THE PROGRAM

The Critical Ethnic and Community Studies (CECS) Program is a critical comparative ethnic studies graduate program with signature elements emphasizing transdisciplinarity and the recognition of transnational global-local connections. CECS centers on race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, class, and other social categories related to power and privilege that impact the experiences of both U.S.-born and immigrant members of racialized communities in the United States. The transdisciplinary program brings together scholarly research, cultural expression, and meaningful community partnerships in order to understand the histories and contemporary lives of racialized communities in the United States, their experiences as part of diasporic communities with transnational linkages, and their agency and self-determination. As part of this learning, students engage in critical analysis of how migration—to, from, and within the United States—forms an integral part of the experiences of racially and economically marginalized communities.

OUR APPROACH

Our transdisciplinary approach emphasizes the mobilization of knowledge for social justice. Transdisciplinarity entails integration across relevant disciplines as a means of addressing complex social issues that impact the everyday lives of individuals and communities beyond academia. A highly creative, flexible, and collaborative approach, transdisciplinarity is particularly apt for the social justice mission of CECS and UMass Boston.

CECS aims to develop critical understandings and action skills in students with diverse career goals, providing a core of shared knowledge while enabling students to tailor their programs to meet particular interests. Students receive individual mentoring and advising as part of a community that fosters a collaborative learning environment and meaningful community partnerships to promote student success and contributions to the social, economic, political, and cultural empowerment of racially diverse communities.

CECS Students...

- Work with a racially and ethnically diverse, nationally recognized faculty with expertise in transdisciplinary research and teaching practices that draw from ethnic studies, cultural studies, sociology, anthropology, history, psychology, public health, public policy, gender and sexuality studies, and literary and popular culture studies.
- Join a group of students with diverse life experiences, identities, professional goals, and academic backgrounds committed to promoting social transformation and collective empowerment.
- Individualize their programs in order to develop more-focused understandings and skills in analysis, research, program development, program evaluation, education, and other applications necessary for pursuing a wide array of careers.
- Foster skills and experience partnering with community-based organizations working with racially and economically marginalized communities to mobilize strengths promoting resilience, growth, and social justice.
- Benefit from close mentoring in developing a capstone project that integrates student learning from the curriculum in relation to a real issue or challenge of the student’s choice.

About UMass Boston

The University of Massachusetts Boston, metropolitan Boston’s only public university, offers its diverse student population both an intimate learning environment and the rich experience of a great U.S. city. UMass Boston’s eleven colleges and graduate school serve nearly 17,000 students. UMass Boston is also a federally recognized Minority Serving Institution, designated by the U.S. Department of Education as an Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution. Approximately 60% of students at UMass Boston are first-generation college students. To learn more about UMass Boston, visit www.umb.edu.

Fact Sheet

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

MS in Critical Ethnic and Community Studies

A graduate program for those seeking knowledge and skills to promote social justice

www.umb.edu/cecs
PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The CECS Program consists of 37 to 40 credits, distributed over 6 core courses, an individualized sequence of 5 electives, and a minimum of 6 credits devoted to a capstone project and associated seminar.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program of Study</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TCCS 600: Professional Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCCS 610: Topics in Transnational Cultural and Community Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCCS 611: Migration and Diaspora</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>TCCS 612: Community Formation and Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCCS 622: Transdisciplinary Research in Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCCS 623: Transdisciplinary Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCCS 698: MS Capstone Project</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits for MS</strong></td>
<td><strong>37</strong></td>
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Individualized Programming: Electives and Certificates

Five electives build upon the core curriculum and complement students' interests and professional goals. Students may develop a unique sequence of electives or complete a CECS-approved graduate certificate program. Electives for CECS include graduate courses from within CECS as well as courses from other graduate disciplines or programs, such as Global Inclusion and Social Development, Conflict Resolution, American Studies, Environmental Sciences, Gerontology, Urban Planning and Community Development, or Applied Sociology. Alternatively, CECS offers the unique opportunity of fulfilling the elective sequence through the completion of a graduate certificate (at least 15 credits) in one of various areas, including:

- Human Rights
- Conflict Resolution
- Survey Research
- Gender, Leadership, and Public Policy

For a current list of CECS-approved electives and certificate programs see the program’s website.

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

A completed application includes:

- A statement of purpose and interest in CECS (approximately 1,500 words).
- Two letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with the applicant’s interests and who can evaluate the potential for sustained graduate study. At least one letter must be from a faculty member with whom the applicant is studying or has studied.
- Additional supporting materials (e.g., transcripts, resume, writing sample, test scores).
- An application fee of $60 (domestic applicants) or $100 (international applicants).

Applications are due March 1. Applications received after that date will be reviewed on a space-available basis. For additional details, see the program website [www.umb.edu/cecs](http://www.umb.edu/cecs).

Apply online at [www.umb.edu/admissions/grad/apply](http://www.umb.edu/admissions/grad/apply). For additional information, send an email to CECS.program@umb.edu.