

Master of Professional Studies in Community and Economic Development Course Description

Required Core Courses (21 credits)

Title	Description	Credits
Principles of Local Economic Development	<p>Concepts, strategies, and techniques of local economic analysis, planning, and development; decision-making exercises.</p> <p>Prerequisite: introductory course in economics</p>	3 credits
Community Structure, Processes and Capacity	<p>Social organization and change in communities; use of sociological principles in analysis of community problems and development.</p> <p>Prerequisite: 6 credits in rural sociology, sociology, or psychology</p>	3 credits
Community and Economic Development: Theory and Practice	<p>Understanding theories, concepts, and frameworks of community and economic development and community decision-making models in application to community development practice and issues.</p>	3 credits
Leadership Development	<p>Exploration, understanding, and application of leadership roles, strategies, and principles in group and community settings.</p>	3 credits
Population, Land Use, and Municipal Finance	<p>Understanding the interaction of population characteristics, land use, municipal funds, and taxation in a locality and how they impact the operation and management of government jurisdictions.</p>	3 credits
Methods and Techniques for Community and Economic Development	<p>Understanding and applying methods and hands-on experience with techniques used in community and economic development.</p>	3 credits
Applied Statistics or Applied Research Methods	<p>Descriptive statistics, hypothesis testing, power, estimation, confidence intervals, regression, one- and 2-way ANOVA, Chi-square tests, diagnostics.</p> <p>or</p> <p>Investigates methods for assessing data collected from experimental and/or observational studies in various research setting.</p>	3 credits

Master's Paper (3 credits)

Title	Description	Credits
Community and Economic Development Research Application and Practice	Course outlines the steps for students to apply CEDEV theories and methods to a topic in writing their Master's paper.	3 credits

Elective Courses (3-6 credits)

Title	Description	Credits
Regional Development: Principles, Policy, and Practice	Regional growth and development, focusing on challenges to theory, policy, and practice, emphasizing change in metropolitan, micropolitan, and rural areas.	3 credits
Resilient Communities and Environments	Understanding connections between communities and surrounding ecosystems; exploration of management techniques for building adaptive, resilient, and sustainable communities and environments.	3 credits
Entrepreneurship in the Community	Entrepreneurship in the Community, empirically and conceptually examines the relationship between entrepreneurs, small businesses, and local economic development. The course examines the multiple definitions of "entrepreneurship," and how these individuals affect — and are affected by — the social and economic dynamics of their community. The course develops a rich understanding of the entrepreneurship process from a community-based view rather than a traditional firm-based view, illustrating the many ways that entrepreneurs and their local society interact. The course begins by examining the role of the firm in society, and the ways that local life enhances and contains opportunity and opportunistic action. Students will also learn ways to measure small business dynamics locally, and develop an understanding of how different community development approaches may affect different types of entrepreneurship.	3 credits

Topics in Economic Development	Topics in Economic Development provides an overview of modern approaches to developing places and regions, including policy options and limitations; fundamental reasons for the world-wide decline of some rural areas and the growth of cities are also explored.	3 credits
Launching Community Ventures, Nonprofits, and Organizations	Launching ideas from socially and environmentally conscious for-profit businesses, to nonprofits, to spin-offs of existing models.	3 credits
Principles and Practices of Planning	This course is an overview of the field of planning. It examines that history of planning and the theories behind it, and the corresponding roles that planners can play in their communities. It establishes the legal framework for planning as a profession, and examines landmark legal cases involving planning and its tools. It then looks at the different types and levels of planning, and examines the process of planning, what data needs to be collected, how a comprehensive plan is made and implemented, and who planners must interact with in the course of doing their job. Finally, the course reviews the current issues in planning, such as Smart Growth, New Urbanism, and Sustainability. Throughout, the course attempts to emphasize both the positive and negative impacts of planning.	3 credits
Theories, Principles, and Institutions of International Development	Provides a strong foundation in theories and concepts of international development that inform practice. Addresses issues of how economic growth and disparity are spatially distributed, differentiated, and what causes these patterns to occur.	3 credits