Master of Arts in Community Psychology and Social Change

Based on the intersection of psychology and sociology, the Master of Arts in Community Psychology and Social Change emphasizes leadership, community development, social activism and public advocacy. The program equips students to address multifaceted problems facing communities. Students learn to assess problems and to plan, implement and evaluate solutions at community and organizational levels. Learning takes place through coursework, fieldwork, and an individual master’s project customized to the student’s area of interest.

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Program Website:
https://harrisburg.psu.edu/social-change
Curriculum

Prerequisite Course Requirements: Ideally, applicants will have taken courses in developmental, personality, and social psychology, along with work in social change, social problems, and social conflict. Students from diverse other backgrounds are welcome to apply, particularly if they have had work or other experience effecting change in community settings. Applicants will be asked to take additional course work without graduate credit, chosen after consultation with an adviser, if they have had no psychology or sociology courses beyond the introductory level.

An important part of this degree is a Master’s Project, made up a total of nine (9) credits, comprising from 3 to 6 credits of Practicum (CMPSY 522), and from 3 to 6 credits of Research (CMPSY 594). The project is planned in the context of the course Roles and Methods in Community Psychology (CMPSY 521); it is supervised by a Master’s Committee of graduate faculty.

Concentrations: The program offers five concentrations; they are children, youth, and families Concentration, environmental issues, diversity issues, Politics, Social Change and Social Movements Concentration, and individualized concentration.

Visit for complete details.

Courses

Prescribed Courses - 27 credits

- CMPSY 500 THEORIES AND ISSUES IN COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGY (3)
- CMPSY 510 CHANGE PROCESSES (3)
- CMPSY 511 SOCIAL IMPACTS ON PSYCHOLOGICAL FUNCTIONING (3).
  Prerequisite: CMPSY 500, permission of program
- CMPSY 519 RESEARCH METHODS I (3).
  Prerequisite: "C" or better in an introductory statistics course within the past two years or a passing grade on the Community Psychology competency examination in introductory statistics; status as graduate student in CMPSY program
- CMPSY 520 RESEARCH METHODS II (3).
  Prerequisite: CMPSY 519
- CMPSY 521 ROLES AND METHODS IN COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGY (3).
  Prerequisite: CMPSY 519
- CMPSY 522 PRACTICUM (3-6).
  Prerequisite: CMPSY 500, CMPSY 510, CMPSY 511, CMPSY 520 and CMPSY 521 for degree candidates only
- CMPSY 594 RESEARCH (3-6).
  Prerequisite: for degree candidates only

Additional Concentration Courses – 9 credits: In addition to the core curriculum, students will complete the requirements of one of the five concentrations described below:

- Children, Youth, and Families Concentration
- Diversity Issues Concentration
- Environmental Issues Concentration
- Politics, Social Change and Social Movements Concentration
- Individualized Concentration
  Visit for complete details.

Program Requirements for Admission

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<th>Requirements</th>
<th>More Information</th>
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<tr>
<td>GPA</td>
<td>The minimum grade-point average (GPA) in the junior and senior years must be 3.00 or higher (on a 4.00 scale).</td>
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Supporting Materials

- Admission essay
- A letter of about 500 words outlining significant community work experience, along with career and academic objectives.
- Three professional letters of recommendation, special forms provided. Please include at least two letters from academic sources.

Admission to the Community Psychology and Social Change program is based on clear suitability for the program as evidenced by the application as a whole; it is limited to the number of spaces available for Masters Project supervision. However, students with experience in carrying out planned social change are particularly encouraged to apply. Applicants with strong records but whose suitability for the program is unclear may be asked to visit the campus for an interview.

Application Deadline *

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<th>Semester</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>April 1</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
<td>December 1</td>
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