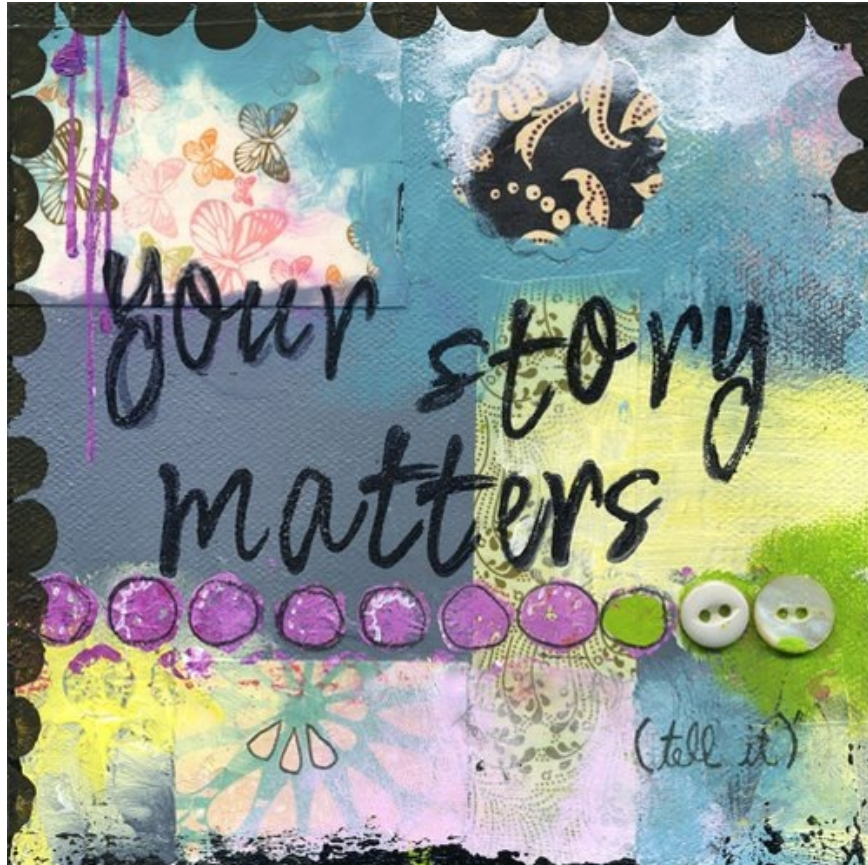


## Public and Community Service Studies



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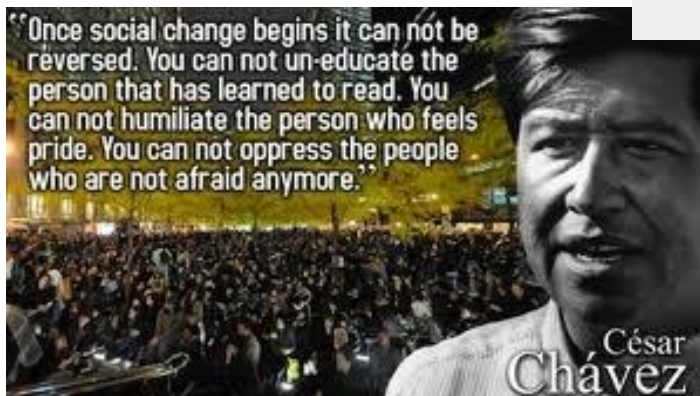
## Public and Community Service Studies Statement of Purpose

[Public and Community Service Studies](#) offers students an experientially grounded, interdisciplinary curriculum focused on community building and social change in a range of real-world contexts, from neighborhoods to nonprofits to businesses to social policy. The curriculum engages students directly in real-world social issues through an ongoing process of action, discussion and formal study that we call “reflective practice.” This skill of learning, strategizing and organizing from experience is powerful and is highly transferable. Alumnae/i of the program work in the nonprofit sector; local, national and federal government; law and policy; community organizing and community development; youth development; teaching; community health; philanthropy; and research. PSP develops the capacities of students, community partners and faculty to contribute to community building, organizational development, racial and economic equity, and organizing for social justice.

The academic program is built on a collaborative learning model in which all courses integrate experiential learning in an intentional way. The department’s innovative curriculum, the first of its kind in the country, continues to make it a pioneer and leader in community engaged, experiential learning.

Poverty is not an accident.  
Like slavery and apartheid,  
it is man-made and  
can be removed by  
the actions of  
human beings.

