COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
CEDEV 430	Principles of Local Economic Development	3
CEDEV 452	Community Structure, Processes and Capacity	3
CEDEV 500	Community and Economic Development: Theory and Practice	3
CEDEV 505	Leadership Development	3
CEDEV 509	Population, Land Use, and Municipal Finance	3
STAT 500	Applied Statistics (or equivalent)	3
CEDEV 575	Methods and Techniques for Community and Economic Development	3
CEDEV 580	Community and Economic Development Research Application and Practice	3
Electives [1]		**3**
Culminating Experience		
CEDEV 596	Individual Studies [2]	3
Total Credits		**30**

1. Choice of electives will be based on a plan of study worked out between the student and faculty adviser.
2. A Master's paper is required where the student demonstrates the capability to integrate and apply concepts, principles, analytical techniques, and interpretation skills learned in the program to a real problem faced by a community or community organization. The Master's paper is completed while the student is enrolled in CEDEV 596. In place of the Master's Paper, students may choose to complete a series of Comprehensive Exam essays on questions relevant to each required course. Students choosing to complete the Comprehensive Exam also enroll in CEDEV 596.

There is no foreign language requirement for the degree; however, students planning to work in multi-cultural or international settings are encouraged to gain competency in an appropriate language(s).