

# 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 online M.A. in Community Development Policy and Practice programs (MCD and Executive 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 will learn the basics 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, finance, business development and more.

In our online, cohort-based community development degrees, you will learn from seasoned practitioners in economics, finance, organizational management and leadership, public policy, and sustainable development. You will apply effective engagement and problem-solving techniques while working directly with a community on a four-term capstone project. Core academic courses for the MCD programs are offered online with choices for taking optional elective courses in person on the UNH campuses. You will also grow your professional network, connecting with respected experts across disciplines and continents.

Designed for working professionals, these online community development programs enable you to earn your degree in just 12 months (Executive MCD) to 14 months (MCD):

- **Executive MCD:** A 10 course/30 credit program for practitioners with five or more years of relevant work experience
- **MCD:** A 12 course/36 credit program for practitioners with less than five years of relevant work experience

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

## Programs

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

## Courses

### Development Policy and Practice (DPP)

**DPP 801 - 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.

**Equivalent(s):** DPP 901

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading

**DPP 802 - 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.

**Equivalent(s):** DPP 902

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading

**DPP 805 - Fiscal Management for Development Organizations**

**Credits: 3**

Budgeting, goal setting, financial planning and financial analysis for development organizations. As part of the requirements, students will identify an organization (can be nonprofit or for profit as long as they are committed to development) that allows them to have access to the person who is responsible for the financial management of the organization.

**Equivalent(s):** DPP 905

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading

**DPP 806 - 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. Students should have an interest and ideally some experience working with nonprofits as a volunteer or staff member. Possessing a basic understanding of the various roles nonprofits play in low to moderate income communities would be helpful but is not required. As part of the course requirements, students will design, conduct and then report back on a leadership interview.

**Equivalent(s):** DPP 906

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading

**DPP 808 - 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.

**Equivalent(s):** DPP 908**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**DPP 861 - 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.

**Equivalent(s):** DPP 961**Grade Mode:** Graduate Credit/Fail grading**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 Grading**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.

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**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.

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**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.

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**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 Grading

## Faculty

[Carsey School of Public Policy Faculty](#)