

CIVIL DISCOURSE CREDENTIAL

DEVELOPING & MEASURING DURABLE SKILLS

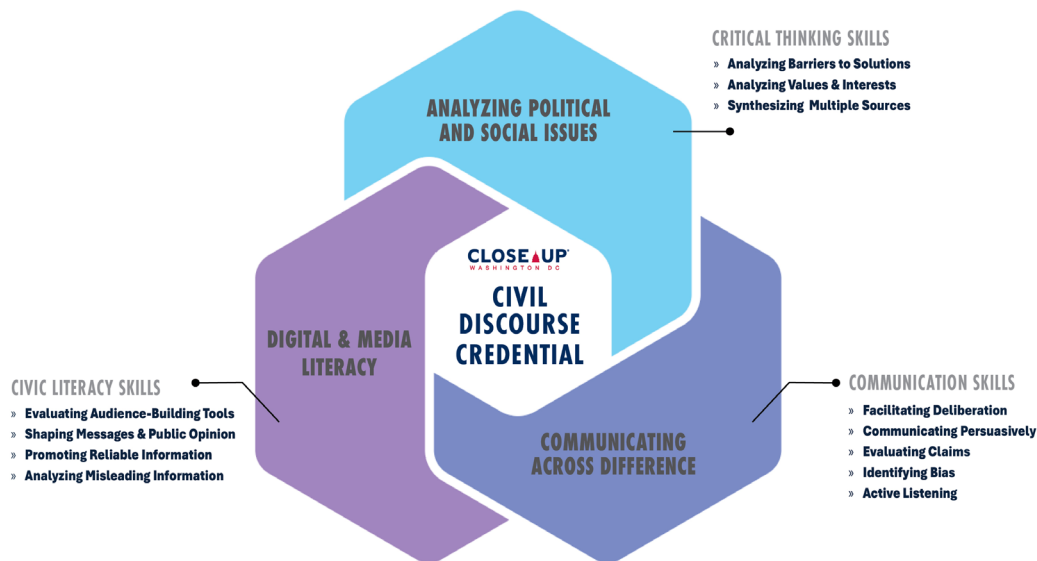


Our country is in great need of critical thinkers and productive citizens—young Americans who approach complex issues with an open mind, who treat differing viewpoints with respect and curiosity, and who contribute meaningfully at school, in the workplace, and out in society. In this age when government and current events touch every part of our lives, true civic education must move beyond memorizing facts and towards **competency-based education** and **the development of durable skills**.

The Close Up Foundation is developing the [Civil Discourse Credential](#) on that principle. Based on our 50+ years of experience in working with young people from all backgrounds, the credential guides high school students through exercises, activities, and experiences to develop highly needed durable skills such as **critical thinking, communication, media and AI literacy, and the ability to productively engage with multiple perspectives**.

CIVIL DISCOURSE CREDENTIAL OVERVIEW

The Civil Discourse Credential focuses on competencies in three domains: **(1) Analyzing Political and Social Issues; (2) Communicating Across Difference; and (3) Digital Citizenship and Media Literacy**. Close Up provides criteria, activities, and resources to help students demonstrate their proficiency in each domain, all tracked through a Learning Record hosted by Mastery Transcript Consortium. Students might analyze the use of political rhetoric by elected officials, design resources with a bipartisan perspective on a politically complex topic, or facilitate a structured deliberation with peers to address a community issue.



Three stackable credentials that demonstrate competency in all aspects of civil discourse, including critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and the ability to productively engage with multiple perspectives.

Earn a credential in one or two domains, or complete all three to receive the comprehensive Civil Discourse Credential!


