Community Resources and Development (Sustainable Communities), MS

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MS Community Resources and Development (Sustainable Communities)

The MS degree in community resources and development with a concentration in sustainable communities is offered by the School of Community Resources and Development at ASU’s Downtown Phoenix campus. This master's degree program is research-oriented. It is designed to prepare graduates for careers in governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations and private-sector businesses by teaching them to analyze and understand critical topics and issues pertinent to the fields of tourism, parks and recreation management, nonprofits and nongovernmental organizations, and sustainable communities.

At a Glance

- College/School: College of Public Service and Community Solutions
- Location: Downtown Phoenix campus

Accelerated Degrees

This degree is also offered in an accelerated format with:

- Parks and Recreation Management, BS
- Parks and Recreation Management (Therapeutic Recreation), BS
- Tourism Development and Management, BS
- Tourism Development and Management (Resort and Hotel Leadership), BS
- Tourism Development and Management (Sustainable Tourism), BS

Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. During their junior and senior years, eligible students will be advised by their academic departments to apply.
Degree Requirements

30 credit hours and a thesis, or
36 credit hours including the required capstone course (CRD 580)

Completion of the master's degree program in community resources and development requires two years of study on average. Students may select a thesis or professional. The thesis option is a research-oriented program and is recommended for students planning to continue graduate studies beyond the master's degree. The professional option is intended for students seeking additional knowledge and expertise relevant to professional career development. Advising and direction in both options are under the direct supervision of an assigned faculty member.

Program Requirements: Thesis Option
The thesis option consists of a minimum of 30 credit hours, including six credit hours of thesis, which must be defended in an oral examination before a supervisory committee of at least three faculty members, one of whom resides in another department.

CRD 500 Research Methods (3)
CRD 502 Statistical and Data Analysis (3)
CRD 552 Critical Issues (3)
CRD 555 Theoretical Perspectives in Community Development (3)
CRD 599 Thesis (6)
CRD 610 Sustainable Communities (3)
electives (3)
advanced inquiry (3)

Select one:
NLM 562 Social Entrepreneurship (3)
NLM 572 Community and Social Innovations (3)

Program Requirements: Professional Option
The professional option consists of 36 credit hours, including six credit hours of applied project course CRD 593. A signed affiliation agreement is required to be on file with the graduate coordinator before registration. The student committee consists of two school faculty members and one community or agency professional.

CRD 500 Research Methods (3)
CRD 502 Statistical and Data Analysis (3)
CRD 530 Community Services Management (3)
CRD 552 Critical Issues (3)
CRD 555 Theoretical Perspectives in Community Development (3)
CRD 593 Applied Project (6)
CRD 610 Sustainable Communities (3)
electives (9)

Select one:
NLM 562 Social Entrepreneurship (3)
NLM 572 Community and Social Innovations (3)

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the 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 a related discipline, from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of a student's 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. statement of professional and academic goals
4. GRE scores
5. three letters of recommendation
6. current resume
7. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information

An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency.

Only complete application files are reviewed or considered for admission. Applicants without undergraduate academic work in related disciplines are required to take six credit hours of deficiency coursework in addition to the master's degree requirements. Deficiency coursework may be taken in conjunction with master's degree classes.

Applicants should see the program website for application deadlines.
Contact Information

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