



Are you an idealist who wants to change the world? Want to be part of a dynamic, engaging learning community that connects your classes with real-world problem-solving? Hope to have a career that serves society? Then the public and community service studies (PSP) major is right for you. PSP offers an interdisciplinary curriculum focused on solving real-world problems. PSP students work closely with faculty and community partners to research and address complex issues and then reflect on this shared work to develop the leadership skills necessary for making positive social change. 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.

B.A. Public and Community Service Studies

The public and community service studies major is built on six core classes that examine service in democratic communities, ethics and best practices in community partnerships, community organizing, diversity in service, and community-engaged research. Students also complete an internship, complete a three-course area of concentration, and take a two-semester senior capstone seminar. A thematic concentration of three classes is built into the curriculum to provide the opportunity to choose a specific area of study. Students create their tracks based on their passion, with support from faculty advisors, to demonstrate expertise in an area related to public and community engagement. Examples of tracks include topics such as youth studies, environmental sustainability, and nonprofit management.

Minors

Public and Community Service Studies: A minor in public and community service studies is a useful complement to many other major programs of study, enabling students to connect their major areas of study with intensive, real-world engagement. The minor consists of the four core courses, as well as a public service capstone seminar and an elective of any public and community service studies course at the 300 level or higher.

Community Health Track: A minor program of study developed specifically for students interested in community health or in public health professions or policy is also offered. The community health track includes core courses focused on the healthcare system and biomedical ethics.



Explore Courses
of Study
and More





PLACES AND PROGRAMS

The Feinstein Institute for Public Service was established in 1993 to develop an innovative academic program that would educate community leaders by integrating community service with academic study. Through a process of focused conversations and deep reflection, the Feinstein Institute for Public Service works collaboratively to increase an understanding of and promote positive, sustainable social and economic change through community building.

Our academic program is built on a collaborative teaching model with all of the courses integrating community-engaged learning in an intentional way. Students participate in a diverse range of community work including direct service, community organizing, community development, and public policy.

Selected Places of Employment

Barcelona En Comú • CEIP Las Acacias • City Year
Cristo Rey Dallas • Criteo • Discovery Museum
Happify • Hasbro • Jean D'Arc Union
Monomoy Regional High School
Person-to-Person • Project 351
Providence Public Library • The Food Project
United Healthcare • United States Senate
YMCA

Selected Graduate Schools

American International College
Boston College
Johns Hopkins University
Providence College
Rutgers University
Teachers College Columbia University
University of Massachusetts Boston
University of Notre Dame
University of Rhode Island

88%

of public and community service studies graduates are employed or attending graduate school

(Providence College classes of 2019 - 2023)

public-service.providence.edu