Core Faculty

Our faculty members are professionals and scholars with advanced degrees in community and public health, urban planning, and public policy. From diverse backgrounds, they are recognized leaders in the fields of global health and economic development research and practice. In keeping with their community development specialty, our faculty play an active role in university and community partnerships.

Luis Aponte-Parés, PhD, Urban Planning, Columbia University: Latino community development in post-industrial urban environments; activism and social/institutional history in the Puerto Rican/Latino communities

Lorena M. Estrada-Martínez, PhD, MPH, Health Behavior and Health Education, University of Michigan: Social determinants of public health disparities, Latino health, mental health and behavioral outcomes, child and adolescent health

Chi-kan Richard Hung, PhD, Public Policy, Indiana University: Public finance, research methodology, microfinance and economic development in immigrant and minority populations

Anna Madison, PhD, Urban Affairs and Public Policy, University of Southern California: Local governance and community empowerment, organization capacity building, evaluation research to improve program practice

C. Eduardo Siqueira, ScD, University of Massachusetts, Lowell; MD, School of Medicine, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro; MPH, Johns Hopkins University, Community development and public policy, global and immigrant public health, occupational health and safety

Alan Wiig, PhD, Geography-Urban Studies, Temple University: Urban governance and policy making, urban infrastructure, digital inclusion and reducing the digital divide, civic engagement, the entrepreneurial economy and community development in de-industrialized cities

About the College

The College of Public and Community Service (CPCS), founded in 1972, is a recognized leader in education to advance the goals of social and economic justice. It forges partnerships with public agencies and community and labor organizations to enhance students’ educational opportunities and support community needs. CPCS graduates are prepared to make a difference in their own lives, in the communities in which they live, and beyond.

For further information about the Community Development Bachelor of Arts Program, please contact the College of Public and Community Service:

communitydevelopment@umb.edu
617.287.7175

Undergraduate Program in Community Development

Empowering Careers: Building Healthy, Safe, and Sustainable Communities
What Is Community Development?

The field of community development facilitates strategic investment in people, organizations, and infrastructure. It involves a holistic approach to examining the social, political, and economic impacts linked to building safe, healthy, and sustainable communities. Grounded in the democratic values of local empowerment for social change, it facilitates and promotes the strengthening of communities through collaborative practices.

The Bachelor of Arts in Community Development Program

Requirements: A combination of College of Public and Community Service foundation courses and ten major courses, which include community development core courses and a concentration

Major Concentrations:

- **Community Health**—Examines community wellness issues and researches ways to address public health challenges
- **Economic Development**—Emphasizes workforce development, education, and entrepreneurial initiatives in communities

Program Features:

- Uses a collaborative learning approach and project-based research
- Offers small class sizes and ample opportunity to engage with the community
- Teaches technical skills in the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Provides a professional pathway for graduates seeking to effect change in local and global communities

Our Students

The field of community development attracts students interested in a firm foundation in the core values of local governance, social justice, and civic engagement. Along with technical expertise, graduates of the program have the skills needed to meet the development challenges of the 21st century. High school graduates, community college graduates, and working professionals bring diverse perspectives and experiences to the program.

Internship and Practicum Experience

Field-based learning provides students with the opportunity to gain professional experience in community development. By pursuing an internship in their area of interest, students learn to translate theory into practice and begin to pursue careers in this growing field. Through an internship or practicum in an organization such as a community development corporation or agency, students apply their core knowledge and skills to work situations and build a network of contacts in the field before they graduate.

Careers

Community development practitioners work in a variety of settings, including not-for-profit organizations, community development corporations, financial institutions, government agencies, and grassroots organizations.

Some typical job titles held by our graduates are the following:

- Project Development Manager
- Community Engagement Facilitator
- Property Manager
- Community Organizer
- Health Educator
- Economic Development Specialist

“Good community development practice enables all community members to meaningfully influence the decisions that affect their lives.”