



The University of Akron
Center for Conflict Management



Handbook

"If we want a beloved community, we must stand for justice." - bell hooks



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The
**University
of Akron**

Find us in the Sociology Department
(Olin 247G) and on Facebook



The University of Akron
Department of Sociology

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Mission

Our mission is to assist each other in our individual and collective efforts to develop the skills needed to transform divisive and harmful conflicts into opportunities to restore relationships and revitalize communities through mindful action and social entrepreneurship.

Our vision is to create communities where we can all participate in transforming conflicts by learning to reframe, see the spin, actively listen, problem solve, reject dualistic thinking, control our anger, love our neighbors as ourselves, restoratively fight for justice, appreciate and honor alternative perspectives and different conflict management styles.

Using concrete skills like these we can all learn to engage more productively in the conflicts of our era, prevent conflicts upstream and reduce the harms associated with them downstream, to build and sustain resilient and compassionate organizations and communities capable of balancing unity and difference, civility and contestation.

"The Center for Conflict Management Promotes Student Success by Working with Students and Faculty to Address Conflict and Social Justice Concerns which include Criminal Justice, Health, Educational, Economic, and Political Inequalities. We are composed of a Director, an Interdisciplinary UA Faculty Advisory Council, and Students. We adopt an Interdisciplinary Approach to Center activities with a Focus on Student, Faculty, and Local/Regional Community Engagement." - **Dr. Peralta, Director of the Center for Conflict Management.**



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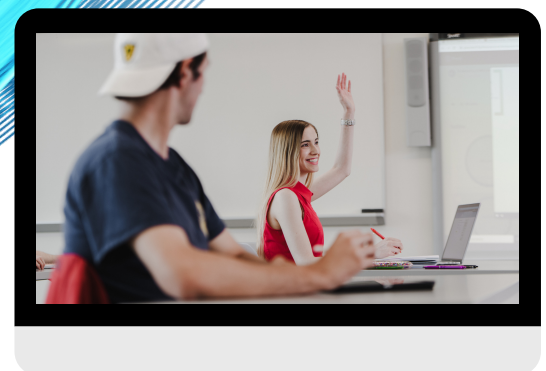


Certificate in Conflict Transformation Information



This uniquely interdisciplinary, free-standing certificate offers students an opportunity to learn skills designed to help them identify social conflict, acquire tools to transform conflict, and work toward social justice and equality.

The multidisciplinary skills you will learn through this certificate will prepare you for a style of leadership that brings people together from different disciplines and backgrounds to develop solutions to conflicts that arise in our professional and personal lives.



WE ARE AKRON.

Requirements for the Certificate in Conflict Transformation



Students formally apply for the Certificate via the submission of a Certificate Add Form and a Statement of Interest to the Director. The application can be found on the CCM webpage: <https://www.uakron.edu/conflict/>

Enrollment Qualifications for Current Students

- In good standing with the university
- GPA of at least 3.0
- Have completed at least one full semester of coursework
- Students pursuing any major are eligible for the certificate
- Submission of Application and Statement of Interest
- Submission of Certificate Add form

Core Requirements

- Minimum of 15 Credit Hours
- Required Course: **Social Justice** (3 credits) SOCIO:200
- Multi-Disciplinary Electives Chosen from the list below :

Anthropology ANTH

Field Methods in Cultural Anthropology: 460 (4 credits)

Business School BUS

Organizational Behavior and Leadership Skills: 302 (4 credits)

Criminal Justice CRJU

Crisis & Trauma: Assessments & Interventions: 465
Applied Ethics in Criminal Justice: 298
Community Corrections: special topic
Policing Theory & Strategy: 405

College of Health and Health Sciences CHHS

American Families in Poverty: 401
Diversity and Social Work: 270

Communication COMM

Communication & Conflict: 444
Freedom of Speech: 355

School of Education

TBD

English ENGL

Black American Literature:350

History HIST

American Immigration: 354
US Women's History 350
US Military History: 360
African American History 1877-present: 362
Spanish Conquest and Colonization of the Americas: 378
The Vietnam War: 382
Modern Iran: 395
Latin America and the United States: 417
Nazi Germany: 438
Civil War and Reconstruction 1850-1877: 454
African American Women's History: 469
Empire, Genocide and Mass Violence: 472

Modern Languages MODL

Spanish Conversation: Health Professions and First Responders: 307
Spanish Composition: Health Professions and First Responders: 308
Hispanic Culture through Film: 360

