

**College: CUPA**

**Department: Nohad A. Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning - Community Development**

**Degree: B.A./B.S.**

### **Introduction**

The Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning offers an undergraduate major in community development. Community development is a process in which people act together to promote the social, economic, political, and physical well-being of their communities. Career opportunities are available in not-for-profit organizations, private consulting firms, and state, regional, and local governments. Community development practitioners work on a range of issues including housing, community organizing, transportation, the environment and economic development. The major prepares students for post-baccalaureate employment or graduate work in a professional academic field.

The curriculum is grounded in applied social science and incorporates a great deal of field research. The program takes advantage of the wealth of resources available in the Portland metropolitan area and draws from a variety of academic disciplines and departments. Students specialize in one of three areas of concentrated study: community organization and change, housing and economic development, or communication and community development.

Students may also pursue a 27-credit minor in community development, a 30-credit minor in real estate development, and/or a 27-credit minor in sustainable urban development.

### **Undergraduate Program Learning Outcomes**

L.O. #1 Think critically using appropriate theoretical perspectives about community and community building: apply theoretical frameworks to analyze the elements of a community and understand the various forces working on it; differentiate evaluation from judgment; and evaluate their own perspectives.

L.O. #2 Understand the importance of place: appreciate the sense of place that exists in all communities; observe the ways in which the natural and built environment of a community affects its social structures; and observe the ways in which locality is important to personal identity in a given community

L.O. #3 Uphold the values of democratic decision-making and participatory planning: enable people in the community to identify their assets and define their needs; include the public in defining the public good; and encourage self-governance.

L.O. #4 Commit to civic engagement and civic responsibility: be informed about local issues; act from a motivation to give back to the community; step readily into the community organizer's role; and be entrepreneurial in support of the development of communities

L.O. #5 Build human capital: help to build community leadership; impact the development of others in a positive way; build community consensus; and facilitate communication to support community solidarity

L.O. #6 Act to promote social justice: recognize and appreciate social, cultural, and economic diversity; work against discrimination based on facts such as social class and race; work to empower the disenfranchised; and commit to inclusionary practice.

L.O. #7 Understand the importance of maintaining an international perspective and awareness in Community Development: appreciate the diverse needs and perceptions of the global community, especially the Developing World; observe the ways in which actions in the developed world impact the Developing World; appreciate the unique assets of local global communities; appreciate the ways in

which locality is important to community and personal identity; understand similarities and differences between domestic and international community development.