Our Faculty

Charles Burdall, Ph.D., Chair
Multivariate Methods; Teaching Evaluation; Program Evaluation; Survey Development
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Rhonda Lewis-Moss, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Prevention; Program Evaluation; Reducing Health Disparities; Adolescent Health and Development
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Louis Medvene, Ph.D.
Close Relationships; Care-Giving with Elderly; Evaluation Research, Cognitive Complexity
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Greg Meissen, Ph.D.
Self-Help Network; Community Change; Self-Help Groups; Leadership; Network Analysis
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Our Graduates

Currently, I am an assistant professor at Wayne State University and my lab is conducting research on the development of temperament. I have found that my education at Wichita State has prepared me exceptionally well. The breadth of quality experiences I was able to obtain at WSU has probably saved me two years worth of "lessons learned" as an assistant professor.

- Ty Partridge, Ph.D.

The graduate education I received at Wichita State has provided a comprehensive and solid foundation for my career at the National Institutes of Health. In an environment in which I have regular contact with researchers from many prestigious universities, I claim my WSU affiliation with pride.

- Tonja R. Nansel, Ph.D.

At the Self-Help Network, I learned to collaborate with community organizations, design studies, develop surveys, and publish peer-reviewed journal articles. The workplace provided enough support so that I could get help when I needed it, and enough autonomy so that I could pursue personally meaningful research.

- Louis D. Brown, Ph.D.

My training in Community Psychology at WSU has afforded me the skills and opportunities to conduct research across a variety of disciplines from criminology to public health. The expert faculty encourages innovative research and teaching strategies. I encourage anyone interested in community development to consider WSU.

- Megan O’Brien, Ph.D.
Ph.D. in Community Psychology

The Community Psychology program has a public service and preventive orientation. Using the principles of psychology, we educate students to work with underserved and disadvantaged populations and the community organizations that serve them. The program teaches students to develop and implement effective preventative initiatives based on individual, group, and community mechanisms for change.

Students engage in research and action projects. There is an emphasis on doing applied work that is theory-based. Students are provided a strong foundation in program development and evaluation, prevention, grant writing, organizational / community development, community and public health, and applied research methodology. Some current areas

- Adolescent health & development
- Caregiving of elderly
- Self-Help groups
- Community leadership
- Parish nursing
- Eliminating health disparities
- Teaching evaluation
- Multivariate research methods
- Program evaluation
- Consumer run organizations

Benefits of Our Program

Graduates from our program receive:

- A solid educational foundation in psychological theory, principles, and methodology
- Opportunities to explore applications of community psychology including enhancing communities for children, prevention of AIDS in minority teens, impact of life stories for older adults, evaluation of teaching, and study of mental health consumer run agencies
- Practical experience in community intervention and research through paid practica
- Opportunities to gain collegiate level teaching experience
- Opportunities for employment in health and human service organizations, non-profit agencies, government, or academia
- Opportunities to publish in top journals for community interventions and research
- Opportunities to present at national Community Psychology conferences

Career Opportunities

The students currently enrolled or who have graduated from our Community Psychology doctoral program have found employment in a variety of human service and research environments. Here is a sample of locations where our students and graduates have been or are currently employed:

- National Institute of Health (NIH)
- Center City for Homeless Mentally ll
- Wayne State University
- Self-Help Network: Center for Community Support & Research
- Johns Hopkins School of Public Health
- Community Crisis Intervention Center
- University of Kansas School of Medicine
- Stanford University
- Kansas Health Institute Services Institute
- University of North Carolina

Facilitation skills.
Teaching skills.
Student-faculty research.