FAQ: LAKE FOREST COLLEGE IN THE LOOP

1. Is it possible to participate in the Program while commuting back to the Lake Forest College campus for a senior seminar course?

Yes. In The Loop is all about providing both “immersion” (in Chicago) and flexibility. While we expect that the great majority of students will follow the classic pattern of taking two courses in the city—either the ITL Option (LFC-taught In The Loop courses) or the Partner Option (Roosevelt/Columbia College/School of the Art Institute/ACM Chicago option)—some students may have specific academic requirements that they must fulfill.

The Loop wants to accommodate such students. So if you must return to campus for a senior seminar or other required courses that you cannot take at another time, you will be able to do so, though we ask that students who need to commute back to campus do so for no more than two days per week.

The bottom line is that all students must live at The Flats and must complete an internship. The other academic credits can be suited to students’ particular needs.

2. Can I do my thesis while enrolled in the Program?

Yes.

3. Will my financial aid transfer?

Yes.

4. Can I study off campus and participate in the Loop program in different semesters, or do I have to choose between either studying off campus in another program and the Loop?

You do not have to choose—you will likely be able to do both. The Loop is an off-campus program in that the Office of Off-Campus Programs coordinates applications, but the Loop is not counted against any other limitations in the number of semesters you may study off campus.

These are the limits:
If you study off campus in two non-Loop semesters, you may participate in the Loop for a maximum of one semester.

If you study off campus in one non-Loop semester, you may participate in the Loop for a maximum of two semesters.

Also, all financial aid will automatically transfer to the Loop. Many students do the Loop and Beijing or the Loop and New Zealand. These need not be in the same academic year.

5. **Can I stay in the Loop for more than one semester?**

   Yes. So long as your program of academic study works with the Loop. You need approval from the Office of Off-Campus Programs and your academic advisor; further, preference is always given in the Loop to new students. Even so, students do stay for an entire academic year, or repeat the program in two non-adjacent semesters.

   See the question above for more specifics.

6. **Will I be able to take courses at one of the Partner Institutions if I am participating in the Program during my last college semester?**

   Yes. Students participating in the Loop program are exempt from the “final four credits must be Lake Forest College credits” rule and are therefore not required to file an appeal should they opt to take courses at one of our Partner Institutions.

7. **Can I take courses as part of the Partner Option (Columbia, Roosevelt, the School of the Art Institute, ACM Chicago) that fulfill my General Education requirements?**

   Yes.

8. **Can I take courses at another college/university in Chicago besides Columbia, Roosevelt, the School of the Art Institute, or the ACM Chicago program?**

   No.

9. **Can I take courses at more than one Partner institution?**

   No, unless you choose an ACM seminar. In that case, only, you may take one additional course from Columbia, Roosevelt, or the School of the Art Institute.
10. Can I participate in the program spring semester of my senior year?

Yes.

11. Is there a required deposit to participate in the Loop program?

Yes. There is a required $500 deposit to participate in the Loop program ($500: One Semester/$1,000: Two Semesters). This deposit ensures us that you are committed to the Program, and is not refundable.

12. How to I apply to the Loop program?

Your first step is to contact Ashley Sinclair, Director of Off-Campus Programs, who will take you through the application process. It is also a good idea to discuss your participating in the Program with your Academic Advisor.

Internships

1. How do I go about finding an internship in the city?

Internships can be generated in two ways: (1) our Faculty Internship Supervisors (see below) may be able to suggest specific internships, or (2) you may be able to use your own resources (contacts, etc.) to secure an internship. In all cases, your internship must be approved by your Faculty Internship Supervisor, your Academic Advisor, the Director of the Loop, and the Director of the Career Advancement Center. Your Faculty Internship Supervisor will facilitate the approval and registration process.

Faculty Internship Supervisors:

Communication and Education: Helene DeGross
Economics/Business/Finance/Mathematics/Computer Science: George Seyk
Humanities (Art, English, Music, Philosophy, Theater): Victoria Beagle
Natural Sciences & Pre-Health (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Studies): Lynn Westley
Psychology: Kathryn Dohrmann
Social Sciences/Humanities (Politics, Sociology and Anthropology, Foreign Languages, History, Religion): Smret Smith
2. How soon after I’ve been accepted into the Loop should I start looking for an internship?

As soon as possible. It is never too early to start looking for an internship.

3. Do I have to participate in an internship while doing the Loop program?

Yes. Participating in an internship is a required component of the Program. All students will complete a two-credit internship. Exceptions must be approved by the Director of the Loop.

4. What happens if I cannot secure an internship while participating in the Loop program?

With help from the Faculty Internship Supervisor, the Director of the Loop, the Loop Internship Coordinator, and the Director of Career Services, every student who has participated in the Loop program has secured an internship.

5. Where should my internship be located?

Plan carefully. Consider the time and expense of the commute from the Loop campus at Congress and Wabash.

All Loop internships must be in the City of Chicago. Appeals for internships outside the city limits are unlikely to be approved, excepting extraordinary circumstances.

Appeals must be submitted in writing to the Director of the Loop program no later than the Add/Drop deadline each semester.

6. Will my two-credit Loop internship count against the College’s three-credit internship rule?

Yes. Students who wish to complete more than three-credits of internship experience (excepting internships in approved overseas off-campus programs) must file an academic appeal. Please discuss your individual situation with the Director of the Loop.

