

Community Resources and Development (Sustainable Communities), MS

PPCRDSCMS

Match your natural leadership abilities and passion for fostering thriving communities with increased proficiency in the innovations and skills that will enable you to inspire meaningful initiatives in neighborhoods and cities. You can learn to achieve the impact you've always imagined.

Program description

Degree awarded: MS Community Resources and Development (Sustainable Communities)

The MS in community resources and development with a concentration in sustainable communities is a research-oriented master's degree program designed to prepare students for their future careers by teaching them to analyze and understand critical topics and issues pertinent to the fields of tourism; parks and recreation management; nonprofits and nongovernmental organizations; and sustainable communities.

Students benefit from the commitment of faculty mentors who teach how to approach and solve problems through the lens of community solution analysis: considering all regulatory, policy and relationship factors for making informed decisions.

On average, completion of the master's degree program in community resources and development requires two years of study.

At a glance

- **College/School:** [Watts College of Public Service & Community Solut](#)
- **Location:** [Downtown Phoenix](#)

Accelerated program options

This program allows students to obtain both a bachelor's and master's degree in as little as five years. It is offered as an [accelerated bachelor's plus master's degree](#) with:

[Community Sports Management, BS](#)

[Community Sports Management \(Events\), BS](#)

[Parks and Recreation Management \(Therapeutic Recreation\), BS](#)

[Parks, Recreation and Sport Management, BS](#)

[Tourism Development and Management, BS](#)

[Tourism Development and Management \(Meetings and Events\), BS](#)

[Tourism Development and Management \(Resort and Hotel Leadership\), BS](#)

[Tourism Development and Management \(Sustainable Tourism\), BS](#)

Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. Students typically receive approval to pursue the accelerated master's during the junior year of their bachelor's degree program. Interested students can learn about eligibility requirements and [how to apply](#).

Degree requirements

30 credit hours and a thesis, or

36 credit hours including the required applied project course (CRD 593)

Required Core (15 credit hours)

CRD 500 Research Methods (3)

CRD 502 Statistical and Data Analysis (3)

CRD 530 Community Services Management (3) or advanced inquiry course (3)

CRD 552 Critical Issues (3)

CRD 555 Theoretical Perspectives in Community Development (3)

Concentration (6 credit hours)

CRD 610 Sustainable Communities (3)

NLM 562 Social Entrepreneurship (3) or

NLM 572 Community and Social Innovations (3)

Electives (3 or 9 credit hours)

Culminating Experience (6 credit hours)

CRD 593 Applied Project (6) or

CRD 599 Thesis (6)

Additional Curriculum Information

Students may select a thesis or applied project. Advising and direction in both options are under the direct supervision of an assigned faculty member.

The thesis option is a research-oriented program and is recommended for students planning to continue graduate studies beyond the master's degree. Students in the thesis option take an advanced inquiry course, and they take three credit hours of elective coursework. The thesis option must be defended in an oral examination before a supervisory committee of at least three faculty members, one of whom resides in another department.

The applied project is intended for students seeking additional knowledge and expertise relevant to professional career development. Students in the applied project option take CRD 530 as part of their core coursework and take nine credit hours of electives.

Admission requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in a related discipline from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or they must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. statement of professional and academic goals
4. three letters of recommendation
5. current resume
6. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information

An applicant whose native language is not English must provide [proof of English proficiency](#) regardless of their current residency.

Only complete application files are reviewed or considered for admission. Applicants without undergraduate academic work in related disciplines are required to take six credit hours of deficiency coursework in addition to the master's degree requirements. Deficiency coursework may be taken in conjunction with master's degree classes.

Tuition information

When it comes to paying for higher education, everyone's situation is different. Students can learn about [ASU tuition and financial aid](#) options to find out which will work best for them.

Application deadlines

Fall

Spring [expand](#)

[expand](#)

Program learning outcomes

Program learning outcomes identify what a student will learn or be able to do upon completion of their program. This program has the following program outcomes:

- Analyze critical topics and issues pertinent to sustainable communities, such as creative problem-solving, strategic planning and volunteer management.
- Relate their individual strengths to demonstrate knowledge of research methods and data analysis within the context of sustainable communities.
- Apply the principles and practices of community development to address the social, economic, environmental and cultural challenges of diverse communities.

Career opportunities

This degree program prepares graduates for careers in governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations and private-sector businesses. Career opportunities include:

- community services officers
- nonprofit and nongovernmental organization officers
- parks and recreation officers
- tourism officers

Contact information

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