

DIPLOMA IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – NEW!

Passionate about engaging communities for a worthy cause? Curious about human psychology and how to apply it to impact behavioural changes? Learn how to make a positive impact in the community through our Diploma in Community Development (CDT)!

Through CDT, you will have the opportunity to interact with different segments of the community, understand their needs and motivations, and be equipped to achieve better outcomes for these communities. You will also learn fundamental principles of human behavior, design thinking and social innovation; and through collaboration, you will get to curate innovative solutions that will address community issues and needs. The broad-based curriculum will expose you to various aspects of psychology, entrepreneurship and management, to enable you to be an effective practitioner in the social service, non-profit and social enterprise sectors.

Over the three years, our signature programmes are designed to give you an extraordinary learning journey:

Year 1: Community Kickstarter

Embark on a Community Kickstarter journey to learn about the needs of the community. Get an introduction to psychology, sociology and the social services sector.

Year 2: Changemakers' Bootcamp

Be empowered with professional skills in areas such as managing social service organisations, marketing and communication, conducting research, counselling and group facilitation techniques in social work settings. There will be more hands-on learning through a Changemakers' Bootcamp as well as Service-Learning projects.

Year 3: Social Innovation in Action

Gain industry exposure through a practicum with key social service and non-profit industry partners such as Ang Mo Kio Family Service Centre and the Ministry of Family & Social Development; or let loose your social entrepreneurship spirit by starting a social enterprise such as Camp Hiro, a simulation-based social enterprise launched by BZSE students. In addition, you will get to hone your skills through internships at local or overseas social enterprises, as well as start-ups and companies with strong corporate social responsibility, such as DBS and Adrenalin Group.

But that's not all – you could also have the opportunity to go on an overseas community mapping trip, where you will identify and propose solutions on social issues.

YEAR 1 COURSE MODULES

LEVEL 1.1

Academic Writing & Presentation

This module focuses on critical thinking, academic writing as well as presentation and listening skills. The module aims to equip students with the skills for academic writing and presentation. Finding and evaluating academic sources, reading, note-taking, essay planning and writing, and presentation skills will be developed in this module.

Career & Professional Preparation 1

This module gives students a foundational introduction to their three-year diploma course curriculum and how it prepares them for industry. It will help them to embark on their course with the end in mind, through guided reflection of their personal characteristics and producing an overall game plan for their future education and career goals. The module aims to deepen students' commitment to the sector that the course prepares them for.

Community Development & Social Services

This module introduces students to the wide array of community development efforts, social services and resources that promote wellness, with special attention to the local context. Students will explore the variety of services catering to different population groups in the community (including children, youth, elderly, family, and people with disabilities and special needs) and appreciate the importance of inclusivity.

Fundamentals of Sociology

This module stresses the influence of societal forces on behaviours and lives of individuals. The aim is to provide students with an understanding of the social context of behaviours.

Introduction to Psychology

This module introduces psychology as a science of behaviour and mental processes. Students are given a broad overview of the different fields in psychology and will learn to actively apply psychological insights to their lives.

IT Applications

This module develops the e-competencies by equipping the students with the essential computing concepts and necessary skills to use computer applications for information research, organisation, collaboration and presentation.

LEVEL 1.2

Development across the Lifespan: Embracing Diversity & Inclusivity

This module studies the physical, cognitive, emotional and social aspects of human development from infancy through childhood, adolescence, adulthood and old age. The aim is to provide students with knowledge of progressive psychological changes that occur in human beings as they age and the multidisciplinary approaches in the assessment and intervention for disabilities which can occur in the human lifespan. The module encourages students to embrace differences, diversity and inclusivity through deconstructing their notion of disability.

Introduction to Research Methods & Statistics

This module introduces students to basic statistics and methods used in social and psychological research. Students will learn descriptive and inferential statistics, probability theory, the formulation of research problems and the construction of empirically testable hypotheses, sampling, data collection techniques, and research writing skills.

Managing Social Service Organisations

This module enables students to acquire an introductory understanding of management principles and applications. They will learn how managers plan, lead, organise and control activities and resources in organisations. Students will work closely with local social service organisations to understand the different strategies used to meet community needs. The module also introduces concepts and principles of accounting and financial decision-making by social service organisations.

Professional Communication 1

This module prepares students to communicate effectively in business settings. Students will learn both oral and written communication skills that demonstrate concepts of business communication principles, interpersonal skills and intercultural skills. Topics such as proposal and report writing, elevator pitch and professional presentation will be covered.

Social Innovation & Entrepreneurship

This module introduces the social and environmental issues faced by the local community. The module also examines the different community needs and analyses the different types of innovative social solutions that have been designed to meet those needs. Students will work closely with local social enterprises, non-profit organisations, and voluntary welfare organisations, to understand the different strategies used to meet community needs.

YEAR 1 COURSE CURRICULUM

Module Name	Credit Units
Level 1.1 (18 hours per week)	
Academic Writing & Presentation	4
Career & Professional Preparation 1	1
Community Development & Social Services	4
Fundamentals of Sociology	3
Introduction to Psychology	3
IT Applications	3
Level 1.2 (20 hours per week)	
Development across the Lifespan: Embracing Diversity & Inclusivity	4
Health & Wellness [^]	1
Introduction to Research Methods & Statistics	4
Managing Social Service Organisations	4
Professional Communication 1	3
Social Innovation & Entrepreneurship	4

Notes:

[^] For more details on Interdisciplinary Studies (IS) electives, please log on to www.np.edu.sg/is

IS Modules

The School of Interdisciplinary Studies (IS) delivers a broad-based curriculum, which nurtures a new generation of professionals with multidisciplinary skills and an innovative and entrepreneurial spirit to meet the challenges of a knowledge economy. IS offers both prescribed modules and electives to challenge boundaries. Prescribed modules develop students' competencies in core areas such as Communication, Innovation and Enterprise, Culture and Communication, and Personal Mastery and Development, while elective modules provide insights into Arts and Humanities, Business, Design, and Science and Technology.

