

Community Development and Action (M.Ed.)

A community is like a ship; everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm.

—Henrik Ibsen

If you are someone who wants to change the world, Community Development and Action (CDA) in the Department of Human and Organizational Development may be for you. CDA combines theory, research, and practice to equip students to study, design, and become agents of change in organizations and communities that support positive human development.

Concentrations

In addition to required courses, a student may take a further six hours to complete a concentration in topics such as leadership and management, interna-



tional development, education, public policy, community health and wellness, and program evaluation. An interdisciplinary specialization in poverty and intervention is also available.

CDA may be pursued concurrently

with studies for the Master of Theological Studies or Master of Divinity degree in the Vanderbilt Divinity School.

Career Paths

Graduates work in government service and public policy, youth development and education, community organizations and advocacy, mental health care access and services, and international development. Some continue study in social work, law, public health, and community development or pursue doctoral study in social sciences such as psychology, anthropology and sociology.

What Our Graduates Say

“CDA gave me a diverse and flexible toolkit that has enabled me to thrive in a complex organization in which I juggle multiple projects and need to move at a fast pace.”

—Jessica Gibbons-Benton, M.Ed.’13,
Lead Evaluator, Centerstone
Research Institute

“CDA gave me foundational knowledge of social change theory and opportunities to work with diverse community groups to put that knowledge into practice. Those experiences now support my doctoral work in leadership development.”

—Jera Niewoehner, M.Ed.’13, Doctoral
Student in Leadership Development,
University of Florida

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How to Apply

Visit apply.vanderbilt.edu
There is no fee to apply online.

For more information, visit
peabody.vanderbilt.edu

Priority Application Deadline
December 31

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