

Master of Arts in Community Psychology

CREATE CHANGE AND BE CHANGED!

What is Community Psychology?

Community psychology recognizes that the most effective way to promote individual health and well-being is to work with the communities in which individuals live. Community psychologists seek to create sustainable change that enables communities and individuals to thrive by:

- Designing and implementing interventions supported by scientific evidence rather than guessing what might work
- Collaborating with and supporting community members in making change rather than telling them what they need
- Focusing on building community strengths and resources rather than seeing the community solely through its problems and limitations
- Respecting and appreciating cultural diversity rather than assuming that programs and interventions work the same way for everyone
- Creating conditions that are empowering rather than creating conditions that foster dependence
- Promoting human rights and social justice by working with those who are underserved and disadvantaged



Skills Taught in the Program

The two-year program emphasizes professional training, with many courses involving hands-on experience. The program includes an eight-month (two-semester) internship and a community-based research thesis, where skills in community work are further developed. Graduates learn how to:

- Understand the psychological and physical health of individuals in the context of the communities and systems in which they live
- Conduct applied, participatory and action-oriented research
- Assess community needs, resources and strengths
- Design and implement prevention and intervention programs
- Develop community coalitions and build community capacities
- Evaluate and monitor programs in ways that promote collaboration and use of findings
- Apply basic individual and group counseling skills in community work
- Interact with communities in an ethical and culturally competent way

It's Not What You Do; It's How You Do It

Community psychologists make a difference in the world with their unique approach that has demonstrated effectiveness in creating social change. Whether you focus your career around a particular population (refugees, people with mental illness or street children), a particular issue (poverty, health equity, drug abuse, housing or women's rights) or a skill set (coalition building, prevention, program evaluation or public policy), your degree in community psychology will serve you well.

Community psychologists bring their unique perspective and skills to a variety of job settings, including:

- National and international nonprofit organizations
- Multilateral organizations such as the United Nations or the World Health Organization
- Government offices, focusing on mental or physical health, education, development or family Social research firms
- Corporate social responsibility offices
- Donor and grant-funding agencies
- Universities and educational institutions
- Private consultation



Community Psychology at AUC

- Learn community psychology skills in an international setting while acquiring a degree from an institution with U.S. accreditation.
- Apply your thesis to solving social problems and make use of internship and practicum opportunities, working with NGOs, community-based organizations, government offices and international agencies.
- Be challenged to do your best and gain new experiences, with support and encouragement from caring faculty members and motivated peers.
- Work to create a central role for community psychology, particularly during challenging times.

Admission

Applications from Egyptian and international students are welcome. New students are enrolled annually for the fall semester, which begins in early September. In general, admission decisions are based on a candidate's personal statement, previous academic record, experience in community-based settings and letters of recommendation.

Applicants can learn more about how to apply through www.aucegypt.edu/admissions/graduate.

Financial Support

AUC offers financial support options, including need-based financial aid, teaching assistantship positions and fellowships. Students have received tuition waivers and support through multiple fellowship options, such as the African Graduate Fellowship (offered to non-Egyptian African nationals) and the Tarek Juffali Fellows Program (granted to psychology students only).

"I've always been passionate about social justice and the well-being of communities and groups. The community psychology program at AUC not only gave me the language I needed to express my feelings, thoughts and passions but it also expanded my knowledge and experiences in remarkable ways. Studying community psychology in Egypt as an international student adds a layer of depth to the understanding and practice of the field in ways that are unmatched."

Kamauria Acree (MA '18), Community Psychology MA

"The practical work I did in the community psychology program at AUC prepared me to become a consultant with nonprofit organizations. The program made me more professional and flexible. I'm better able to understand how diverse communities think and to work with them in an empowering way. It also increased my networking skills. It was a real step forward in my career."

Hana Fahmy '05, '12, Community Psychology MA