

Postgraduate Diploma in Community and Development Studies and Bachelor of Community and Development Studies (Honours)

The Postgraduate Diploma in Community and Development Studies is a postgraduate qualification at the NQF level 8. It offers a foundation for understanding contemporary issues in Community Development. The Postgraduate Diploma is a terminal qualification; progression to the Masters degree is at the discretion of the Academic Co-ordinator.

The Honours programme is intended for people who work in the broad field of community development as development practitioners or development managers. Trainers and development policy makers will also find it useful.

The course will broaden the experience of people in community development practice who work in such specific areas as health education, worker education, environmental education and training, rural development and local government, agriculture, public works programmes etc. It will empower students to function effectively and expand their knowledge in a rapidly changing micro and macro society.

On successful completion of the Honours Programme (BCDSH), students may apply to proceed to a Masters programme (MSSCDS).

Programme Outline

The programme consists of six modules taken part time over two years or full time over one year.

1. Advanced Development Theory (32 credits)

The module aims to critically explore some of the major issues of development and their impact on community development, such as:

- The environment and development
- The origin, meaning and impact of development theories.

It examines why people do/do not participate in development. It locates development within the context of culture, transformation methodologies, and a holistic examination of human needs and capacities.

2. Research Methods (32 credits)

This module is designed to provide students with skills to develop a research proposal. It identifies key concepts such as research design, validity and reliability, bias, methodology, data collection and analysis. Students will become familiar with the stages needed in conducting research.

3. Management, Finances and Budgeting (16 credits)

This module presents the practice of human resource development in the workplace and examines management roles in the training and development of employees from the perspective

of the learning organisation and of organisational behaviour. It identifies management strategies, the development of financial plans, and effective budgeting.

Choice of one of the following specialisations:

4.a. Economic Policy (16 credits)

This module interrogates economic policies and their influence on local economic development. It locates economic policy in a sustainable livelihoods framework. Students will gain exposure to a wide range of recent economic trends in South Africa and the region, and identify overarching themes and concepts and their relationship to development.

4.b. Economic Practice (part of independent study/research project)

This module is intended to provide practical experience in economic development. Students will identify and analyse a local economic development project and critically evaluate the initiative based on ideas and concepts developed in the economic policy module.

5.a. Culture and Environmental Policy (16 credits)

This module identifies the ways in which culture relates to development in a local and global context. It examines questions such as power, values, attitudes, practices and their relationship to community development. It presents an analysis of culture within the South African context.

5.b. Culture and Environmental Practice (part of independent study/research project)

This practice module provides an opportunity to examine community development from the perspective of culture. Students identify a community and attempt to understand its cultural values and attitudes, and their relationship to development internally and externally.

6.a. Development Policy (16 credits)

This module examines the development of policy and how it relates to attitudes, agendas, global and local influences. It further identifies how policy is implemented and its purpose subordinated to influences

6.b. Development Policy Practice (part of independent study/research project)

This practice module allows students to study a particular policy in depth and make recommendations as to how it should be modified in terms of definition or application.

7. Independent Study (PGD) (32 credits)

To implement a project that demonstrates the ability to design, plan and manage a community development intervention. Students work in project groups, in conjunction with service

providers/community organizations, around a problem identified as relevant to the community and to the specialization.

8. Research Project (Honours)

(32 credits)