



# MASTER'S PROGRAM IN COMMUNITY & SOCIAL CHANGE

IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL STUDIES

**Vision:** The University of Miami Community and Social Change Master's Program will be the hub for innovative and applied leadership in community based settings, focusing on well-being and social change.

**Mission:** The mission of the program in Community & Social Change is to prepare globally aware leaders, researchers, and agents of change who create, inspire, and engage community organizations to foster well-being in diverse community settings.

## Schedule

The course schedule for the program in Community and Social Change combines traditional residence class hours with participation and engagement in various community and online based forums. The core courses are taught on an "executive schedule" during monthly weekend intensives and in two weeklong seminars over the course of the year. It is possible for full-time students to complete the 30-credit program in one calendar year.

## Core courses (18 credits)

The first seminar is five days and includes an introduction to the program and an orientation to the University of Miami. The remainder of the on-site residence class hours for core courses are taught during the day on Fridays, Saturdays, or Sunday. Each professor on a course-by-course basis determines the specific course formats, utilizing different tools to encourage out of class engagement. Online forums, occasional skype sessions, and group projects keep students involved in-between monthly class sessions. Below is general course schedule that can fluctuate from year to year.

### Typically offered Fall courses:

- Community Well-being and Change: Theory and Practice (EPS 622)
  - Weeklong seminar I: August
- Essentials of Research in the Social and Behavioral Sciences (EPS 624)
  - On-Site monthly classes: September-December
- Development and Change in Community Organizations: Theory and Practice (EPS 623)
  - On-Site monthly classes: September-December



### **Typically offered Spring Courses:**

- Program Evaluation (EPS 625)
  - On-Site monthly classes: January-May
- Multicultural Communities in a Globalized Society (EPS 626)
  - On-Site monthly classes: January-May
- Practicum Seminar in Community and Social Change (EPS 629)
  - Weeklong seminar II: Offered in Spring and Summer interim
- Managing Community Organizations (EPS 628)
  - Weeklong Seminar II: May

### **Practicum (3 credits)**

The community based field experience is designed to integrate students' didactic learning with practical experience. Students work with community partners to translate the community, organizational skill-building and leadership tools learned in the classroom to a real-world environment. Community partners in the past have included Children's Movement of Florida, Radical Partners, Children's Trust, The Miami Foundation, Educate for Tomorrow and so on. The Practicum offers students an integrated means of getting involved in the Miami-Dade community, developing a professional skill set and network that will be useful after graduation.

The field experience will:

- Involve 120 hours in a community placement for a period of one year, supported by in-class meetings during a core course: Seminar in Community & Social Change.
- Provide opportunities to integrate theory, research, practice, and ethics.
- Provide opportunities to build skills and practical knowledge for social change.
- Culminate with a final paper/project and poster presentation.

### **Electives/Cognate (9 credits)**

Elective courses allow for deeper specialization in a student's area of interest. Depending on a student's place of residence, they may choose to take additional courses within the School of Education and in other Schools and Colleges at UM, or students can find relevant elective courses at other accredited institutions. Students may take up to 6 credits of approved courses at other institutions subject to their advisor's approval.

Students may look across the University of Miami graduate programs and courses to develop an "Individualized Cognate". In consultation with their advisor, students may design an interdisciplinary concentration with specific elective courses that match their interests and needs.



Some current options for cognate areas of study at UM and partner institutions include:

- Public Administration (Department of Political Science)
- Graduate Business Certificate Program (School of Business Administration)
- Measurement and Evaluation (Department of Educational & Psychological Studies)
- Counseling and Therapy (Department of Educational & Psychological Studies)
- Latino Mental Health Counseling (Department of Educational & Psychological Studies)
- Higher Education (Department of Educational & Psychological Studies)
- Early Childhood Studies (University of Florida, College of Education)
- Public Health (School of Medicine)
- Communication & Social Change (School of Communication)