Community Resources and Development, PhD

Are you passionate about building sustainable and healthy communities? You could learn how to make a big impact on community life and dynamics through theories and methods available to you in the small core courses of this program.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: PHD Community Resources and Development

The School of Community Resources and Development offers a graduate program leading to the PhD in community resources and development.

This is a research-intensive doctoral degree program grounded in theory and designed to prepare graduates for research-oriented careers in higher education, governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations and private-sector businesses. The program is based on the concept of building sustainable and healthy communities as the unifying principle in the established focus areas of:

- community studies
- nonprofit leadership and management
- parks, recreation and leisure
- tourism development and management

The theoretical and methodological approaches embedded in this program serve to integrate scholarship in these areas, in order for students to gain a more meaningful understanding of and impact on community life and dynamics.

The program is transdisciplinary in nature. The core faculty engaged in this program are housed in the School of Community Resources and Development. In addition, the program builds on current collaborations with faculty with related research interests from many ASU departments, schools and centers.
At a Glance

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

Degree Requirements

84 credit hours, a written comprehensive exam, an oral comprehensive exam, a prospectus and a dissertation

**Required Core (24 credit hours)**
- CRD 610 Sustainable Communities (3)
- CRD 620 Community Research Methods (3)
- CRD 640 Research Seminar in Community Resources and Development I (3)
- CRD 650 Research Seminar II (3)
- CRD 683 Fieldwork (3)
- REC 502 Statistical and Data Analysis (3)
- REC 555 Theoretical Perspectives in Community Development (3)
- advanced statistics or methods (3)

**Electives or Research (18 credit hours)**

**Culminating Experience (12 credit hours)**
- CRD 799 Dissertation (12)

**Additional Curricular Information**

Up to 30 hours from a previously awarded master’s degree can count toward the doctoral requirements.

All students are advised as a cohort initially by the doctoral program director. Students are required to take 24 credit hours of core coursework, 15 hours of which are with the cohort during the first year and six hours of which are with the cohort during the second year. Students are assigned an individual advisor or mentor at the end of the first year of study. A supervisory committee is also formed at the end of the first year which reflects the interests of the student and faculty.

Each student develops a plan of study in consultation with the doctoral program coordinator, advisor and supervisory committee. Students complete elective coursework, including courses from contributing disciplines, selected in consultation with their advisor to foster the transdisciplinary nature of the degree program. Students also complete at least six credit hours of CRD 792 Research and 12 credit hours of CRD 799 Dissertation. When the majority of coursework has been completed and before dissertation research is started, students must complete a written examination followed by an oral examination. These examinations must be completed within five years of admission.
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 master's degree, in any field, from a regionally accredited institution.

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

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. current and professional resume
4. statement of academic and professional goals
5. GRE test scores
6. three letters of recommendation
7. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information

An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency. International applicants are also required to submit TOEFL or IELTS scores and a financial guarantee statement.

The statement of academic and professional goals should be in sufficient detail to indicate compatibility with the educational objectives and capabilities of the doctoral program.

The recommendation letters may be a mix of academic and professional references, but each must address the applicant's capacity to successfully complete the doctoral program.

Students applying to the program are expected to have from an accredited institution a master's degree which included a master's degree-level research methods and statistics class or classes. If deficiencies exist in community resource and development-related coursework at the master's degree level, appropriate classes are suggested.

Students should see the program website for application deadlines and admission terms.
Applications are reviewed by the admission committee and recommendations for admission are then made by the graduate program director to the dean for the Graduate College.

**Contact Information**

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