

# WHAT CAN I DO WITH A DEGREE IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY STUDIES?

The **Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in Community Development and Policy Studies** at UOIT emphasizes strategies for sustainable development, targeting improved quality of life, community issues and community planning. This program is intended for students wishing to pursue a career in urban, rural, regional, or international development, social services, or environmental and social policy. For more information about this program, please visit the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities website at

[socialscienceandhumanities.uoit.ca/undergraduate/programs/community-development-policy-studies](https://socialscienceandhumanities.uoit.ca/undergraduate/programs/community-development-policy-studies)

## WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP IN THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY STUDIES PROGRAM?

A degree in Community Development and Policy Studies will allow you to develop a number of skills with application in a variety of work contexts. Some of the skills you will acquire and/or develop in the Community Development and Policy Studies program include:

Analytical and Critical Thinking	Decision Making	Persuasion	Problem Solving
Oral and Written Communication	Research	Planning and Organization	Teamwork

## EMPLOYERS HIRE PEOPLE NOT DEGREES!

Think beyond your program when choosing a career. To find the right career, you will need to take into account your interests, skills, work preferences and values. The list below is meant to give you some ideas, but it is not exhaustive. Don't limit yourself!

## WHAT ARE MY CAREER OPTIONS WITH A DEGREE IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY STUDIES?

Community Development and Policy Studies is an interdisciplinary field that opens up possibilities for careers such as:\*

Activist	Fundraiser	Legal Aid Worker	Public Policy Analyst
Child and Youth Worker	Housing Rehabilitation Specialist	Librarian	Researcher
Community Education Coordinator	Humanitarian Aid Worker	Lobbyist	Resident Initiatives Coordinator
Counsellor	Job Centre Director	Mediator	Urban Planner
Economic Development Officer	Journalist	Outreach Coordinator	Volunteer Manager
Family Service Worker	Judge	Paralegal	
Foreign Service Worker	Lawyer	Politician	
		Project Coordinator	

\*Please note that many of the occupations listed above may require further education, certifications or work experience in conjunction with your degree.

## WHERE HAVE PREVIOUS UOIT SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES GRADS WORKED?

Central Eglinton Community Centre	John Howard Society	Heart and Stroke Foundation
Northwest Regional Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Society	Local Health Integration Network	Boys and Girls Club Durham

# HOW CAN I GET SOME PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE?

A degree on its own is generally not enough to land you your dream job. Practical experience is critical, not only to give you the qualifications you need to be competitive, but also to help you better understand your own interests, skills, personality and work values so that you can be confident that your next career step is the right fit for you.

There are a number of ways for you to get some real-world experience and information about potential careers related to Community Development and Policy Studies. These include:

**Practicum** – Placements with community organizations are offered to a limited number of fourth-year Social Science and Humanities students. The Pre-Practicum Process begins in third year. For more information, visit [socialscienceandhumanities.uoit.ca/undergraduate/experiential-learning.php](https://socialscienceandhumanities.uoit.ca/undergraduate/experiential-learning.php)

**Volunteering** - If you have little or no work experience, unpaid work experiences are a great way to get your foot in the door, allowing you to develop your skills through hands-on experience, learn more about your interests and make valuable contacts to add to your network for potential paid work opportunities down the road. For more information, find the volunteering resource at [uoit.ca/careertools](https://uoit.ca/careertools)

**Informational Interviews** - Informational interviews allow you to get the inside scoop on potential career paths from individuals working in the field. For information on how to set up and conduct informational interviews, find the Informational Interview resource at [uoit.ca/careertools](https://uoit.ca/careertools)

**Get Involved**- The Faculty of Social Science and Humanities has several clubs and organizations dedicated to, among other things, organizing experiential learning and professional opportunities for their members. For more information, visit [socialscienceandhumanities.uoit.ca/about/student-clubs.php](https://socialscienceandhumanities.uoit.ca/about/student-clubs.php). See also [your-sa.ca](https://your-sa.ca) for information about other clubs offered by the Student Association. Check out [uoit.ca/getinvolved](https://uoit.ca/getinvolved) for information about the **Student Involvement Record**.

## WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

**Student Portal** – There are a number of career resources on the Student Portal to get you started in your career research process, including links to job leads and information about further education. For more information, visit: [uoit.ca/careercentre](https://uoit.ca/careercentre)

**Career Counselling** – Email [careercentre@uoit.ca](mailto:careercentre@uoit.ca) to book a career counselling appointment if you would like to discuss your career development, including issues such as: career indecision; identifying your skills, interests, work values and personality style as it relates to the workplace; feeling overwhelmed, anxious or confused about the career planning or decision-making process; and overcoming barriers to career development.

**Academic Advising** – Email [sshadvicing@uoit.ca](mailto:sshadvicing@uoit.ca) to set up an appointment to discuss questions related to your academic path within the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities.