



Community and Economic Development Programs



PennState
World Campus

**A world of possibilities.
Online.**

Table of Contents

Online Community and
Economic Development Programs3

Graduate Certificate in Community
and Economic Development.....4

Master of Professional Studies
in Community and
Economic Development5

Frequently Asked Questions6

Begin Your Application Today 7

Contact Us.....8



“The Penn State World Campus community and economic development (CEDEV) graduate program is designed to help professionals sharpen their skills and advance their knowledge to lead their communities through present and future challenges. Whether you are an elected official, a community organizer, or someone who is seeking a new, community-focused career, you can benefit from this program.”

— **Kate Berardi, Ph.D.**
**Assistant teaching professor and
CEDEV program coordinator**



Online Community and Economic Development Programs

The quality of life in communities around the world depends on well-trained, organized, and educated leaders who understand the connections between people, businesses, and community resources. Community and economic development (CEDEV) professionals work to build strong and sustainable communities through their understanding of a broad range of issues, including community processes and structure, leadership, land use, population change, municipal finance, economic development, and more.

Penn State's online CEDEV graduate degree and certificate programs can help you develop the knowledge and skills needed to work with members of a community to identify and address needs and opportunities, allowing you to better navigate the complexities of communities and community organizations. You can learn to

balance theory and practice to solve real-life community challenges by:

- › understanding the causes of economic, social, and population changes and their effect on community members and groups
- › knowing the organizations, groups, and institutions governing community health, and how to get yourself, and others, involved
- › identifying pressing needs or discrepancies in communities through different methods of engagement and measurement
- › developing cooperative strategies and initiatives that improve community health
- › adapting already-implemented programs and practices to address local situations and concerns

For more information, visit:

worldcampus.psu.edu/cedev



“I chose the community and economic development graduate program at Penn State because of the variety of subject matter it offers. The CEDEV program has an excellent mix of planning, community development, and economic development classes. It is challenging and professional, but attainable.”

— **Sandra M., MPS in CEDEV Graduate**



Graduate Certificate in Community and Economic Development

The 15-credit graduate certificate in CEDEV introduces concepts and practical strategies that are useful whether you are new to the profession or have experience working with community- or development-related institutions. The program can also meet your needs if you are considering a career in community and economic development and want to find out if this profession is right for you.

Required Curriculum

CEDEV 430: Principles of Local Economic Development

CEDEV 452: Community Structure, Processes, and Capacity

CEDEV 500: Community and Economic Development: Theory and Practice

CEDEV 509: Population, Land Use, and Municipal Finance

CEDEV 575: Methods and Techniques for Community and Economic Development

Our curriculum is designed to help you reach your academic and professional goals by achieving important milestones. The graduate certificate in CEDEV is an excellent stand-alone credential, and you can also apply the 15 credits you earn in the certificate to the Master of Professional Studies in CEDEV if you are accepted into the program. You must apply separately to the certificate and master's degree programs.

Master of Professional Studies in Community and Economic Development

The 30-credit Master of Professional Studies (MPS) in CEDEV can help you acquire the knowledge and skills you need to navigate the complexities of communities and community organizations and inspire positive changes on a local, regional, and national level.

The interdisciplinary curriculum is designed to give you the skills to:

- › recognize community needs and opportunities
- › work with residents and leaders to assess communities and implement change
- › understand and increase effectiveness of community structures, processes, and organizations to achieve community or organizational goals
- › identify and implement economic development opportunities

Students say their MPS in CEDEV course work has immediate application to their careers, elected offices, or volunteer activities, helping them make their communities stronger,

more sustainable, and better places to live and work.

In addition to taking the five core courses required for the CEDEV graduate certificate, you will further enhance your education by taking the following courses to satisfy MPS requirements:

CEDEV 505: Leadership Development

CEDEV 580: Community and Economic Development Research Application and Practice

CEDEV 596: Individual Studies

STAT 500: Applied Statistics

Electives: You will choose an additional 3–6 credits of elective courses in consultation with your MPS program faculty adviser.

For the most up-to-date course information, visit:

worldcampus.psu.edu/cedev-apply



Frequently Asked Questions

Why is Penn State the best choice for me?

Collaboration

Penn State has more than 25 years of experience providing global access to a real university education, so you can be assured that the course content provides far more than a textbook on a screen. The program connects you with outstanding faculty who can help you integrate knowledge about community development from many perspectives.

Flexibility and convenience

Penn State knows that adults need flexible and convenient learning options in order to continue meeting their professional and personal commitments. You can take courses when and where you please, earning your degree at your own pace.

Reputation

Putting a Penn State degree on your résumé is a great way to broaden your career options and prove to employers that you are a well-educated professional.

What types of student support are available?

As a Penn State World Campus student, you will be supported by a team of knowledgeable and caring staff who understand the unique challenges of balancing work and personal responsibilities while

learning online. You can access traditional student support services, such as career services, technical support, the University Libraries system, clubs and organizations, a dedicated student affairs team, and tutoring for some courses.

Can I obtain financial aid?

Penn State realizes that one of the greatest challenges encountered when returning to school is the cost. Our advisers have been trained to help you make the most of the financial aid options and opportunities available to you. Visit worldcampus.psu.edu/tuition-and-financial-aid for details.

Is this the real Penn State?

Yes. Since Penn State World Campus was launched in 1998, it has grown into one of the most highly regarded online campuses — extending Penn State's reputation as a leader in higher education to those who aren't able to attend classes on campus and to those who can't commit to traditional, full-time enrollment. When you earn a degree through Penn State World Campus, you're earning an official Penn State degree. There won't be any designation on your diploma that your courses were completed at a distance.

Begin Your Application Today

Remember that admissions counselors are available to talk with you about your educational goals, financial aid options, and application deadlines.

To apply for the Graduate Certificate or Master of Professional Studies in Community and Economic Development, you must hold either (1) a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited U.S. institution or (2) a tertiary (postsecondary) degree that is deemed comparable to a four-year bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited U.S. institution. This degree must be from an officially recognized degree-granting institution in the country in which it operates.

Graduate certificate

- › online application form and fee
- › current résumé
- › short statement of interest
- › TOEFL or IELTS score, if applicable
- › transcripts from each postsecondary institution attended

MPS program

- › online application form and fee
- › statement of purpose/goal statement
- › three references
- › résumé or vitae
- › TOEFL or IELTS score, if applicable
- › transcripts from each postsecondary institution attended

For the most up-to-date information about these application materials and to apply, visit: worldcampus.psu.edu/admissions/how-to-apply

Did You Know?

- › Graduates of this program include a community development block grant administrator, a researcher in public utilities, a mortgage analyst for a major bank, a senior planner, a volunteer manager in a nonprofit organization, an economic development specialist, and a Peace Corps volunteer.
- › Graduates of Penn State CEDEV program(s) pursue impactful careers in public entities including state and local governments, industrial and economic development authorities, chambers of commerce, utilities, non-governmental organizations, and charitable arms of corporations.

Contact Us

Admissions Questions

worldcampus@psu.edu

Phone: 814-863-5386

worldcampus.psu.edu/admissions



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