

# CED PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The professional certificate in Community Economic Development (CED) from Simon Fraser University's Faculty of Environment prepares students to enhance and expand their work in local economies. Applying the principles of a triple-bottom-line approach (economic growth, environmental sustainability, and social equity) graduates of the certificate program are able to design and implement CED strategies and social enterprise solutions for a variety of pressing challenges. The CED program focuses on the local economy, but is designed to complement the work of practitioners in a variety of non-profit, governmental, Indigenous, and business roles.

## WHAT DO STUDENTS LEARN

The CED certificate program strikes a balance between theory and practice, ensuring that students can develop an intuition for using CED principles while having a large set of case studies and tools to work from.

Courses change each year, but typically include:

- Indigenous economic development
- Sustainable economies
- Rural economic development
- Structuring social enterprises and cooperatives
- CED governance and community organizing



## BENEFITS OF CED PROGRAM

In addition to receiving the certificate itself, there are a number of benefits from the program:

- All students will participate in an 8-month design lab in their own communities that focus on developing a **CED strategy, plan, or framework** (or a social enterprise business canvas if they prefer). These design projects integrate learnings from each course, and ensure that every student has a tangible product to take back to their employers, community members, Nations, or partner organizations.
- Membership in the **SFU CED Alumni Community of Practice** which includes networking events, access to online tools, and further professional development opportunities.
- **Potential for academic credits** if accepted into SFU CED partner degree programs.
- Increased **potential for employment or promotion** in CED and related fields.

## HOW IT WORKS

The CED program is designed to give students maximum learning and hands-on experience, while maintaining their other life obligations. The program is mostly online with two one-week Vancouver-based intensives in October and May. The online portion includes two hours of class-time each week and another one to four hours of homework or preparation time. There are breaks between courses and holiday weeks. Students usually complete all program requirements in eight months.



## WHO TYPICALLY ENROLS IN THE PROGRAM?

CED students come from a wide-variety of backgrounds and careers. The types of students that usually thrive in the program include:

- Non-profit and municipal staff who work on business issues;
- First Nations councillors or staff that have economic development in their portfolios;
- Recent graduates who desire an applied certification to increase job opportunities.

## WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

Typically we look for a mix of education and experience in community development that may come from many sources. While we prefer at least an undergrad degree and two years of experience, we evaluate students on a case-by-case basis and will accept many forms of informal qualifications. Just share your story and we will help you think through your fit.

**Need more information?**

**Contact us!**

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