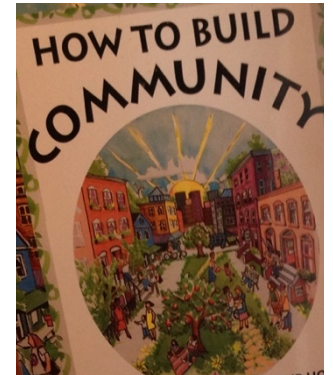
- Nelson Mandela



## Public and Community Service Studies

### Major Requirements

1. PSP 101- Introduction to Service in Democratic Communities
2. PSP 102- Foundations of Community Partnerships
3. PSP 303- Community Organizing
4. Cultural Diversity/Cultural Boundaries in Community Service.  
Options: PSP 302 - Diversity, Community, and Service or Approved Substitute
5. PSP 320, Best Practices in Community Engagement
6. PSP 321- Community Engaged Research
7. PSP 450- Internship in Community Service\*
- 8, 9. PSP 480/481- Capstone Seminar (2 semesters, 6 credits)
- 10, 11, 12. 3-course Track in a concentration of the student's design and choosing\*\*



### PSP Minors

#### PSP Minor Requirements

1. PSP 101 - Introduction to Service in Democratic Communities
2. PSP 102 - Foundations of Community Partnerships
3. PSP 303 - Community Organizing
4. Cultural Diversity/Cultural Boundaries in Community Service.  
Options: PSP 302 - Diversity, Community, and Service or Approved Substitute
5. PSP 482 - Public Service Minor Capstone
6. PSP Elective - Any course at or above the 300 level

### Community Health Track Minor

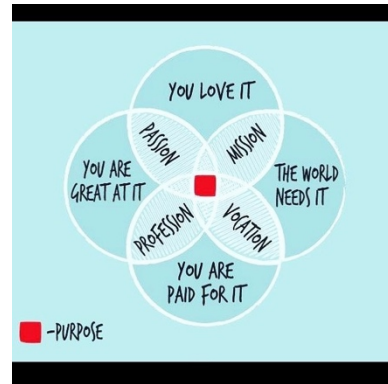
Students interested in public health - or in health professions or policy - may supplement their major with a PSP minor that concentrates in the area of community/public health. Requirements for this track are:

1. PSP 101 - Introduction to Service in Democratic Communities
2. HPM 101 - American Healthcare System
3. PSP 303 - Community Organizing
4. PHL 309 - Biomedical Ethics
5. PSP 491 - Independent Study: Community Health
6. PSP 482 - Public Service Minor Capstone

## Some mysteries explained

### *The major and minor are (intended to be) developmental*

This means that PSP courses are intended to build on one another. Certain concepts - community, service, systems, power, democracy, diversity - are revisited over and over again, each time from a new or more complex angle. Skills and practices such as deep listening, asset mapping, boundary crossing, community building and reflective practice are also revisited, so that they can be developed and refined. All of this happens in a context of growing experience that teaches you to notice more, and strategize and act more effectively. While there is no single order of courses required, students generally begin with 101 (introduction), then take 102 (community partnerships). We recommend doing 302 (diversity) before 303 (community organizing), if possible. PSP 320 (best practice community engagement) and 321 (community engaged research) generally follow a Spring/Fall sequence, and are best done after 302 and 303, though they are often done concurrently with one or the other. Many students elect to do their internship during their junior year. Capstone is a Fall/Spring sequence in the senior year, intended to assist students in pulling together their learning, experience and interests. The minor offers a stripped-down version of the major.



### *"Tracks" or "Three-course concentrations"*

The "track" is a three-course area of focus within the major. It is intended to work in tandem with foundational courses, internship and capstone so that each student has broad knowledge in public and community service, and a focus area of expertise. Rather than define the tracks ahead of time, the idea is that each student, with support from their advisor, identifies her or his area of interest and selects three courses that allow them to go deep. Sometimes, the three courses are selected from a minor program of study; sometimes they are selected from three different departments, and make up an interdisciplinary whole. While they can count, the department recommends against using 100-level courses for a track. The courses should be thematically connected in some way, and the student should be able to explain how the courses represent their interests. Some examples include tracks in public administration, politics, homelessness, food security, the environment, women's studies, youth work, education, community health and community arts.



### ***Internship for majors and minors***

Minors can use the PSP internship as their elective course; community health track minors often substitute an internship for their independent study. Internships are intended to be intensive (120 hours) public or community service experiences in an applied setting and combines this with formal reflection on the experience and specific academic themes. The experiential component of the internship is negotiated by the student and their site supervisor. The formal reflective component is agreed upon in advance by a faculty advisor and the student. Internships require



that the student complete an online Internship Learning Agreement using [Career Education's](#) Handshake platform; and the college does have an [Internship Handbook](#) that you may find useful. It is up to the student to identify their community site (PSP faculty and staff are happy to share their networks); and the student is responsible for identifying a faculty advisor. Most PSP faculty are happy to support internships; and faculty advisors can come from other academic departments. PSP Majors have interned at a variety of organizations including:

- The Buried Life
- Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island
- Girls on the Run
- The Office of Governor
- United Way
- Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless
- Rhode Island Commission for Human Rights
- Southside Community Land Trust

### ***Independent Studies***

Independent studies are negotiated by the student and supervising faculty member (faculty advisor). The independent study is intended to give minors an opportunity to pursue a line of study that links the PSP minor to their major field. Majors can use independent studies to pursue a line of study that is of interest to them; and independent study courses can be used as part of the "track." The process of setting up an independent study typically begins with a student approaching a faculty member with an idea.