YEAR 2 COURSE MODULES

LEVEL 2.1

Group Dynamics & Facilitation

This module equips students with theories, research findings and skills aimed at managing group dynamics/conflicts and improving group effectiveness. Through field-based learning, students will be able to build the skills required to apply knowledge in practical situations such as managing psychoeducation group sessions.

Professional Communication 2

This module prepares students to write effective cover letters and resumes. Preparation and enhancement of portfolio to meet professional standards as well as development of presentation skills, and improvement of job-seeking techniques will also be covered in the module.

Programme Development & Impact Evaluation

This module provides students with the basic knowledge and skills in the design, management, implementation and evaluation of programmes in the context of social services. Through field-based learning, students will be able to apply psychological/social service concepts to guide the process of programme development.

Project & Event Management

This module introduces students to project management concepts and tools. Project management concepts covered include project design and planning, time and cost management, risk assessment, scheduling, and progress management. Students will learn to apply these tools in a service-learning project to meet a real need identified by a community partner. Through structured reflections and facilitation, this module endeavours to enable students to connect their service experiences to their learning of project management concepts for a broader appreciation of the module, and to cultivate in them a sense of social responsibility and civic engagement.

Research Methods for Social Services

This module builds on the foundational course for Introduction to Research Methods and Statistics. This module explores more complex research design used in the social sciences, including multiple comparisons and regression analyses. Students are also introduced to community mapping, Venn diagrams, wealth ranking, stakeholder and SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis, preference and matrix ranking, focused interviews, focus group discussions, case studies and direct observations

Sponsorship & Volunteer Development

This module provides students with an overview of the fundamentals of stakeholder partnerships, sponsorship and a Volunteer Management Framework in the context of social services. Through service-learning, case studies and empirical findings, students will gain an understanding of issues related to engaging stakeholders, fund-raising and sponsorship development and the role of volunteer management framework in managing issues such as volunteers' recruitment, job-match, motivation and recognition.

LEVEL 2.2

Case Management & Supervised Practicum

This module provides students with the basic knowledge and skills of working with an individual: engaging the individuals through basic counselling skills, conducting needs assessment, formulation of objectives, implementation of intervention, and evaluation of outcomes. Through supervised practicum, students will gain practical knowledge and skills in case management and be exposed to ethical and self-care issues.

Community Psychology & Advocacy

This module introduces community analysis to identify problems and challenges, and promotes individual and community wellbeing and inclusivity through prevention and intervention efforts. Students will, through a service-learning project, develop content and tools of communication for educational and advocacy purposes, including the design and delivery of public education campaigns and promotional communication to inform, educate and persuade audiences in community settings.

Marketing & Communication for Social Service Organisations

This module examines the concepts and principles of marketing and public relations communications for social service organisations. Students will have the opportunity to apply marketing concepts in creative and visual means for social goods and services through real-world applications. Students will also be exposed to writing approaches required for various communication situations, audiences, and objectives – and apply digital photography and imaging for creating publicity collaterals.

Regulatory Framework & Governance

This module introduces students to the essentials of corporate governance frameworks pertinent to social service organisations in Singapore. Students will learn about various legal structures for start-ups, internal controls against fraud and unfair human resource practices, and product/service liabilities and obligations. It also introduces students to basic approaches taken by social enterprises to measure social impact.

Technology for Community Solutioning

This module introduces students to the principles and concepts of technologies in social services. They will explore the role of technology in assisting the various communities and disabilities and incorporate technology into service plans and programmes, to bring about improved outcomes.

YEAR 2 COURSE CURRICULUM

Module Name	Credit Units
Level 2.1 (21 hours per week)	
Group Dynamics & Facilitation	3
Professional Communication 2	2
Programme Development & Impact Evaluation	4
Project & Event Management	4
Research Methods for Social Services	4
Sponsorship & Volunteer Development	4
Level 2.2 (22 hours per week)	
Case Management & Supervised Practicum	4
Community Psychology & Advocacy	4
Marketing & Communication for Social Service Organisations	4
Regulatory Framework & Governance	4
Technology for Community Solutioning	4
World Issues: A Singapore Perspective [^]	2

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YEAR 3 COURSE MODULES

LEVEL 3.1

Practicum with Integrated Project

This module requires students to work on a capstone project that allows them to integrate and apply what they have learnt in their three years of study while undergoing a practicum at an organisation. Students will collaborate with the organisation to either start their own social enterprises or undertake a project to benefit selected communities.

Professional Communication 3

This module equips students with personal grooming skills required in a professional setting. Students will be taught grooming and social etiquette as well as appropriate dressing. Other topics include personal hygiene, making small talk and handling difficult conversations.

LEVEL 3.2

6-Month Internship

The internship programme enables students to acquire the work experience needed for their chosen areas of interest, with professional practitioners acting as mentors. The organisations involved are selected for their capacity to allow students to learn different aspects of work in the industry concerned. The students' learning outcomes are assessed by their respective field mentors and Ngee Ann supervisors. Students could also work closely with industry partners on internship projects that will benefit children, families and the community.

YEAR 3 COURSE CURRICULUM

Module Name	Credit Units
Level 3.1 (20 hours per week)	
Practicum with Integrated Project	12
Professional Communication 3	2
Project ID: Connecting the Dots [^]	4
Level 3.2 (20 hours per week)	
6-Month Internship	20

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