

Community Research and Action (Ph.D.)

We seek to promote individual, relational, and collective well-being by enhancing the development of individuals, organizations, communities, and societies. We strive to achieve these aims by creating and disseminating knowledge about how people, groups, and systems influence one another.

The **Community Research and Action (CRA)** Ph.D. broadly defines the community, societal, and global contexts as not only social, but also political, economic, cultural and physical. The program builds on one of the founding programs in community psychology and focuses now on human and community health and development as overlapping areas of transdisciplinary inquiry and intersectoral professional practice.

What roles do communities have in understanding and addressing challenges such as health disparities, homelessness, poverty, racism, and other forms of inequality? How does one partner with community stakeholders to address important social, political, economic, environmental and educational issues? If



these questions interest you, consider continuing your education in an action-oriented academic program focused on promoting social justice. We prepare students for the promotion of human, organizational, and community development through rigorous,

critical, experiential, ecological, systemic, and multidisciplinary modes of learning. Instead of concentrating only on single units of analysis, we focus especially on the connections among them.

Students practice what they learn through classroom simulation, practicum, and, especially, field research. Doctoral students collaborate with faculty and other students on important initiatives, participate in colloquia with experts from various disciplines, and conduct their own independent research. The faculty in our department include internationally renowned scholars and practitioners who actively mentor students. Vanderbilt University's Peabody College of Education and Human Development is consistently ranked among the best schools of education and human development in the country. Doctoral students typically get stipends, tuition, and health insurance for four to five years, along with some research and travel funds. Graduates become university professors, policy makers, community organizational leaders, and researchers.

Tracks

- **Education & Youth Development:** This track prepares students for an interdisciplinary approach to solving problems related to education and youth development.
- **Community Health:** This track prepares students to examine ways in which society- and community-level factors influence the health of populations, and how those factors can be leveraged to improve human health and well-being.
- **Urbanization, Environment, & Community Development:** This track prepares students to perform research, teach about, and engage with social, economic, political, and environmental problems related to urbanization and community development in the United States and around the world.



Department of Human & Organizational Development

vu.edu/hod

Community Research in Action
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Contact us for more information or to be connected to a current student!

Application Deadline
December 1 for Fall entrance

PH.D.



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