

Civic education, greatest thinkers and experiential courses

Our courses reflect SCETL's commitment to looking into the past, with its great tradition of questioning human civilization, alongside the challenges of statesmanship and leadership today. Students majoring in civic and economic thought and leadership attend four required courses. In addition, we offer four distinct tracks:

- Moral and Political Thought
- American Political Thought
- Economic Thought and Political Economy
- Leadership and Statesmanship for the 21st Century

Our courses center on the world's greatest thoughts and leadership principles:

- Great Ideas Politics & Ethics
- Politics & Literature
- Great Debates in American Politics
- Debating Capitalism
- Justice and Virtue
- Philosophy, Politics and Economics
- Locke and Rousseau on Civic Education
- Lincoln: Rhetoric, Thought, Statesmanship
- Race and the American Story
- American Constitution
- American Political Economy
- Classical to Modern Economic Thought
- Civilian-Military Relations in America
- Political Leadership and Statesmanship

Philanthropy fuels possibilities

At SCETL, we strive to build civil disagreement amidst the current political divisiveness. We believe that civic education and honest conversations are key to achieving common ground and addressing our society's most important issues. If this mission speaks to you, consider making a donation to our school. When you give to SCETL, you invest in our mission to engage students in civic life through the investigation of great works of political, economic, civic, and moral thought.

“At the School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership, we study the fundamental questions of human civilization and develop the knowledge and skills necessary to present solutions to our major problems. By integrating the approaches of the greatest philosophers, political leaders, economists, and authors, our program offers a multidisciplinary foundation for those who want to have a leadership role in the public or private sectors.”

– Paul Carrese
Founding director of SCETL

scetl.asu.edu

School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership

Fact sheet

Social Sciences

Inspiring a new class of leaders.

The School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership (SCETL) offers a classical liberal arts education that prepares future leaders. Our curriculum combines philosophy, history, economics and political science to examine great ideas and help drive positive change in the 21st century. Courses such as “Great Ideas in Politics and Ethics,” “Justice and Virtue” and “Politics and Literature” prepare critical thinkers and leaders for successful careers in business, law, business, public office, philanthropy, journalism among others.

“The SCETL events are always excellent and informative. I enjoy hearing informed and well-constructed arguments, including—and especially—opinions that do not match my own.”

Laurel Moore
Civic Discourse Project event attendee

A new kind of program

At SCETL, we dive into the fundamental questions of life, freedom, and governance. Our program looks inward to the guiding principles of America’s founders and leaders who have inspired us. We combine classic works and altruistic statesmanship to develop a new kind of leader: trained in critical thought, humble about human imperfection, and ready for anything.

4
Bachelor’s
degrees

1
graduate
degree

4
Student-to-
faculty ratio

434
Number of
course
enrollments

Preparing critical thinkers for today’s challenges

We look to the past and to the greatest books to inform the future. Our students learn how to lead their peers through complex 21st century challenges. We provide them with the foundation to succeed as lifelong learners and future leaders in civic, political and social life, whatever their careers may be. We are proud of the close-knit culture of our school, which promotes a unique learning experience.



Classical liberal education

Our program is built on the Socratic method of open debates of classic works of literature, philosophy, economics and politics. This includes Homer, Plato, Cicero, Dante, Hegel, Shakespeare, Marx, Adam Smith and more. Students also dive into contemporary issues through SCETL’s Civic Discourse Project, a series of lectures presented by America’s top intellectuals.



Guided by the principles of America’s founders and leaders

Taught by renowned scholars, our program focuses on the ideas that shaped the foundation of the United States of America. Our courses hone in on the thoughts of Abraham Lincoln, Rosa Parks, Frederick Douglas, Martin Luther King, Alexis de Tocqueville, Susan B. Anthony, Alexander Hamilton, Cesar Chavez, James Baldwin, James Madison among others.



Inspiring the pursuit of truth and civic engagement

Finally, this foundation is complemented by international and domestic travel experiences centered on leadership, democracy and service in Israel, the U.S., and India, where students research, explore and collaborate with people from different backgrounds and perspectives. These experiences help students gain insight into the critical issues to be considered for effective, thoughtful, globally-conscious leadership.



“SCETL teaches students how to be leaders, not just political scientists or economists. The program is committed to the pursuit of truth and civic discussion, which has just been something that I’ve loved. It has brought me here and kept me here.”

Angel Orozco
Major in SCETL and Pickering Fellow

