

# COMMUNITY, ENVIRONMENT, AND DEVELOPMENT, B.S.

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**Begin Campus:** Any Penn State Campus

**End Campus:** University Park

## Program Learning Objectives

- **Critical Thinking Skills and Scholarship:** Read, interpret and critically analyze a broad range of community, environment and development sources.
  - Use a combination of economic and sociological analytical tools to understand and explain complex community, environment, and development issues, including their contested and uncertain nature.
  - Explain community political and power structures, social dynamics, inequity, diverse value systems, ideologies, and cultures.
  - Use basic economic concepts of scarcity, choice, supply, and demand to explain typical community, environment, and development problems.
  - Describe important community, environment, and development policy issues occurring at community, state, national, and international levels.
  - Explain the connections between individuals, households, communities, and regions in a globalizing world, including the centrality of human interdependence and relationships for understanding community, environment, and development issues.
  - Integrate and synthesize these Learning Objectives, recognizing their interdependence and connections.
- **Research Skills:** Think systemically and construct logical arguments in research design and research activities.
  - Identify and describe one's power and privilege in applied research and how these affect research design and process, findings, implications and impacts in the community.
  - Describe the benefit of using research methodologies based upon community perspectives and knowledge, and the implications of these methodologies for selection and use of appropriate research methods.
  - Use basic data collection research skills, including interviews, focus groups, and surveys.
  - Use basic qualitative and quantitative research skills, including coding, descriptive secondary data analysis, and bivariate and multivariate statistical analyses.
  - Use basic mapping analysis skills.
  - Access, download, analyze and interpret common economic and social secondary data.
  - Measure inequality using quantitative and social qualitative measures.
  - Gain experience in designing and conducting community-based participatory research.
- **Team and Community Engagement Skills:** Work effectively as a member of a team.
  - Understand and gain experience with community engagement strategy and process.
  - Explain the politics of engagement, and engagement as politics and power shifting, and its implications for CED-related work.
- Distinguish between democracy as the everyday politics of civic or public work involving citizens versus partisan party politics.
- Use methods and techniques for effective community engagement, including involving inclusion/representation of the multiple facets of the community, facilitation, meeting management, SWOT analysis, and brainstorming.
- Understand allyship and advocacy work and use skills and sensitivity to work effectively with and across varied groups and individuals.
- **Communication & Civic Skills:** Discuss ideas confidently and freely in an academic fashion, both with faculty and with other students.
  - Describe the power of narrative, including how narrative is used to shape perceptions of an issue.
  - Determine appropriate methods to develop strong and inclusive communication with stakeholders, building greater levels of understanding, engagement, and equity.
  - Write clear and coherent research papers and essays, appropriate for the audience.
  - Competently and confidently make oral presentations in diverse professional and applied situations.
  - Develop, practice and hone active listening skills.
  - Understand, gain experience with, and develop capability to use questions to communicate ideas, understand community issues, and individual, group, and community capacity.
- **Equity & Inclusion:** Describe how inequity can hinder the emergence of community and community capacity, the influence that the history of inequity currently has on individuals and community, and how inequality currently manifests itself.
  - Describe how societal outcomes and the choices available to individuals are shaped by human interdependence, politics and public choice, and power.
  - Use normative ethics and social science tools to identify inequalities at the community level, diagnose their nature, and develop inclusive and engaged approaches for overcoming these.