examination, fieldwork, or “hands-on” experience, qualifies.

A HAMILTON CERTIFICATE

Admission to the Alexander Hamilton Center’s Certificate Program is contingent upon the candidate’s acceptance into an undergraduate graduate degree program in the University. Students successfully completing the Hamilton Certificate in Political Economy requirements will receive a Silver or Golden Certificate.

Golden Certificate - Awarded to students maintaining a GPA of 3.7 or higher.
Silver Certificate - Awarded to students maintaining a GPA of 3.3 but lower than 3.7

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