COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (B.A./B.S.)
at PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

The Portland area is an exciting place to enroll in our undergraduate major in community development. We understand community development as a process in which people act together to promote the social, economic, political, and physical wellbeing of their community. Students graduating with a degree in community development will be citizen activists, empowered to take leadership roles in public affairs.

Community-based participation in all aspects of government planning and administration is an established part of the political culture of our region. Neighborhood associations are actively involved in land use, housing, and transportation issues. The City of Portland has been practicing community-oriented policing for several years. Public schools are establishing community-based management councils and involving local business firms in curricular design. Community development corporations are growing rapidly in the range and sophistication of their activities. New community-oriented financial institutions and public-private partnerships are emerging to build and maintain affordable housing and to create jobs. We anticipate continued growth in these kinds of activities in the years ahead.

Community Development majors often find careers in not-for-profit organizations, private consulting firms, advocacy groups, and local, regional and state governments. Locally, a graduate may find a career with the City of Portland, Portland Bureau of Housing and Community Development, METRO, or any of Portland's community development corporations. Community development practitioners work on a range of issues including housing, community organizing, transportation, the environment, and economic development.

Tips

- Want an appointment with a community development adviser? You can book one at: http://tsusadvising.youcanbook.me
- In order to find a great job after college, you should start volunteering and interning now! Meet with your Career Center and visit PSU’s at: http://www.pdx.edu/careers/what-can-i-do-degree-community-development

For more information:
Transfer Students
Lower division coursework in sociology, political science and economics all provide an excellent foundation for the CD major and can be taken your community college.

All major requirements can be completed in your junior and senior year.

Additional Resources for Community Development

Transferring to PSU:
http://www.pdx.edu/transferstudent/

Course descriptions in CD:
http://www.pdx.edu/usp/node/45

Faculty within the Toulan School:
http://www.pdx.edu/usp/faculty

Related minors:
http://www.pdx.edu/usp/degrees/bachelors-degree/minors

Community Development Student Group:
https://orgsync.com/12980/chapter

PSU Environmental Club:
https://orgsync.com/13100/chapter

Sustainability Leaders Network:
https://orgsync.com/13021/chapter

Wikipedia:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Community_development