

Master's in Community Development (MCD)

Overview

The Master's in Community Development (MCD) is a unique interdisciplinary degree with a collaborating faculty rooted in sociology, social work, nursing and allied health, philosophy, and government. The MCD curriculum is strongly applied and experiential in focus, giving students opportunities to take interesting and challenging courses, while gaining hands-on experience through a range of faculty-supervised projects. The 36-semester credit hour program develops skills for leadership and innovative action to improve local communities.

Program Goals

- A. Produce a service-learning oriented curriculum that promotes an ethic of public service.
- B. Promote problem solving through civic engagement within local communities.
- C. Develop a portfolio of local community-centered research and service-learning partnerships that contribute to problem solving through local action in all dimensions of community life.
- D. Prepare graduates who demonstrate leadership and innovation in the various institutions and settings that move communities forward.

Why the MCD?

- A. The MCD program is unique in addressing community development issues comprehensively. Other degree programs often concentrate on abstract or narrow aspects of community development. MCD's integrated program emphasizes a comprehensive approach through experience in the local community framework.
- B. The MCD program is innovative in its design to support the career needs of a broad range of individuals working in the community development field.
- C. The MCD program's integrated interdisciplinary curriculum exposes students to projects and experiences that address the sociological, political, economic, and health dimensions of community development.
- D. Graduates of the MCD program become leaders and innovators in municipal and county government, health and social service agencies, community, and faith based organizations, and other institutions and settings that promote community development.

The MCD Curriculum

The MCD degree requires completion of 10 core courses (30 SCH) and a Project in Applied

Community Development (6 SCH).

Two of the 10 core courses orient students to the emerging national and local field of community development, and the principles of ethical leadership and action in the field. The remaining eight core courses provide rigorous education in the key strategies and techniques of community analysis that provide the fuel and foundation for effective community development projects and programs. The Project in Applied Community Development is an opportunity to demonstrate skillful use of key community analysis strategies and techniques under faculty direction in a real community development venture.

Course Number	Orientation Courses	SCH
CD 6301	Community Development Organizations and Practices (Stewart)	3
CD 6302	Ethics of Leadership and Action in Community Development (Badiola)	3
Course Number	Strategies of Community Analysis	SCH
CD 6310	Demographic Analysis of Local Communities (Sanders)	3
CD 6311	Evaluation Research and Impact Analysis (Sanders)	3
CD 6312	Policy Analysis (Jones)	3
CD 6313	Assessment of Community Needs and Assets (Stewart)	3
Course Number	Techniques of Community Analysis	SCH
CD 6320	Survey Research (Jones)	3
CD 6321	Focus Group Research (Stewart)	3
CD 6322	Community Spatial Analysis (Sanders)	3
CD 6323	Proposal Development (Jones)	3
Course Number	Demonstration Project	SCH
CD 6399/6699	Practicum in Applied Community Development (Team)	6

Course Descriptions

CD 6301: Community Development Organizations and Practices (3 SCH): Introduction to the national and local field of community development. The course introduces community development theories and the cutting-edge organizations, goals and actions emerging in the field both nationally and locally. The course format features case studies, guest lectures by community development leaders, an introduction to strategies and techniques of community analysis, and an orientation to projects and opportunities in the Center for Community Wellness, Engagement, and Development.

CD 6302: Ethics of Leadership and Action in Community Development (3 SCH): This course considers applications of some major ethical theories in leadership of community development organizations and projects. The course explores ethical dilemmas and obligations of leadership in defining community development goals, formulating strategies, mobilizing resources, conducting community research, and other community development actions. The format of the course includes critical analysis of ethical frameworks, case studies, and discussions with local community development leaders.

CD 6310: Demographic Analysis of Local Communities (3 SCH): This course uses demographic analysis tools to demonstrate how dimensions and dynamics of population effect community development. Demonstrations emphasize how population dynamics influences change in communities and how to use demographic data for planning effective community development programs and projects.

CD 6311: Evaluation Research and Impact Analysis (3 SCH): This course explores the key role of evaluation and impact analysis in effective community development programs and projects. The course emphasizes evaluation and impact analysis of community coalitions. .

CD 6312: Policy Analysis (3 SCH): This course addresses the design, logic, and politics of research methods appropriate for the evaluation of policies and programs before, during, and after their implementation.

CD 6313: Assessment of Community Needs and Assets (3 SCH): This course addresses the use of community assessments as strategies for defining, organizing, and supporting community development projects. The course introduces tools for conducting needs assessments and mapping community assets while reviewing the advantages and shortfalls of both types of assessments.

CD 6320: Survey Research (3 SCH): This course addresses the foundations of survey research to include, survey design, measurement, sampling, data collection and input, and the analysis of survey data. The course explores the different uses of surveys for community development programs and projects.

CD 6321: Focus Group Research (3 SCH): This course introduces the application of qualitative tools in community development. Students investigate community research questions using focus group methods, key informant interviews, organizational self-assessments, targeted surveys, and other qualitative techniques.

CD 6322: Community Spatial Analysis (3 SCH): This course demonstrates the uses of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in community development programs and projects. The course introduces students to MapPoint and ESRI-ARC GIS software as analytical tools to aid community development through geographic visualization and analysis.

CD 6323: Proposal Development (3 SCH): Students develop two kinds of proposals for community development. First, a proposed community development project plan is developed. Secondly, a funding proposal (grant writing) and evaluation plan is written.

CD 6399/6699: Practicum in Applied Community Development (6 SCH): This course requires participation in the development, implementation, and presentation of a project in collaboration with the Center for Community Wellness, Engagement, and Development. The Center Faculty Project Committee must approve and direct the project. Upon completion, a majority of the teaching faculty in the MCD program must certify that the project demonstrates the leadership and innovation qualities expected of MCD graduates.

MCD Teaching Faculty

Kenneth L. Stewart, Ph.D. Western Michigan University, 1976. Dr. Stewart is Professor of Sociology and Director of the Community Development Initiatives, Center for Community Wellness, Engagement, and Development.

Laurence F. Jones, Ph.D. University of Texas at Arlington, 1990. Dr. Jones is Professor of Government and Program Director of the Community Development Initiatives, Center for Community Wellness, Engagement, and Development.

David N. Sanders, Ph.D. University of North Texas, 2009. Dr. Sanders is Assistant Professor of Sociology and a Faculty Affiliate of the Community Development Initiatives, Center for Community Wellness, Engagement, and Development.

Susana Badiola, Ph.D. Universidad Complutense, Madrid, Spain, 2003. Dr. Badiola is Assistant Professor of Philosophy and a Faculty Affiliate of the Community Development Initiatives, Center for Community Wellness, Engagement, and Development.

Student Assistantships

The MCD provides a number of Graduate Assistantships (GAs) and Research Assistantships (RAs) for new and current students. Applications for GA and RA positions are submitted to the Director of the Community Development Initiatives. GAs provide instructional support for the MCD teaching faculty. RAs work on community development projects in the Center for Community Wellness, Engagement, and Development. Both positions are half-time employment, enabling students to make normal progress toward the degree. The positions pay \$2,000.00 for two semesters.