



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

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, and experiential learning opportunities. Get involved in research, conferences, SCRA activities, service learning, and your community!

Graduate Training Opportunities

- Graduate degrees are offered in Community Psychology, Clinical-Community Psychology, and interdisciplinary programs. See <http://www.scra27.org/resources/education/academicpr> for a list of graduate programs.
- **Master's** programs focus on theory, research, and practical skills in community psychology, often with a significant practice focus.
- **Doctoral** programs include advanced theory, practice, and comprehensive research skills, and prepare students for many career options.
- For information about community psychology degrees and career opportunities, see <http://www.idealists.org/en/psgerc/overviews.html>. Ask questions about community psychology education or community work <https://www.myctb.org/en/AskAnAdvisor.aspx> or contact a community program director about a specific program.
- For more information about Community Psychology programs, opportunities for involvement, conferences, and student membership, see <http://www.scra27.org/>