Philosophy PHIL

Social & Political Philosophy: 324
Philosophy of Race & Ethnicity: 456
Law and Morality: 327

Political Science POLIT

Law, Mediation & Violence :334

Psychology PSYC

Psychology of Hate: special topic

Enrollment Qualifications for Professionals

- Certificate Add Form
- Statement of Interest



Sociology SOCIO

Deviant Behavior: 433
Race & Ethnic Relations: 421
Sociology of Law: 441
Victims & Society: 428
Advanced Research Methods: 401
Sociology of Health and Illness: 342
Soc of women in a global society: 325
Women in prison: 415
Theories and Practice in Correctional System: 431
Sociology of Sex Gender and Sexualities: 447
Organizations, Community, and Social Action: 490
Sociology of Love: 435
Sociology of Mental Illness: 450

Women's Studies WMST

Introduction to Women's Studies: 200
Feminist Theory: 480/580



Events



The Center for Conflict Management and The Sociology Department Co-Sponsor a series of lectures and panels titled “Multi-Disciplinary Scholarship and Approaches to Health and Social Justice.”

- **“Suspended: Punishment, Violence, and the Failure of School Safety”** was delivered online by Dr. Charles Bell (Assistant Professor, Illinois State University). Dr. Bell’s talk focused on his inner-city and suburban Detroit school research, drawing on 160 in-depth interviews with Black high school students, their parents, and their teachers to illuminate the negative outcomes that are associated with out-of-school suspension.
- **“Using Reflexive Ethnography to Understand Long-Term IPV, Drug and Health Disparities among Latina Young Adults”** presented by Dr. Alice Cepeda, Associate Professor of Social Work and Sociology at the Suzanne Dvorak-Peck School of Social Work, University of Southern California. This presentation highlighted the importance of reflective ethnography in understanding social interactions and processes that contribute to intimate partner violence victimization and substance use trajectories and related health outcomes among Latinas. Using data from a 15+ year longitudinal National Institute on Drug Abuse study with young adult Mexican American women, discussed are the myriad of drug-related health disparities caused by such factors as cumulative trauma, incarceration, and concentrated poverty.
- **“Vaccines, Public Health, and Mandates: A multi-disciplinary approach”** the event featured the following topics and presenters that focused on COVID-19 vaccines:
 - **“To boost or not to boost: Vaccine Efficiency and Protection Against COVID-19”** Hazel A. Barton, Ph.D., professor, and director of integrated bioscience, The University of Akron
 - **“Vaccine Ethics: An Ethical Framework”** Jess Otto, Ph.D., assistant professor of instruction, Philosophy
 - **“Covid 19: A Summa Health Perspective”** Iriel Hopkins, M.S.W, LSW System director, community relations and diversity, Summa Health, Community Benefit
 - **“COVID-19 Vaccines: The tool to end the pandemic:”** Thomas M. File Jr., M.D. M.Sc. MACP, FIDSA, FCCP; chair, Infectious Disease Division; Summa Health, Akron; professor, internal medicine; Master Teacher; chair, infectious disease section, Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED), Rootstown, Ohio; immediate past president, Infectious Diseases Society of America.
- **“The Labor of Visualizing Violence: Imagining Otherwise Through Film”** Thinking critically about our society’s relationships with violence, crime and punishment requires significant challenges to mainstream narratives, especially with regards to race. Through film and other forms of visual art, our speaker, djones, interrogates both the creative and emotional labor of such confrontations. As part of the **Rethinking Race Series**, our guest presenter, a Ph.D. candidate at the School of Film, Media & Theatre at Georgia State University, presented two short films: *The Great Incarcerator, part 1: Dark Little Secret* (2011) which covers the historical bonds between race and the criminal justice system in the era of mass incarceration and *“631”* (2008) which depicts the violence of economics and police brutality.
- **Dinner & a Fight (Dialogue)** The Center for Conflict Management and UA Law co-sponsored an event for UA Law Students to exercise community building, communication, listening, and empathy skills. Charlie Oldfield, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, Director of Legal Writing, Angela S. Smith, Shannon F. Aupperle, Manager of Enrollment Services, and the Center Director worked with Ted Wetzel, a community organizer, to host the event for UA Law Students and members of the Akron community.
 - **“Russia’s Invasion of Ukraine: The Human Cost of War”** A virtual panel discussion presented by the University of Akron’s Center for Conflict Management and Kent State University featuring UA and KSU Presenters
 - **“Public Health Approaches to Crime Prevention”** Speakers discuss strategies to prevent crime, from a public health approach, through their experience implementing youth mentoring and violence prevention programs at public basketball courts”



Student Benefits

Social Justice Focused!

