Social Transformation Certificate Program

Wilmette Institute

Founded in 1995, Wilmette Institute (WI) is an accredited online educational institution offering academic programs, courses, webinars, and other educational initiatives dedicated to individual and collective transformation. Its programs take a transdisciplinary approach to learning and inspire a lifelong commitment to protagonism, drawing on the experience of changemakers and grassroots efforts worldwide, including the emerging Bahá'í framework for action. WI features a graduate-level, tuition-free, accredited certificate program preparing participants to contribute meaningfully to processes of social transformation through study, consultation, action, and reflection.

Accreditation

Wilmette Institute is accredited by the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC), which is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).

Program Overview

Wilmette Institute's Social Transformation Certificate is a tuition-free, online graduate program, utilizing transformative education to tap into students' inherent capacity to be changemakers by exploring societal issues from a transdisciplinary perspective. The program:

- examines underlying assumptions and root cause analysis
- employs critical and holistic systems thinking
- engages with community-based organizations
- utilizes research to connect students to mentors/changemakers in various disciplines with the goal of contributing to prevalent discourses of society

Students gain analytical skills on a theoretical and practical level, reimagine social change beyond reform, and engage in praxis.

Program at a Glance:

- **Format:** Online with weekly live (synchronous) Zoom sessions
- **Duration:** 3 courses within 2 years
- **Course Length:** 16 weeks each
- **Tuition:** Currently tuition-free
- **Eligibility:** Bachelor's degree or upper-division undergraduate standing

Benefits

- Learn in a collaborative and engaging online environment
- Apply concepts in real-world community contexts
- Engage in meaningful public discourse
- Develop skills for professional and personal growth

Guiding Principles:

- Human beings are essentially noble; they are capable of building an ever-advancing civilization.
- Both science and religion are essential to investigate reality.
- Systemic problems require a holistic approach to discover lasting solutions.
- Scholarship does not begin and end with words but combines theory and praxis in study, consultation, action, and reflection.
- Sustainable social change requires human capacity development, so people become the protagonists of their own material and spiritual development.
- Universal peace and justice can be realized through a planetary consciousness of the oneness of humanity and the interconnectedness of the earth and all its inhabitants.

Courses:

- Catalysts of Social Change: Knowledge, Action, Impact
- Pathways to Prosperity: Rethinking Social Change
- Sweeping Changes in Humanity's Relationship with the Natural World
- Redefining Race: Pathways to Collective Advancement
- Transforming Education: Knowing, Learning, and Being

Calendar: The academic calendar is based on a semester system (16-week courses with breaks in between courses).

Partnerships and Affiliations

Wilmette Institute collaborates with institutions of higher education and organizations that share a commitment to advancing knowledge and social transformation. Read more: Partnerships

- NCCU & WI 5-Year Memorandum of Understanding

Application Process

- **Step 1: Start Your Online Application**
  Complete your application (two stages), including ID, transcript, and essay.
- **Step 2: Admission Interview**
  Participate in a Zoom interview to explore mutual fit.
- **Step 3: Final Decision**
  The Admissions Committee reviews all materials using a structured scoring rubric.

Q and A:

What is unique about the Wilmette Institute Graduate-level Certificate program?

Wilmette Institute offers a graduate-level certificate in Social Transformation that equips participants to contribute meaningfully to public discourse on pressing issues from a

transdisciplinary perspective. Our distinctive approach integrates theory and practice through studying underlying assumptions, consulting on current discourses, engaging in community-based action, and reflecting on future implications (SCAR), within a dynamic and supportive blended learning environment.

What is the workload like for each course?
Each 16-week course includes readings, multimedia materials, weekly forum participation, a live Zoom session, and a final project.

Are the courses synchronous and asynchronous?
Courses are both online and synchronous, with weekly live Zoom discussions lasting 60–90 minutes.

How long will it take to get the certificate?
Participants earn the certificate by completing three courses within two years of enrollment, in any order.