

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PRACTICE (CSPP)

Degree offered: M.A.

The Carsey School of Public Policy's public service graduate degrees offer a unique combination of academic rigor and real-life expertise to prepare you for a career with impact. Geared toward working professionals, our M.A in Community Development Policy and Practice (MCD) will equip you for a myriad of careers and jobs while preparing you through real-world training and connecting you to community-based partners and practitioners. You'll learn the basis of community engagement and establish a foundation in sustainable and effective community development practices, all while learning to apply these skill sets across different sectors, including housing, health, finance, business development and more.

In our online community development degree, you'll learn from seasoned practitioners in economics, finance, organizational management, health and safety, and sustainable development. You'll apply effective engagement and problem-solving techniques while working directly with a community on a four-term capstone project. You'll also grow your professional network, connecting with respected experts across disciplines and continents. Designed for working professionals, this community development program enables you to earn your degree in just 14 months. No GRE is required for this program.

<https://carsey.unh.edu/community-development-policy-practice-ma>

Programs

- [Community Development Policy and Practice \(M.A.\)](#)

Courses

Development Policy and Practice (DPP)

DPP 901 - Integrative Approaches to Development Policy and Practice Credits: 3

This course aims to provide students with a general introduction to the basic core competencies and practical skills required of a "generalist" development practitioner and serves as the foundation course for the curriculum. Case studies will be used to demonstrate the interconnectedness of natural sciences and engineering, social science, health sciences, and management, especially as they relate to communities.

Grade Mode: Letter Grade

DPP 902 - Economic Analysis for Development Credits: 3

This course provides the practitioner with tools of economic analysis that are necessary for effective community development practice. Drawing upon principles of macroeconomics, the course explores how markets, property rights, political institutions, government policies, environmental conditions and cultural values interact to produce development outcomes.

Grade Mode: Letter Grade

DPP #903 - Global Health

Credits: 3

An analysis of the public process, the development of public health policy in developing countries, and a discussion of specific public health policy issues with cross-country comparisons. This course begins with an analytical framework for analyzing a public health system and process. It is followed by a general introduction to effective health policies in developing countries with examples of specific policies and programs that have been effective.

Grade Mode: Letter Grade

DPP #904 - Environmental Sustainability and Development

Credits: 3

Provides students working at a graduate level but lacking specific background in ecology with an applied perspective on challenges at the interface of rural development and environmental science. By the end of the course, students should be conversant in the languages of large-scale ecosystem, ecology, and conservation biology, and should have a basic working knowledge of the science of carbon and climate change, land use change and deforestation, and the impacts of land use on biodiversity and water quantity/quality.

Grade Mode: Letter Grade

DPP 905 - Fiscal Management for Development Organizations

Credits: 3

Budgeting, goal setting, financial planning and financial analysis for development organizations.

Grade Mode: Letter Grade

DPP 906 - Organizational Management and Leadership

Credits: 3

Combines theory and practical information for students to learn traditional and contemporary organizational and leadership theories and apply them to their experience in organizations particularly non-profit institutions, non-governmental organizations. The course will focus on personal and inter-personal development such as self-awareness, stress and problem solving, interpersonal skills such as supportive communication, power and influence, motivation and conflict management: group skills such as delegation and team building; and leadership. Permission required.

Grade Mode: Letter Grade

DPP 908 - Policy Seminar

Credits: 3

This seminar will reinforce the multidisciplinary breadth and trans-disciplinary perspective of the master's program, providing students with the opportunity to sharpen critical policy analysis skills. The goal of the course is to help students understand the sources of public policy, that is, why we have various public policies and how to produce professional policy analysis.

Grade Mode: Letter Grade

DPP 910 - Leadership and Development

Credits: 2

Leadership and Development emphasizes issues relevant to managing organizations in diverse cultural, socio-economic and political settings. Topics on board governance, resource development, organizational options and communication skills such as marketing, public relations, organizing and conducting meetings will be explored. Permission required.

Grade Mode: Letter Grade

DPP 911 - Environmental Factors in Development Practice

Credits: 1

Students will learn key themes in the integration of environmental, social, and economic systems in community development and consider how to incorporate these themes into their master's community project.

Grade Mode: Letter Grade

DPP 951 - Nuts and Bolts of Microfinance

Credits: 3

This course is designed to provide the participant with an overall understanding of the microfinance institutions including management, planning and monitoring strategies, tools, and systems. Sessions will seek to develop skills and capacity to examine various areas, such as competition, expansion, product development, service delivery and human resource, marketing, and information management systems.

Prereq: Project Design.

Grade Mode: Letter Grade

DPP 953 - Community Medicine and Epidemiology

Credits: 3

Surveys the fundamental principles of epidemiology and its importance as an analytical tool in the fields of public health and policy development to assure the health of populations in the developing world. Emphasis is placed on providing the student with a firm foundation of epidemiological concepts via a historical perspective of the field, measures of disease occurrence and association, practical applications to policy, data sources, and study designs to reduce community health problems. In order for the student to be able to utilize epidemiology as a health management tool, special emphasis will be placed on understanding and applying descriptive and analytical epidemiologic techniques to assess the health of diverse communities. The student will gain an appreciation for the role epidemiology plays in helping to produce and maintain healthy populations on both a local and global scale.