### ***Study Abroad***

Many PSP majors and minors study abroad. Courses completed while studying abroad, including internships, can be substituted for PSP requirements if they meet the spirit of the requirement. This determination is made by the department chair, in collaboration with the college's Center for Global Education, and should be made in advance of studying abroad whenever possible.

## **Schematics and Mechanics: Planning and Registration**

### ***Advisors***

Every PSP major and minor will have a PSP faculty advisor. Initially, this is usually the department chair, and then students are assigned to faculty who share their interests. In addition to discussing registration each semester, PSP advisors are also charged with helping their advisees think through their internships and/or independent studies and their tracks. Advisors often end up supervising internships and independent studies, as well.

### ***Preregistration***

PSP majors and minors have the option of being preregistered for PSP courses just before general registration begins each semester. Typically, the department chair will send out information 3-4 weeks in advance of registration. Most semesters PSP can also preregister PSP students for THL 376 (Catholic Social Thought) and PHL 301 (Ethics, Moral Leadership and the Common Good). Any questions? - contact your advisor and/or the department chair.

### ***Substituting courses for major or minor requirements***

As student interests take shape, and as they are fitting in a wide variety of experiential learning opportunities (internships, volunteer work, study abroad...), it can be helpful to substitute alternative courses for required courses. This is done on a case-by-case basis and requires the approval of the advisor and department chair.

### ***Closing in on Graduation***

At the beginning of your senior year, the department chair works with the office of the Undergraduate Dean to do an audit of your transcript and make sure you have everything covered. This is the deadline for formally declaring your track and making sure that courses approved for substitution have been noted in your transcript.

**Sample semester-by-semester planning for majors**

	<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>
<b>Year One</b>	<b>PSP 101 Intro</b>	<b>PSP 102 Foundations of Community Partnerships</b>
<b>Year Two</b>	<b>PSP 302 Diversity, Community and Service Track I</b>	<b>PSP 303 Organizing PSP 320 Best Practice Community Engagement</b>
<b>Year Three</b>	<b>PSP 321 Com Engaged Research PSP 450 Internship Track II</b>	<b>Study Abroad?</b>
<b>Year Four</b>	<b>PSP 480 Capstone I Track III</b>	<b>PSP 481 Capstone II</b>

## Public and Community Service Studies Graduation Review

Name:

Date of review:

Anticipated date of graduation:

Requirement	Fulfilled at review
<b>Major</b>	
PSP 101 Introduction	
PSP 102 Foundations of Community Partnerships	
PSP 303 Community Organizing	
PSP 302 Diversity	
PSP 320 Best Practice Community Engagement	
PSP 321 Comm Engaged Research	
PSP 450 Internship	
PSP 480 Capstone I	
PSP 481 Capstone II	
Track I (approval of department)	
Track II (approval of department)	
Track III (approval of department)	
<b>Core</b>	
DWC I	
DWC II	
DWC III	
DWC Sem	
PHL Ethics	(PHL 301, others)
PHL not Ethics	
THL 2xx	
THL 3xx	(THL 376, others)
Fine Arts (1)	
Natural Science (1; physics?)	
Quantitative Reasoning (1)	
Social Science (1)	
Civic Engagement Proficiency	(PSP 101)



Diversity Proficiency	(PSP 302)
Writing I	(PSP 303)
Writing II	(PSP 480/81)
Oral Proficiency	(PSP 321)
Core Focus (2 courses)	

**And when you are really done...here is a sample of what PSP alums do next:**

Urban agriculture (farming, economics, marketing and policy)

Public policy development and advocacy

Policy and assessment research at organizational, local, state, national levels

Youth work

Public service in local, state and national government agencies

Masters in social work (counseling and community development)

Community economic development

Teaching in public and charter schools (often after completing a Master's in education)

Nonprofit management and program development

Fundraising

College student development

Campus ministry

Corporate and foundation philanthropy

Law (private practice, public defender, prosecutor)

Documentary film making

Postgraduate service corps including Peace Corps, Jesuit Volunteer Corps, AmeriCorps

Community arts (visual and performance arts)

Small business start-up/social enterprise

Direct service roles in alleviating homelessness, hunger, health education

Consulting and training in personal and organizational development

Community organizing

Graduate school leading to PhD and research/teaching

Corporate employment

Health care (nursing, physician, policy, emergency)