COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Graduate Program Head  
Laszlo Kulcsar

Program Code  
CEDEV

Campus(es)  
World Campus

Degrees Conferred  
Master of Professional Studies (M.P.S.)

The Graduate Faculty

View (https://secure.gradsch.psu.edu/gpms/?searchType=fac&prog=CEDEV)

The Master of Professional Studies in Community and Economic Development (M.P.S. CEDEV) is a 30-credit terminal master's degree program that emphasizes an interdisciplinary approach to community and economic development. The program balances theory and practice. Courses are taught in M.P.S. CEDEV use a blend of web technology, print, and other media to provide an effective balance of flexibility and interaction. Individuals who currently work with, or are interested in working with communities, community organizations and stakeholders, or on a range of community and economic development issues at the state or national levels would benefit from this program.

Instruction in the MPS CEDEV program emphasizes key themes that include:

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

Students in Community and Economic Development gain a broad understanding of the dynamics of communities and their social, economic, and political systems. The program emphasizes teaching the theory, skills, and tools that allow practitioners to address the important issues in development practice.

Graduates of the Community and Economic Development program have a wide range of career opportunities, including:

- local and state government,
- planning commissions,
- major corporations,
- non-governmental organizations, and
- consulting firms.

Admission Requirements

Applicants apply for admission to the program via the Graduate School application for admission (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-admissions/how-to-apply/). Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-700 Professional Degree Policies (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/).

Scores from the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) are not required for admission to the M.P.S. CEDEV program.

Prerequisites for the master's program include 12 credits in rural sociology, sociology, agricultural economics, or other social and behavioral sciences at the discretion of the graduate program. If the entering student does not have these prerequisites, they must be made up at the University during the early part of the master's program. Credits obtained to fulfill entry and pre-program requirements cannot be applied towards requirements for the degree.

Degree Requirements

Master of Professional Studies (M.P.S.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-700 Professional Degree Policies (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/).

The MPS CEDEV program requires the completion of seven core courses (21 credits) in which students learn and apply sociological and economic concepts to issues in community and economic development. The courses offer examples and opportunities to apply these concepts to real issues facing communities and rural regions. Two of the core courses (6 credits) emphasize statistical methods and tools and techniques useful to practitioners in community and economic development, or to work toward additional certifications. All students are required to satisfy one of two requirements: (1) completion of a Master's paper (at least 3 credits) that integrates theory and practice, or (2) completion of a series of Comprehensive Exam essays on questions from each of the required courses.

The M.P.S. degree requires a minimum of 30 credits at the 400, 500, or 800 level, with a minimum of 18 credits at the 500 or 800 level, and at least 6 credits at the 500 level. All students complete the required M.P.S. CEDEV core program of 15 credits of community and economic development courses, statistics, and methods.
## Learning Outcomes

### KNOW
Graduates will demonstrate an understanding of basic economic and sociological theory, data collection and analytical techniques, and research methodologies at a level sufficient to work to solve problems and issues in their region or local community. They will also demonstrate an understanding of the systems and processes that define a region and community.

### APPLY/CREATE
Graduates will be able to develop a research methodology and study in detail a problem or issue experienced by their region or local community. They will be able to make recommendations for specific programs and policies to address both economic and social issues and in an effort to improve the quality of life in their region or community.

### COMMUNICATE
Graduates will be able to effectively convey to others the basic theories and research in community and economic development and related fields through oral and written communications.

### THINK
Graduates will be able to review and critically analyze studies and work from multiple disciplines and apply this work to problems and issues in their region or local community. They will be able to differentiate between economic and social systems within their regions and communities.

### PROF. PRACTICE
Nearly all of our students already have jobs in a profession directly related to community and economic development. Our graduates will demonstrate that they have developed sufficient skills to continue to contribute to their profession. They will be able to interact productively in an ethical manner with other professionals and community leaders and demonstrate a commitment to active citizenship within their community.
## Contact

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