



Ph.D. in Public Affairs

Emphasis on Community Development

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION





DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in Public Affairs at Rutgers–Camden offers a strong professional and pedagogical focus in community development. Uniquely blending faculty expertise from public policy, law, and business, this degree provides students with a comprehensive perspective on community development in the United States and international settings.

This program, housed in the Graduate School of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, incorporates an interdisciplinary collaboration with our Schools of Law and Business. Focusing on social capital, social justice, and social entrepreneurship, it leads to a Ph.D. with significant applied skills and policy expertise. Core courses will be team taught by policy, business, and law faculty.

Community development takes place at the intersection of increasingly complex and globalized economic, political, legal, and social systems. This program centers on a dedication to making a difference in the world. Both international and domestic training in community development are available.

Rutgers–Camden offers unique opportunities and resources, including the School of Law, Rutgers–Camden Technology Campus business incubator, Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs, Center for Strategic Urban and Community Leadership, and affiliation with several other centers for research and service. Our faculty and staff are deeply focused on issues of urban redevelopment, community development, immigration, international development, public health, entrepreneurship, and urban education. Rutgers–Camden’s urban location offers exceptional real-world opportunities for advanced scholarship in public affairs.

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

At Rutgers–Camden, our graduate students work with nationally and internationally recognized faculty in a small-campus environment where close attention to your educational aspirations is a priority.

Among our faculty, we include some of the nation’s leading researchers as well as prize-winning scholars, writers, and teachers. You will receive all the resources of one of America’s most prestigious public research universities.

Our location in the heart of the metropolitan Philadelphia region draws students from around the world, as well as from across New Jersey and the nation. As the southernmost of the three regional campuses that comprise Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey — an AAU institution noted for its scholarship — Rutgers–Camden is an urban research campus with a strong commitment to civic engagement within our community.

FINANCIAL AID/ASSISTANTSHIPS

Teaching and research assistantships include full tuition remission per semester and a living stipend. These benefits are available on a competitive basis to students accepted for full-time study in the Ph.D. program. Compensation and duties attached to the assistantship are governed by a contract negotiated between Rutgers University and the AAUP/AFT.



DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The Ph.D. program emphasizes the theories, methodologies, and applications appropriate to the comprehensive understanding of community development. The required courses lead to proficiency in such diverse areas as analysis, governmental systems, and the connections across governments and private and nonprofit organizations. A rigorous set of requirements cultivates the keen research skills that will prepare students to compete successfully for careers in academia and across a wide spectrum of nonacademic fields. The Ph.D. curriculum consists of the following courses totaling 63 credits.

REQUIRED COURSES

THEORY COURSES (3 Courses/9 Credits)

- Theory and History of Community Development
- Legal and Regulatory Environment of Community Development
- Planning, Markets, and Community Development

METHODS COURSES (5 Courses/15 Credits)

- Logic of Social Inquiry
- Quantitative Analysis
- Dissertation Development
- Two Research Electives (Survey Research, Qualitative Methods, Geographic Information Systems, Ethnographic Analysis, etc.)

CONTENT COURSES (4 Courses/12 Credits) Courses will be based around the following themes.

- International and Comparative Community Development
- Regional and Economic Development
- Civic Engagement, Nonprofits, and Community Development
- Practicum in Community Development

ELECTIVE COURSES (4 Courses/12 Credits)

- 1 School of Law Course from an approved list
- 1 School of Business Course from an approved list
- Any 2 additional graduate courses selected from Law, Business, and Arts and Sciences (including Public Policy and Administration)

DISSERTATION (15 Credits)

Dissertation committees will consist of a minimum of three members: at least one faculty member from the Department of Public Policy and Administration and at least one from the Schools of Law or Business. The presence of law and business faculty on dissertation committees contributes not only to the program's interdisciplinary aspect but also achieves full engagement of each of the schools.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

- Deadline: February 15 for consideration of a graduate assistantship.
- Classes begin in September.
- Applicants for full-time study are eligible to apply for an assistantship. Please note this on your application.
- Part-time study is accepted if you are already working professionally in the community development field or a related industry. Please indicate on your application if you want to attend part time.

LEARN MORE:

dppa.camden.rutgers.edu



FOR PROGRAM INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Department of Public Policy and Administration

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856-225-2982 or 856-225-6860

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants who have completed a master's degree are preferred; however, students with a bachelor's degree and outstanding credentials are eligible to apply.

Apply online at gradstudy.rutgers.edu. The following information is required.

- A transcript of all undergraduate and graduate coursework completed or in progress. At least two (2) courses in Statistics, Research Methods, and/or Economics are required to enter the Ph.D. program.
- Three (3) letters of recommendation that indicate your potential for succeeding in the Ph.D. in Public Affairs program.
- Personal statement indicating your motivation to earn a Ph.D. and what assets you will bring to the class of students. (Describe your background and experience and how a Ph.D. will benefit your future.)
- A résumé. (Relevant professional experience may also be considered.)
- A writing sample.
- Test scores. GRE preferred. LSAT and GMAT accepted.

Applications will be reviewed by the Rutgers–Camden Office of Graduate Admissions and the Department of Public Policy and Administration. Admission decisions will be made by March 1 for students receiving assistantships.

FOR ADMISSIONS INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Admissions

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