7. What if I need help with/have questions regarding navigating my internship and my Faculty Internship Supervisor is unavailable?

Each year, the Loop Internship Coordinator serves as your liaison for all internship matters “on the ground.” The coordinator is currently George Seyk (seyk@lakeforest.edu), and he holds regular office hours in the Loop.
1. Will I have a single bedroom at The Flats? Can I choose whom I live with?

All but one of the rooms at The Flats are double occupancy. Room assignments will be made through a system similar to the room selection process on campus each spring. Students may request to live with each other but roommate requests must be mutual. To the extent possible, we will try to accommodate suitemate preferences.

2. What options will I have regarding a meal plan?

Students participating in the Program will be given a meal spending allotment. This meal allotment will be paid out in equal installments every two weeks throughout the semester. The money will be directly deposited into the students’ checking account, which will allow them to purchase groceries at local grocery stores and then bring those groceries back to their residence hall kitchen to cook/eat.

We know from long experience that the amount suitable to eat well and comfortably while you are in the Loop. We recommend sharing meals with roommates, suitemates, and floor-mates, and asking the Residence Director for assistance with questions about where to shop and how to maximize your budget, etc.

Students also have the option to opt-out of this distribution and receive all meal funds at the start of the semester.

3. Is there parking available at/nearby The Flats?

Private parking lots exist nearby, but they are very expensive. We strongly advise against having a car in the city—it will quickly prove to be an expensive hassle.

4. What about transportation? Do you offer students the U-Pass?

Yes. All students participating in the Loop program receive a U-Pass.

5. Do I have to live at The Flats while participating in the Loop program?

Yes.
6. What about if I am a commuter who already lives in the city?

Unfortunately, we are not able to accommodate students who wish to live outside of Loop housing. There are no exceptions to this policy.

7. Where exactly do students live at The Flats?

Students live on the 14th and 15th floors of The Flats.

The Flats
829 S. Wabash, Chicago, IL 60605
theflats.eastwest.edu

8. What is the suite set-up at The Flats?

Each suite has a common living space, a full kitchen and bathroom, and either two double-occupancy rooms or three double-occupancy rooms. There is one single bedroom suite for which differential pricing will apply as it does on campus.

9. Is alcohol allowed at The Flats?

Yes, but only for those students over the age of 21.

10. Will I have access to Health Services and the Sports Center back on campus?

Yes. This is a change from past practice. The Loop generally discourages you from regular reverse commuting to campus unless you have an unavoidable academic reason for doing so.

If you do have reason to come to campus, these services may be convenient for you.

If you do not have an academic reason to return to campus, these services are certainly still available on an as needed basis. This may be relevant, in particular, when you have an established relationship with a College counseling professional. Additionally, Loop staff can assist in connecting you with resources in the city that can serve your needs in these areas.

11. Will I have access to a gym at The Flats?

Yes. There is a Fitness Center located on the 2nd and 3rd floor of The Flats and it is fully furnished with state-of-the-art equipment, including a weight room, treadmills, elliptical machines, a full-sized basketball court, and more.
12. What if I need access to counseling services in the city?

For urgent care related to medical concerns in the city, please consider one of the following:

**MercyWorks at Dearborn Station**
47 W. Polk Street, Suite G1
Chicago, IL 60605
312.922.3011
Monday-Friday; 8am - 5pm

**Michigan Avenue Immediate Care**
180 N. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60601
312.201.1234
Monday to Friday 8:00am - 6:00pm
Saturday 9:00am - 1:00pm

**South Loop Urgent Care**
1430 S Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60605
312.663.3522
south.loop@yahoo.com
Monday – Friday 9:30am – 7:00pm

**CVS Minute Clinic**
137 S. State Street
Chicago, IL 60603
312-609-1215
Mo Closed/Tu We Th Fr 8:00am – 7:00pm
Saturday: 9:00am - 5:30pm
Sunday: 9:00am - 4:30pm

For urgent care related to emotional/psychological distress:

Lake Forest College Counselor on Call: 847-735-5555
Northwestern Memorial Hospital 24-hour crisis hotline: 312-926-8100
Mental Health Crisis Intervention: 1-800-248-7475
Suicide Prevention/Crisis Intervention: 1-800-248-7475
Chicago Rape Crisis Hotline: 888-293-2080

13. How will I go about becoming oriented with the city?

There will be several mandatory orientations leading up to your semester in the Loop. These orientations will cover important information regarding housing, courses, your internship and more. Laura Williams, Residence Director for the Loop, lives at The Flats and is also available to answer any of your questions. She and the Residence Assistant will work together to arrange various Chicago-related activities and outings throughout your semester in the city.
14. Is there a Residence Assistant in the Loop program? If so, how do I go about applying for the position?

Yes! If you are interested in becoming the Loop Residence Assistant, please reach out to Laura Williams directly (lwilliams@lakeforest.edu).

15. Are there work-study positions in the Loop?

No. This may be an issue if you are an international student, who may only work a College affiliated work-study position,

You will be very busy in the Loop, and we discourage a separate part time job if this is a choice. If financial circumstances require that you work part-time, Loop staff will be happy to discuss the situation with you.

Additionally, some internships do pay. Consult with your Faculty Internship Supervisor on this question.