Why study Community Development:

Do you want to:

- Advocate for social change and social justice?
- Have a positive impact on the environment?
- Empower people to accomplish great things?
- Understand what makes urban areas flourish?
- Be a “hands on” change maker?

Community Development allows students to see the world through a multidisciplinary lens. Courses pull from Sustainability, Urban Planning, Economics, Political Science, Sociology, Environmental Studies, Social Work, International Studies, and Psychology.

Students make connections between factors and learn skills for creating solutions to real world problems. Located in the Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning, one of the most well-regarded schools in the field, students are mentored by faculty and helped to develop a course of study focusing on their specific interests.

Portland is an excellent example of best practices in the terms of livability and civic engagement. Community Development students are able network with community partners throughout their education gaining meaningful career-related experience.

Alumni make a real difference in organizations!

Central City Concern — Mission is “to provide pathways to self-sufficiency through active intervention in poverty and homelessness.”

City of Portland Bureau of Housing and Community Development — Mission is to “make Portland a more livable city for all by bringing low-income people and community resources together.”

City of Portland Office of Neighborhood Involvement — Enhances “the quality of Portland’s neighborhoods through community participation.”

Hacienda Community Development Corporation — Mission is to “improve the overall livability of low-income Latino families by developing a permanent resource of affordable housing and educational, economic, and community development activities that benefit the low-income population in the State of Oregon.”
HUMAN SOLUTIONS — Helps "low-income families and individuals gain self-sufficiency by providing affordable housing, skill development, and family support services."

METRO — "Metro protects open space and parks, plans for land use and transportation, and manages garbage disposal and recycling for 1.3 million residents in three counties and 25 cities in the Portland, Oregon, region."

OREGON HUNGER RELIEF TASK FORCE — "...statewide advocate for Oregonians who are hungry or at risk of hunger."

PORTLAND HABITAT FOR HUMANITY — "To build partnerships among volunteers, families and the community to transform lives and revitalize neighborhoods by enabling families in need to earn and own a simple, decent, affordable home."

REACH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION — Mission is to "develop and maintain a permanent resource of affordable housing, promote healthy neighborhoods, and provide opportunities for low income people through partnerships and community involvement."

SE WORKS: ONE STOP CAREER CENTER — A "community-based workforce development organization providing employment, training and supportive services."

SABIN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION — Provides "tools, resources and knowledge to help make their neighborhoods better places to live and work, while maintaining cultural diversity."

SOUTHEAST UPLIFT NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAM — "a non-profit coalition of 20 neighborhoods in southeast and northeast Portland south of Interstate 84 [...providing] free technical assistance in citizen participation, community development, organizing and urban planning."

STATE OF OREGON DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT — "...provides economic and community development and cultural enhancement throughout the state, and administers programs that assist businesses, communities and people."

THE CITY REPAIR PROJECT — Helping "people reclaim their urban spaces to create community-oriented places

Portland Office of Transportation — The City of Portland Bureau of Transportation is a community partner in shaping a livable city. We plan, build, manage and maintain an effective and safe transportation system that provides people and businesses access and mobility. We keep Portland moving.

COALITION FOR A LIVABLE FUTURE — The Coalition for a Livable Future is a diverse partnership of organizations and individuals working together to create a more equitable and sustainable Portland metropolitan region.

ENVIROISSUES — Our name says it all – we help make the natural and built communities where we live, work and play better places by tackling some of the thorniest public policy and environmental issues of our day. We pride ourselves in caring about the science, engineering and technical aspects that underlie many issues, which is a nice way of saying we can be a little nerdy about these things (in a good way, of course.)

MERCY CORPS — Mercy Corps saves and improves lives in the world’s toughest places. Poverty. Conflict. Disaster. These are the global challenges that we’ve been responding to since 1979, helping more than 170 million people survive emergencies and build back better.

OREGON FOOD BANK — OFB works with a cooperative, statewide network of partner agencies to distribute emergency food to hungry families. We fight hunger’s root causes through public policy advocacy, nutrition and garden education and work to strengthen community food systems.

PORTLAND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION — PDC’s mission is to create one of the world’s most desirable and equitable cities by investing in job creation, innovation and economic opportunity throughout Portland TriMet provides bus, light rail and commuter rail service in the Portland metro area. Our transportation options connect people with their community, while easing traffic congestion and reducing air pollution—making our region a better place to live.