



**AUDREY FALK, ED.D.**

Assistant Professor and Program Director, Community Engagement Graduate Program

Dr. Falk enjoys teaching students to be effective community organizers, leaders, and citizens. She teaches a wide range of courses in the Community Engagement Program, such as Community Engagement: Theory and Practice, Social Justice Education in Action, and Research Methods. Her research interests are in service learning and civic engagement and the scholarship of teaching. Dr. Falk has published articles in journals such as the Journal of Community Engagement and Higher Education, the Journal of Public Scholarship in Higher Education, and the Journal for Civic Commitment. During her career, Dr. Falk taught at Towson University and participated in postdoctoral research fellowships at the American Institutes for Research and at the University of Maryland College Park. Earlier in her career, she served as Executive Director of a university-community partnership involving the University of Massachusetts, Boston, and Harbor Point. Dr. Falk also served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Romania.



**ASHLEY CAREY**

As a high school art teacher, Ashley Carey was searching for a master's degree program that would meet her passion for social justice and would help her students develop academically, socially and emotionally. As a student in Merrimack's Master of Education in Community Engagement, she combines her background in art with material she has learned in her community engagement courses to introduce social justice issues to her students. She recently used a film about the hip-hop industry that was shown in her Diversity and Social Justice course to help teach a unit on identity in her high school photography class. "I am personally invested in social justice and enjoy doing assignments where I can see a difference being made."

**MERRIMACK COLLEGE** is a selective, independent college in the Catholic, Augustinian tradition whose mission is to enlighten minds, engage hearts and empower lives. The College offers undergraduate degrees in the liberal arts, business, science and engineering, and education programs; it also offers master's programs and part-time degree completion programs. Merrimack's community is committed to scholarship and service to others, and provides students myriad opportunities to develop intellectually, spiritually, socially and ethically.

**THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION & SOCIAL POLICY** Merrimack College's School of Education & Social Policy provides the opportunity to learn about, collaborate with, and impact PreK-12 schools, colleges, and communities through dynamic and focused programs that link theory to practice, excellence to impact, and classrooms with communities. The School offers a wide variety of undergraduate and graduate programs, including the Master of Science in Criminology and Criminal Justice, and houses two research centers: the Graduate Institute for Education and the Center for Engaged Democracy. All of the school's educator preparation programs are approved by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Please visit [www.merrimack.edu/schoolofeducation](http://www.merrimack.edu/schoolofeducation) for the most up-to-date information about the School of Education & Social Policy.

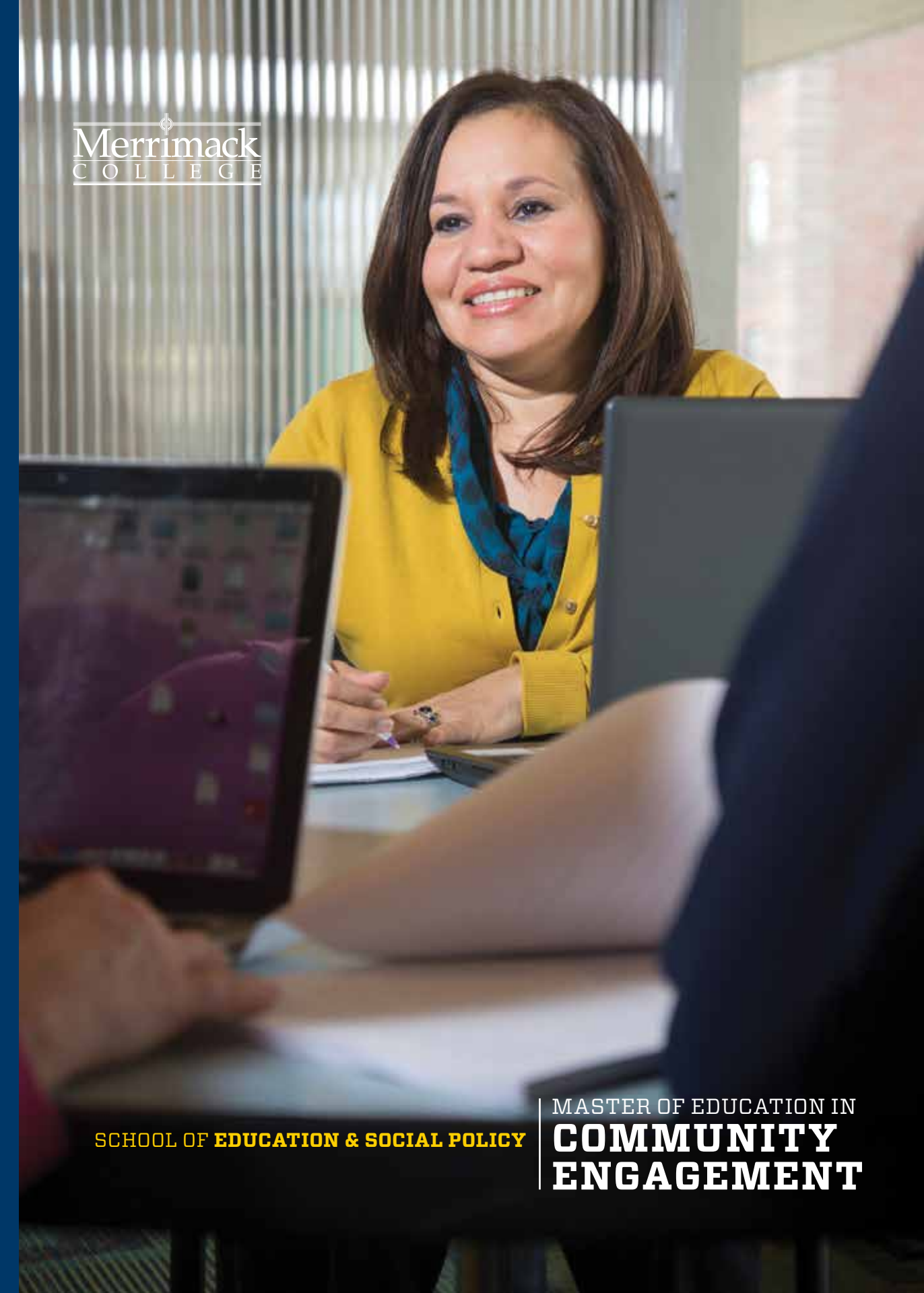
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SCHOOL OF EDUCATION & SOCIAL POLICY  
MASTER OF EDUCATION IN  
**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**



