Community Resources and Development, MS

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MS Community Resources and Development

The MS degree 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 Degrees

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:

- Nonprofit Leadership and Management, BS
- 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 year, eligible students will be advised by their academic departments to apply.

**Degree Requirements**

30 credit hours and a thesis, or  
36 credit hours and a master's research paper

**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 students in the thesis option will instead take an advanced inquiry course.

Students in the thesis option take nine credit hours of elective coursework, and students in the applied project option take 15 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 of a 3.00 cumulative 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 of 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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