Community Resources and Development, MS

With your commitment to reshaping your community, your passion for change and your aspirations for an influential career, you can prepare to be an agile, results-driven leader. Through this program's electives and four concentrations, you can align your degree with your goals while unlocking opportunities across diverse communities.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MS Community Resources and Development
The MS in community resources and development is offered by the School of Community Resources and Development.

The master's degree program prepares students 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.

Students choose between two academic options: the thesis or the professional option.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** [Watts College of Public Service & Community Solution](#)
- **Location:** [Downtown Phoenix campus](#)

Accelerated Program Options
This program allows students to obtain both a bachelor's and master's degree in as little as five years. It is offered as an accelerated bachelor's and master's degree with:

- **Community Development, BA**
- **Community Sports Management, BS**
- **Community Sports Management (Events), BS**
- **Nonprofit Leadership and Management, BS**
- **Nonprofit Leadership and Management (American Indian Studies), BS**
- **Parks and Recreation Management, BS**
- **Parks and Recreation Management (Therapeutic Recreation), BS**
- **Tourism Development and Management, BS**
- **Tourism Development and Management (Meetings and Events), 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 year, eligible students are advised by their academic departments to apply.

**Degree Requirements**

- 30 credit hours and a thesis, or
- 36 credit hours including the required applied project course (CRD 593)

**Required Core (15 credit hours)**
- CRD 500 Research Methods (3)
- CRD 502 Statistical and Data Analysis (3)
- CRD 530 Community Services Management (3) or advanced inquiry course (3)
- CRD 552 Critical Issues (3)
- CRD 555 Theoretical Perspectives in Community Development (3)

**Electives (9 or 15 credit hours)**

**Culminating Experience (6 credit hours)**
- CRD 593 Applied Project (6) or
- CRD 599 Thesis (6)

**Additional Curriculum Information**

Completion of the master's degree in community resources and development requires two years of study, on the average.

Students may select a thesis or applied project. The thesis option is a research-oriented program and is recommended for students planning to continue graduate studies beyond the master's degree. The applied project 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.
Students in the applied project option take CRD 530 as part of their core coursework and 15 credit hours of electives.

Students in the thesis option take an advanced inquiry course as part of their core coursework and nine credit hours of electives. The thesis must be defended in an oral examination before a supervisory committee of at least three faculty members, one of whom resides in another department.

**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 program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (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. three letters of recommendation
5. current 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.

International applicants are also required to submit TOEFL or IELTS scores and a financial guarantee statement.

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.
Application Deadlines

Fall

Spring

Career Opportunities

Career opportunities after graduation include:

- tourism officers
- parks and recreation officers
- nonprofit and nongovernmental organization officers
- community services officers

Contact Information

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