Make productive problem solving and leadership your secondary concentration. This certificate will complement any major or your current profession.

All majors are eligible to earn the certificate!

Engagement with the Center and the Certificate Will:

1. connect you to a network of peers, professors, and community leaders in the field
2. help you master a range of concrete, transferable skills
3. help you Integrate insight from a range of disciplines to inform conflict transformation strategy
4. help you sharpen skills that are central to finding more innovative ways to address social problems and to improve your analysis of real-world conflict
5. make you more competitive in the job market
6. make you more effective in any workplace

Core Intellectual and Leadership Skill Development

- Active listening
- Networking and team-building
- Media literacy
- Honoring competing perspectives and conflict styles
- Seeing conflict as normal and an invitation to become leaders
- Understanding the relationship between individual agency (behavior) and organizational structures
- Lens shifting and code-switching, perspective taking and role-playing
- Empirically analyzing social and political problems
- Critical Thinking and Writing



Scholarships & Paid Internships

- CCM will work with you to determine what is right for you, a scholarship or a paid internship depending on availability
- You may automatically qualify for a scholarship
- A scholarship committee consisting of the Director and members of the advisory council will select scholarship recipients
- Funds are allocated on a case-by-case basis
- You will be notified towards the end of the spring semester
- Scholarship amounts vary



Director & Faculty Advisory Council Information

CCM Director

Robert L. Peralta, Ph.D.

Professor, Director of the Center for Conflict Management

Dept/Program: Sociology

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Faculty Advisory Council

Carolyn Behrman, Ph.D.

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Scholarships and Application Process

Martin Leadership Award

In recognition of the leadership and support provided to the Center for Conflict Management for many years by Dr. Paul E. Martin, the Center recognizes those students in the program who have demonstrated unique and exemplary leadership in our community with the Martin Leadership Award. Established in 2003, Dr. Paul Martin established an endowment for Conflict Management students who are pursuing academically rigorous, interdisciplinary, and practically grounded analysis of the nature of conflict and violence to support a wider diffusion of conflict management skills throughout society.

Lieberman Scholarship

This scholarship was established by Dr. Carl Lieberman (UA Associate Professor Emeritus) to assist outstanding students who are enrolled in the certificate program. The scholarship shall be given to an eligible student based on academic merit and financial need.

Seiberling Scholarship

This scholarship was established in honor of Mr. Seiberling, a member of Congress from 1971 to 1986. The purpose of the award is to provide financial assistance to a CCM student pursuing the development of peace.

CCM Scholarship

The purpose of the award/scholarship is to support outstanding students who are making progress in earning a Certificate in Conflict Transformation.

**Submit your application for CCM Scholarships to Dr. Peralta (rp32@uakron.edu).
The deadline is every spring semester.**

Award/Scholarship Eligibility

- Enrollment in the Certificate in Conflict Transformation
- UA Students in good standing

Other Considerations will include:

- GPA
- Evidence of involvement in CCM events
- Participation in other Conflict Transformation and or Social Justice efforts
- Leadership experience

Selection Process:

A sub-committee of the CCM Faculty Advisory Council will review the applications, deliberate, and vote on one or more scholarship recipients depending on available funding.



Instructions for Applying

In a cover letter, please include the following information:

1. Name and UA ID#.
2. What is your current GPA?
3. What is your Major?
4. What portion of the certificate did you complete this past year?
5. What is your current expected graduation date?

Submit a 2-3-page essay that addresses the following questions:

1. What makes you a good candidate for the award/scholarship?
2. How have you participated in CCM/Social Justice Activities? (e.g., Rethinking Race, Rethinking Gender, CCM Panels, internships, conflict management training)
3. What did you learn regarding conflict transformation and social justice from the events you attended?
4. What did you learn from your participation in other Conflict Transformation and or Social Justice efforts, if applicable?
5. How would the award/scholarship help you complete the certificate?



“The Center for Conflict Management has allowed me to connect with other students and UA staff, actively participate in event planning, and attend local demonstrations or lectures on communication, conflict, and social subjects.” - CCM Scholarship Winner, Spring 2022



Demonstrate progress toward the completion of certificate classes to be considered part of our community and a candidate for scholarship funds.