Grade Mode: Letter Grade

DPP #954 - Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems

Credits: 3

Reviews the historical, ecological, economic, social and political aspects of agricultural sustainability principles and practices. Examines the sustainability of various agricultural systems and practices. Examines specific commodity chains - vegetables, grains, meat - in comparative global context. Reviews general concepts governing the functioning of tropical agro-ecosystems in relation to resource availability, ecological sustainability, and socio-economic viability.

Grade Mode: Letter Grade

DPP 956 - Housing Development

Credits: 3

This course provides an introduction to housing policy in the United States, particularly policies designed to produce affordable housing. It explores federal policy related to private, market-rate owner and renter occupied housing; private subsidized housing; and public housing. It also presents state, local, and non-profit led strategies to create and preserve affordable housing, such as fair share requirements and builder's remedies, inclusionary zoning, and community land trusts. Finally, the course provides an overview of the real estate development process including project feasibility, acquisition, finance, construction leasing and management.

Grade Mode: Letter Grade

DPP #958 - Financing Development

Credits: 3

This course examines the problems faced by development practitioners in financing development activities. The course first focuses on financial markets and the financial needs of development projects and ventures. It will then look at the institutional structures capable of providing development capital in appropriate ways for various development projects. In evaluating institutional structures we focus on a wide variety of institutional management issues including risk assessment, non-traditional underwriting standards, interest rate structure, portfolio management and managing loan delinquency. The final sessions of the course focus on the critical policy issues in the field of development finance. Permission required.

Grade Mode: Letter Grade

DPP 960 - Social Enterprise

Credits: 3

This course examines innovative organizations that are created to improve people's lives and that contribute to improved social, economic and environmental conditions. These organizations adapt various aspects of the market model emphasizing both financial viability and social (including environmental) goals - measuring achievement in all of the areas. Social enterprises are often launched to address problems where government, the private sector and the traditional non-profit sector fail to provide a public good. The course emphasis is on how such organizations are started, the business models they develop, and how they are sustained. We will have a wide range of social entrepreneurs presenting in the class. Permission required.

Grade Mode: Letter Grade

DPP 961 - Community Development Finance

Credits: 3

This course examines the historic, theoretical, and applied foundations of community development lending and investment. The course critically examines what works, what doesn't work, and how community development financial institutions, investors, government agencies, private donors, and the capital markets have all contributed to the field of community development finance. The course also covers which methodologies, strategies, products, services, organizational models, and evaluation and reporting protocols have the greatest efficacy towards building and improving the industry. Cr/F.

Grade Mode:

DPP 962 - Public Safety and Community Development

Credits: 3

This course will use a multidisciplinary approach to examine the underpinnings of creating the safe, just and predictable communities that are necessary for sustainable development. Various models of government legitimacy will be examined, particularly in light of the rule of law movement. The purposes of criminal justice systems (punishment, rehabilitation, and/or restoration) and the significance of procedural justice will be explored. The latter part of the course will focus specifically on public safety as a precursor to, or component of community development. The effects of collective efficacy, community cohesion, social capital and community level trauma on crime patterns and community engagement will be highlighted. Finally strategies for promoting public safety and engaging vulnerable populations (minorities, women, youth, poor) will be explored, models that join public safety with community development will be highlighted.

Grade Mode: Letter Grade

DPP 980 - Introduction to Community Development Projects**Credits:** 3

During the first semester, students will identify a community problem or issue, research and analyze the issue in consultation with colleagues and community stakeholders, and design a project. A preliminary design will be submitted at the end of the first semester.

Grade Mode: Letter Grade**DPP 981 - Project Design and Planning****Credits:** 3

Studies how project plan inputs are accurately gathered, integrated, documented and managed; the tools and techniques used in project management; and the outputs of a project plan to viable stakeholders. Considers the development of project scope, work breakdown structures, and the importance of quality, risk, and contingency management in planning development projects. Prereq: DPP 980.

Grade Mode: Letter Grade**DPP 982 - Project Implementation and Monitoring****Credits:** 3

Students will begin implementation activities in field placement communities. Regular progress reports and online postings will be required. Prereq: DPP 980.

Grade Mode: Letter Grade**DPP 983 - Project Evaluation****Credits:** 3

This semester students will conduct an evaluation of their project and manage closure processes. At the end students will submit a final written report and present it to the faculty and peers. This final project and the final report detailing the project will serve as the capstone course of the program. Prereq: DPP 980.

Grade Mode: Letter Grade**DPP 990 - Independent Study****Credits:** 1-4

Under the guidance of an MCD Faculty member, the Independent Study Course (DPP 990) provides students with the opportunity to study a unique topic in-depth that is not offered as a traditional course. Often this topic is a relevant aspect of their capstone project which they wish to explore in more depth.

Repeat Rule: May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits.**Grade Mode:** Letter Grade**Faculty****See** [Carsey School of Public Policy Faculty](#)