The BA in Community Development

The Community Development B.A. prepares competent professionals to work with communities to resolve issues of economic development, employment, education, health and well-being, environmental safety and housing.

Grounded in the democratic values of local empowerment for social change, the program places emphasis on the role of community development practitioners to facilitate and promote community empowerment through collaborative practices. Community Development professionals work in diverse settings, including non-profit organizations, community development corporations, economic development corporations, philanthropic organizations, financial institutions, education agencies, government agencies and grassroots organizations. Within these settings, they carry out different roles, including community organizers, community development planners and development managers, health educators and workers, environmental health specialists, housing managers, land use management specialists, and economic development specialists.

The Program

The B.A. Program in Community Development (CD) at UMass Boston's College of Public and Community Service (CPCS) prepares students for entry and mid-level positions in community development and for graduate education in community development and planning. Program graduates acquire the intellectual foundation, critical, analytical and interpersonal skills to work with residents to develop healthy, safe, sustainable communities.

Acquired Skills and Knowledge

- Organization and management of resources
- Community research and analysis
- Geographic Information System (GIS) data mapping
- Developing and supporting collaborative work
- Understanding of local and global community development perspectives

The Curriculum

The Community Development curriculum provides an introduction to the history, theories, methods and approaches to community development; critical inquiry knowledge and skills applicable to innovation and community problem solving; communication and interpersonal skills to work with communities and mastery through field-experience and project-based learning. The curriculum is divided into two components, core knowledge and skills (15 credits) and an area of concentration (15 credits). Students may select the community health or economic development concentration.

Core Courses

CDVCTR201 History and Theory of Community Development
EEOS281 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems
CDVCTR301 Research Methods and Community Analysis
CDVCTR303 Quantitative Methods for Community Development
CDVCTR401 Comparative Methods for Community Development

Community Health Concentration

CDVCTR210 Community Health and Environment
CDVCTR310 Social Determinants of Health
CDVCTR410 Socioeconomic Inequalities in Health
CDVCTR419 Community Health Practicum (2 semesters)

Economic Development Concentration

ECON212G Economics of the Metropolitan Area
CDVCTR333 Community Economic Development in the United States
CDVCTR355 Global Community Economic Development
CDVCTR457 Internship Seminar
CDVCTR459 Capstone in Community Economic Development

Electives

Students are free to take elective courses that complement their work in the major, or satisfy any other interests they may have. The rich resources of the college and the university are open to them.

Degree Requirements

Community Development majors must complete 120 credits, at least 30 of them at UMass Boston. Students must meet CPCS Foundation requirements and the university's general education requirements. Most general education requirements, but not all, can be met with transferred credits.

Internships and Service-Learning

Outside the classroom, students will engage in organized partnerships to apply knowledge and skills learned in the classroom to community development practice.

To Apply

- visit www.umb.edu/admissions
- email enrollment.info@umb.edu
- call 617.287.6000

For More Information

- visit www.cpcs.umb.edu
- email: communitydevelopment@umb.edu
- call 617.287.7175

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