The Community Economic Development major prepares students to work with local, state, or federal government as well as non-governmental organizations in managing issues related to improving economic conditions in rural areas.

This degree focuses on rural job creation, labor markets, growth-agriculture conflicts, and land-use management.

Potential careers

- Extension agent
- Community engagement officer
- Economic developer
- Community and tourism assessor
- Community financial specialist

According to the Department of Education, the median salary for our students, four years post graduation, is nearly $76,000.

Key skillsets

- Economic analysis
- Community impact assessments
- Geographic informational analysis
CHECKLIST
Pathways general education: 45 hours
Degree core requirements: 19 hours
Major requirements: 19 hours
Analytical methods requirements: 3 hours
Area of specialization and free electives: 25 hours
Restrictive electives: 9 hours

A HIGHLIGHT OF COMPANIES WHO HIRE OUR GRADUATES
USDA Farm Service Agency, Virginia Department of Housing, AmeriCorps, CropLife America, Virginia Cooperative Extension, World Health Organization, a variety of community economic development offices, and many more.

EXAMPLES OF COMMON CORE AND MAJOR REQUIREMENT CLASSES

• Foundations of Agribusiness
  Introduction to the primary management tools as they relate to farm production enterprises and agribusinesses.

• Agricultural Production and Consumption Economics
  Focuses on the economic principles of production, applications to decision-making and the allocation of resources for an agricultural firm, in addition to consumer behavior and demand for agricultural products.

• Agricultural Law
  Legal problems of farm and agribusiness management. Practical application of principles of contracts, negligence, debt instruments, and commercial transactions of the farm and agribusiness organization.

• International Agricultural Development and Trade
  Examination of the role of agriculture in less developed countries and how that role is affected by public policies.

• Rural and Regional Development Policy
  Description of rural areas, their economic structure, and conditions for broad-based economic development. Emphasis on the role of markets in the development process. Introduction to tools to evaluate policies and programs, identify distributional impacts, identify appropriateness for long-term sustainable development, and analyze tradeoffs between policy goals.

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