LEARN MORE



CALL: 800-CLOSE UP (256-7387)

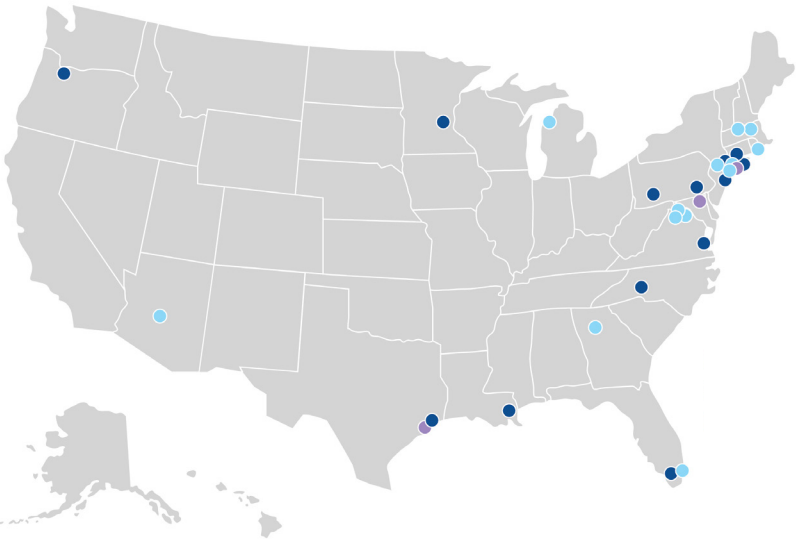
EMAIL: info@CloseUp.org

For achieving proficiency in a domain, **students earn a stackable credential for their transcript and resume.** For mastering all three, they earn the comprehensive Civil Discourse Credential.

	Certificate & Shareable Learning Record	Recognition as a Close Up Scholar to Your School & on Our Website	Letter of Commendation from Congress	Graduation Honor Cord
Single Credential (Proficient)	✓			
Single Credential (Advanced)	✓	✓		
Civil Discourse Credential (Proficient)	✓	✓	✓	
Civil Discourse Credential (Advanced)	✓	✓	✓	✓

CIVIL DISCOURSE CREDENTIAL PILOT PROGRAM

To begin classroom implementation, Close Up launched the Civil Discourse Credential Pilot Program in 2025. Pilot educators participated in a two-day training institute to gain an understanding of, model, and practice the credential lessons and activities. Throughout the school year, they will attend monthly coaching sessions and provide feedback to help Close Up refine the credential and prepare for nationwide scaling. Thus far, the pilot cohort includes educators from **30 public, charter, and independent schools across 17 states.** In the first year of the pilot program, we anticipate reaching **over 1,000 students nationwide.**



 PUBLIC  CHARTER  INDEPENDENT

- ARIZONA**
Tolleson Union High School

CONNECTICUT
Wooster School

FLORIDA
Gulliver Preparatory School
Miami-Dade Public Schools

GEORGIA
Atlanta Public Schools

LOUISIANA
Metairie Park Country Day School

MARYLAND
Chesapeake Math and IT Academy

MASSACHUSETTS
Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District
Newton North High School

MICHIGAN
Leland Public Schools
Northport Public Schools

MINNESOTA
The Blake School

NEW JERSEY
Princeton Day School
- NEW YORK**
The Berkeley Carroll School
Bronxville High School
Brooklyn Emerging Leaders Academy
Charter High School
Claremont International High School
Scarsdale High School
Trinity-Pawling School

NORTH CAROLINA
Cannon School

OREGON
Oregon Episcopal School

PENNSYLVANIA
The Grayson School
Shady Side Academy

RHODE ISLAND
Portsmouth High School

TEXAS
Harmony Public Schools
The Kinkaid School

VIRGINIA
Cedar Lane High School
John R. Lewis High School
Madison High School
Norfolk Collegiate School

ABOUT THE CLOSE UP FOUNDATION

Close Up is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, civic education organization that informs, inspires, and empowers young people to become active citizens. Since 1971, we have served more than one million students and educators through experiential learning programs in our nation’s capital and in local communities, professional development, and curriculum design.

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