



GRADUATE PROGRAM IN COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Online graduate study in community and economic development

Knowledgeable leaders, professional staff, and citizens who understand and can apply the theories and practices of community and economic development are vital to enhancing quality of life in our communities. We offer online Master of Professional Studies (M.P.S.) and graduate certificate programs in community and economic development to educate professionals who assume roles that help establish and maintain viable and sustainable communities. Our online graduate programs in community and economic development balance theory and its practical application to real-life opportunities and challenges faced by communities today. The flexibility of these online accredited programs allows students to balance life and academics through an easy-to-use online learning system, while retaining the benefits of participating in a class with other students and faculty.

Our graduate program in community and economic development can prepare you to master the multidimensional challenges faced in community and economic development practice. In the M.P.S. program, students can embrace opportunities to work in a range of substantive areas with practical applications within communities, governmental and nonprofit organizations, and businesses. Instruction in this program emphasizes key themes that include:

- economic planning and development
- municipal finance, land use, and population change
- community structure, organization, and leadership
- tools and techniques in community development
- community decision-making and capacity building

The final paper or internship, the capstone experience of the M.P.S. program, provides students with an opportunity to further develop and apply their knowledge in a specific substantive area chosen by the student.





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Our students and graduates apply their knowledge to various aspects of community and economic development in positions that include:

- housing analyst
- development coordinator for environmental organizations
- director and staff of economic development corporations and planning organizations/agencies
- economic and community development extension educator and research associate
- community development consultant
- managers and staff with government community development agencies and private sector companies
- membership and volunteer coordinator
- project manager for regional development council
- staff in legislative and state and local government development offices
- workforce development specialist

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Faculty involved in the program have active research projects in:

- entrepreneurship success
- implications of Marcellus shale development for families and communities
- land-use change and implications for communities
- rural youth outmigration and youth educational, occupational, and residential aspirations
- sustainable farming in rural-urban transition areas
- sustainable forests and forestry
- telecommunications and rural development
- the role of social capital in successful economic development
- the role of the informal economy in rural livelihoods

ANNUAL SUMMER INSTITUTE

The Community and Economic Development graduate program sponsors an annual Summer Institute on the University Park campus. The Summer Institute is an opportunity for current students and alumni of the Penn State Community and Economic Development graduate program, community development professionals, concerned citizens, and faculty to collaborate and examine critical issues in community and economic development.

If you're ready for graduate study in community and economic development, Penn State can help you move ahead.

Visit aese.psu.edu/graduateprograms/cedev

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

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