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Community and Economic
Development Programs

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Online Community and Economic Development Programs	3	Master of Professional Studies in Community and Economic Development ...	5
Graduate Certificate in Community and Economic Development.....	4	Why Penn State?.....	6
		Begin Your Application Today	7

Our faculty and staff are excited about the Penn State World Campus CEDEV graduate program and the opportunity to work with a diverse student body. CEDEV can provide you with the knowledge and skills to lead communities through current and future challenges. It helps you, as a professional working in CEDEV and related fields, such as planning and public administration, to sharpen your skills and build on your experiences.



We are pleased to provide you with world class faculty who have expertise in many different areas of study, including resilient communities, urban and regional planning, and community power and decision making processes. These diverse backgrounds and multifaceted intellectual perspectives will help you cultivate your own advanced viewpoints of community and economic development concepts.

Whether you are an elected official or community organizer, or if you re seeking new career opportunities and you care deeply about your community you can benefit from this program.

John Shingler, PhD

*Community and Economic Development Graduate Program Coordinator,
Research Associate, Co Director of Consumer Services Information System Project,
Co Director of State Weatherization Program Evaluation Project*



Online Community and Economic Development Programs

The quality of life in communities around the world depends on well-trained, educated leaders and professionals who understand the theory and practice of community and economic development (CEDEV). Professionals in CEDEV work to build stronger, more viable, sustainable communities by understanding a broad range of issues, including community processes and structure, leadership, land use, population changes, municipal finance, and economic development.

Penn State's online CEDEV programs help you to develop the knowledge and skills to work with community members to identify and address community needs and opportunities, allowing you to better navigate the complexities of communities

and community organizations. You can learn to balance theory and its practical application to real-life opportunities and challenges faced by communities around the globe. The curriculum will help you develop critical thinking about issues such as:

- effective decision making in communities
- evaluating causes and consequences of economic and population change
- job creation, retention and expansion, and entrepreneurship
- citizen engagement and participation
- land use and sustainable development
- community structure and processes that affect development and well-being

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"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 Monslave
MPS in CEDEV Graduate



Graduate Certificate in Community and Economic Development

The graduate certificate in CEDEV requires you to successfully complete 15 credits (five courses), and 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. Or, you can apply the 15 credits you earn in the certificate to the Master of Professional Studies in CEDEV. You must apply separately to the certificate and master's degree programs.

Master of Professional Studies in Community and Economic Development

The Master of Professional Studies (MPS) in CEDEV is a 30-credit program (10 courses) that enables you to balance your family and professional commitments while achieving your educational goals.

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 regions and to implement change
- understand and increase effectiveness of the structures and processes of communities and community organizations to achieve community or organizational goals
- identify and implement economic development opportunities

Students say that course work in the MPS in CEDEV has immediate application to their career, elected office, or volunteer activities, helping them make their communities stronger, more sustainable, and better places to live and work.

In addition to the five core courses from the CEDEV graduate certificate, you will further enhance your education in the MPS by taking the following courses:

- **CEDEV 505**—Leadership Development
- **CEDEV 580**—Community and Economic Development Research Application and Practice
- **STAT 500 or STAT 800**—Applied Statistics
- **Electives**—You will choose an additional 6 credits of elective courses in consultation with your MPS program faculty adviser.

World Campus has been fabulous with the support ... the kind of support you just don't find every where. Anytime I ever needed something, my professors were right there assisting me, helping me, advising me. People think it's not personal because it's online, but it's really personal. And that is the kind of support I needed, because I'm busy.

*Susan Hawthorne Keady
MPS in CEDEV Graduate*



Why Penn State?

► Reputation

Penn State is universally recognized as one of the finest educational institutions in the United States. The World Campus was launched in 1998 as Penn State's virtual campus. It has since grown into one of the most well-regarded online campuses in the world—extending Penn State's long-standing reputation to even more students. Putting a CEDEV degree from Penn State and its highly accomplished College of Agricultural Sciences on your résumé is a great way to broaden your career options.

► Faculty and Staff Expertise

The partnership between Penn State World Campus and the College of Agricultural Sciences connects you to faculty with diverse backgrounds and intellectual perspectives. Extensive administrative and infrastructure support has been developed to include a dedicated team of academic advisers, technical support experts, customer service representatives, and library services. From start to finish, we are committed to helping you successfully complete the online CEDEV program.

► Comprehensive Curriculum

The curriculum will help prepare you for more challenging positions by providing you with a holistic perspective on how different parts of a community coexist and may or may not work together to achieve goals. The courses include topics on economic development as well as

community development processes, leadership, demographic change, and gathering data to better understand issues facing the community.

► Flexibility and Convenience

Penn State knows that adults need flexible and convenient learning options in order to continue to meet their professional and personal commitments. The online learning format of the CEDEV program makes it possible for you to fit graduate education into your life. The flexibility of studying where and when you want can give you the opportunity to gain the skills and knowledge you need to inspire changes in communities on a local, regional, and national level.

► Collaboration

The online environment of the CEDEV program is highly interactive, allowing you to develop and sustain collaborative relationships with your faculty and fellow students. With our global learning community of adult learners exchanging ideas and experiences, you will be as close to the face-to-face experience as possible. In addition, the CEDEV graduate program sponsors an annual Summer Institute on Penn State's University Park campus. This optional residential experience offers opportunities to learn, collaborate, and examine critical issues in CEDEV, while networking with fellow students, alums, faculty, and community development practitioners.

Begin Your Application Today

Admissions decisions for the CEDEV program are based on the quality of your credentials and statement of interest. A committee of CEDEV faculty makes the decision following a thorough review of your completed application portfolio.

For the MPS program, your application portfolio must include:

- 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 graduate certificate program, you will need to submit:

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

For more information about these application materials, visit

worldcampus.psu.edu/cedev

Did You Know?

- Trained CEDEV professionals work in national, state, and local governments as well as nonprofit organizations and the private sector.
- Graduates of this program include a community development block grant administrator, researcher in public utilities, mortgage analyst for a major bank, senior planner, volunteer manager in a nonprofit organization, economic development specialist, and Peace Corps volunteer.
- An optional Summer Institute gives you an opportunity to meet faculty, participating students and alumni of the program, and other community development professionals face-to-face.
- You can take as few or as many courses per semester as you would like, making it possible to complete the program by balancing your course work, family, work commitments, and volunteer responsibilities.

For More Information

Contact Us

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800-252-3592 (toll free within the United States)

814-865-5403 (local and international)

814-865-3290 Fax

Student Services Hours

(inquiries and registration)

8:00 a.m.–9:30 p.m. ET Monday–Thursday

8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. ET Friday

Closed Saturday and Sunday

Admissions Counseling Hours

8:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. ET Monday–Thursday

8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. ET Friday

Closed Saturday and Sunday



Penn State World Campus

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