Our goal is to assist you in better understanding the nature of conflict and the various ways we might transform, prevent, resolve, or reduce the harms associated with conflict—from interpersonal to international.

Get Started. To join the CCM community, get in touch with the CCM Director (rp32@uakron.edu). Plan to meet with the Director to discuss the certificate as one of your first steps. You should send an electronic copy of the Add Certificate Form to the Director to sign then send it to your Advisor to be added to your DPR.

Substitutions. We do not approve substitutions for the core class (Social Justice SOCIO 200). We will consider other course substitution requests on a case-by-case basis, though we strongly discourage more than one substitution. Substitutions must be approved by the Director.



You Can Do It!!!

About the Director



Dr. Peralta is a Professor of Sociology, a first-generation Hispanic scholar, and a member of the LGBTQ+ community.

He earned his BA in Psychology at the University of New Mexico and his MA and Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of Delaware. Dr. Peralta went on to hold a Postdoctoral Position at The University of Wisconsin, in the Department of Family Medicine and then served as a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Justice, Law, and Society Department at American University in Washington DC before coming to UA.

The overarching aim of Dr. Peralta's teaching and research is to examine sources and correlates of substance use behavior, interpersonal violence, and other forms of health-risk and criminal behavior via both qualitative and quantitative methods using Sociology of Gender and Feminist Perspectives to frame his work. Specifically, Dr. Peralta's past and current work rely on testing and developing criminological and sociological theories to better understand heavy episodic drinking behavior, prescription drug use, other forms of substance use behavior, intimate partner violence, and other forms of interpersonal violence.

To date, Dr. Peralta has published over 30 peer-reviewed articles that examine the influence of sociological phenomena such as gender identity (i.e., attitudes, beliefs, characteristics, and expectations of what it means to be male or female) stigma, and racial discrimination on alcohol use and other forms of drug use and instances of interpersonal violence.

One of his recent research initiatives is the study of health and health care for persons who were formerly imprisoned. The goal of this project is to document the perceptions and experiences with health, health care, and interpersonal violence among former prison inmates. The successful reentry of returning citizens into society remains an important goal for the community, healthcare, and criminal justice professionals. An important component of reintegration is assessing health, health care, and interpersonal violence experiences among inmates during and after release from prison.

Dr. Peralta's long-term research goals include conducting gender-informed research to inform and enhance substance use prevention, treatment, and interventions targeting at-risk adolescents and young adults, and returning citizens.

Research Support

Robert L. Peralta. Funded. 2018. National Institute on Drug Abuse. "Sexual identity, sexual attraction, and ethnicity as risk factors for drug use? A multi-level analysis of nationally representative data." NIDA R25 parent grant (R25DA030310) with Michigan State University. Total Project Costs \$23,000. (R. L. Peralta, Principal Investigator).

Robert I. Peralta. Funded. 2018. "Perceptions and experiences of health care and interpersonal violence among female former inmates: A qualitative study." Faculty Research Grant (FRG) # 1846: The University of Akron, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (R. L. Peralta, Principal Investigator).

Robert L. Peralta. Funded. 2010. "Unraveling the Embodied Meaning of Crime and Deviance Categorization: A Qualitative Study of Attributions Toward and Characterizations of Discredited Behavior and Identities." Faculty Research Grant (FRG) # 1735: The University of Akron, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (R. L. Peralta, Principal Investigator).

Robert L. Peralta. Funded. 2007. "Alcohol Use among College Youth: The Impact of Race and Gender" FRG #1667: The University of Akron, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (R. L. Peralta, Principal Investigator).

Robert L. Peralta. Funded. 2005. "Alcohol-Related Intimate Partner Violence within High-Risk Populations: Implications for Health Disparity Research" FRG #1613: The University of Akron, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (R. L. Peralta, Principal Investigator).





The University of Akron
Center for Conflict Management

Join Us!



"I joined the Center for Conflict Management's certificate program in hopes of learning techniques that I could use in my everyday life and future career as a teacher. I have learned how to effectively communicate with others and implement strategies to productively handle conflict. I have also been able to meet with fellow CCM students and Dr. Peralta to discuss the future of the program and how it can appeal to students. The center truly cares about its students and their success, and it is an amazing opportunity to be able to help advance the program. There are many opportunities to become involved, regardless of your major." -Middle-Level Education Social Studies and Language Arts Major, Spanish Minor, & Conflict Transformation & Social Justice Certificate Student



CCM Certificate Form



CCM Discord



Sociology Department



