



What is Community Psychology?

Social justice. Action-oriented research.
Global in nature. Influencing public policy.
Working for empowerment. Multidisciplinary in focus. Celebrating culture. Preventing harm.
Behavior in context. Social action. Supporting community strengths. Reducing oppression.
Promoting well-being. Scientific inquiry.
Honoring human rights. Respecting diversity.

Community Psychologists go beyond an individual focus and integrate social, cultural, economic, political, environmental, and international influences to promote positive change, health, and empowerment at individual and systemic levels.

What do Community Psychologists do?

Depending on one's training, experiences, and preferences, community psychologists can work as **educators, professors, program directors, consultants, policy developers, evaluators**; and **researchers** in community organizations, universities, or government agencies to promote mental health and community well-being.

- We seek to expand "helping" beyond traditional psychotherapy to promote wellness.
- We engage in action-oriented research to develop, implement, and evaluate programs.

- We build collaborative relationships with community members, groups, and organizations to solve social problems.
- We analyze government, civic life, and workplace settings in order to understand and improve fair and diverse participation.
- We base our work on a scientific foundation to better understand the multiple influences of the social environment on health and wellness.
- We consult with and provide tools to organizations to build capacity to address social problems such as exploitation and victimization.
- We fight oppression, reduce social inequalities, and empower marginalized people.

Where do Community Psychologists Work?

- Academic settings such as: community colleges, small undergraduate colleges, and larger universities
- Health and human service agencies of: city, county, state, and federal governments
- Schools, community-based organizations, advocacy groups, religious institutions, and neighborhood groups.
- Public policy organizations and nonprofits.
- Research centers, independent or consulting groups, evaluation firms, and private practice.

Educational Opportunities in Community Psychology

Undergraduate Training Opportunities

- Inquire at your undergraduate institution about courses, research opportunities, and experiential learning opportunities. Get involved in research, service learning, and communities!
- Ask questions about community work <http://www.myctb.org/en/AskAnAdvisor.aspx>, or contact a community program director about a specific program. Free online tools for community work (Community Tool Box, <http://ctb.ku.edu>).

Graduate Training Opportunities

- **Master's** programs focus on practicing community psychology for hands-on skills.
- **Doctoral** programs include practical skills and more comprehensive research skills.
- Master's and Doctorate Degrees are offered in Community Psychology, Clinical/Counseling-Community Psychology, and interdisciplinary programs not in psychology departments. See <http://www.scra27.org/resources/education/academicpr> for a list of graduate programs.
- Visit the Society for Community Research and Action (SCRA) website for additional information about Community Psychology, educational programs, opportunities for involvement, conferences, and student membership: <http://www.scra27.org/>