Community Development Practice, MPS

Are you an aspiring professional looking for direct experience? Learn how to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate a community project, and design a plan of study based on your personal interests and career goals.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MPS Community Development Practice
The MPS program in community development practice trains existing and future practitioners in approaches to developing healthy, sustainable and resilient communities. The program provides students with historical and theoretical foundations, applied research skills and core competencies centered around community building, development practices and the facilitation of democratic and cross-sector collaboration toward social innovation and community solutions. This program allows students to establish an emphasis on topics like housing and economic development, education, social and environmental justice, health, and sustainability, drawing from the extensive expertise of ASU faculty.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** Watts College of Public Service & Community Solutions
- **Location:** Downtown Phoenix campus

Degree Requirements

30 credit hours including the required capstone course (CRD 596)

**Required Core (15 credit hours)**
CRD 570 Foundations of Community Development (3)
CRD 571 The Community Development Process (3)
CRD 573 Local and Regional Development (3)
CRD 574 Applied Research Skills (3)
CRD 577 Community Building Practice (3)

Electives (12 credit hours)

Culminating Experience (3 credit hours)
CRD 596 Community Development Capstone (3)

Additional Curriculum Information
Students are highly encouraged to work with a faculty advisor to establish an area of emphasis. The plan of study includes 12 credit hours of electives so students may gain specialized expertise in a specific area. Some examples include arts, culture and design, business, communications, education, health, housing and economic development, law, social justice, sustainability, urban and environmental planning and urban design. Students should see the academic unit for suggested areas of emphasis and electives.

Students may select electives that are not on the approved electives list with administrative approval and by articulating the relevance to their plan of study.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in any field from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

Applicants are required to submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. three letters of recommendation
4. letter of intent
5. professional resume
6. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency.
Career Opportunities

Graduates are highly competitive for careers in areas such as local governance, nonprofit and philanthropic sectors, as well as for doctoral programs in community development, urban studies, public policy and related fields.

Career opportunities include:

- community development officers
- community health officers
- economic development officers
- housing policy officers
- public policy analysts
- sustainability officers

Contact Information

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