## THE M.ED. IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Master of Education in Community Engagement is a 36-credit graduate program which focuses on citizen involvement and social justice, emphasizing service learning and community development. Students in the program are passionate about addressing pressing social issues and needs through community organizing and community partnerships. Students gain a broad understanding of civic engagement in the non-profit sector, including trends, theoretical models, and best practices. The program prepares students with fundamental skills needed in a number of career directions and a wide range of employment opportunities for outreach and partnership work in schools, colleges, and community organizations.

### Personal Meets Practical

The Master of Education in Community Engagement is ideal for working professionals who want to earn a graduate degree part time while continuing to hold down a job. Or students may elect to complete the degree full-time in one calendar year. Our programs offer students the flexibility of completing the master's coursework at their own pace. Classes are held on campus in late afternoons and early evenings, helping students to better balance work and school. Students learn alongside a diverse peer group, deepening their graduate experience and encouraging an active exchange of ideas.

### Program Structure and Sequence

The core of our program emphasizes social justice and the role that schools, colleges, and communities can and should play in society. Students complete several core courses and choose one of three concentrations: Higher Education, K-12 Education, or Community Organizations. Through the capstone project, typically completed in small groups, students complete a community-based participatory action research initiative. An intentionally strong hands-on program, many of the courses include guest speakers from community organizations, including alumni of the program, and/or visits to community organizations.

### A sample of our alumni employment:

- Nutrition Research and Outreach Assistant, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Program Coordinator, NYU School of Medicine, Office of Diversity Affairs
- Residence Director, Bentley University
- Education Specialist, Essex National Heritage Commission
- Development/Social Media/Volunteer Coordinator, Plummer Home for Boys
- Advisor, Career Pathways Bridge Program, Northern Essex Community College

<b>CORE COURSES</b> 16 credits required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diversity and Social Justice</li> <li>• Community Engagement: Theory and Practice</li> <li>• Research Methods</li> <li>• Capstone Project</li> </ul>
<b>AREAS OF CONCENTRATION</b> 12 credits required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Organizations</li> <li>• Higher Education</li> <li>• K-12 Education</li> </ul>
<b>ELECTIVES</b>	8 credits required
<b>CAPSTONE</b>	Students typically work in teams to pursue community-based participatory action research projects in partnership with community organizations. Students work with community partners to identify research questions and to plan and implement their projects. Students present their projects at the annual capstone colloquium and also share their results with the community.
<b>ASSISTANTSHIP</b>	Students have the option of completing an assistantship during the master's program to gain relevant professional experience. Typically, assistantships are about 12 hours per week for one semester.

### CORE COMPETENCIES OF THE PROGRAM

The master's degree program in Community Engagement supports students in developing the following core competencies.

- **Community engagement** - Students develop an intellectual understanding of the civic engagement field.
- **Social justice** - Students learn about social justice issues from local and global perspectives and develop a nuanced understanding of the history and political and cultural contexts of these issues.
- **Appreciation of diversity and capacity to work with diverse constituents** - Students consider their own and others' social and cultural group identities. Students develop interpersonal and intercultural competencies to work effectively with people from a broad range of backgrounds.
- **Community-based research** - Students learn to analyze community and organizational problems and needs, and to develop creative solutions.
- **Leadership** - Students hone their skills in facilitating and working within teams. They learn and practice networking, conflict resolution, consensus-building, and negotiation skills.

Students may take up to two courses before formally applying to the program. Students may be interested in taking a class or two in topics relevant to their work or professional interests as a way to gain valuable knowledge and skills and to learn more about the program.

### Here is a sampling of our community engagement courses:

- Diversity and Social Justice
- Community Engagement: Theory and Practice
- Community Organizing and Development
- Management and Leadership of the Nonprofit Sector
- School, Family and Community Partnership
- Social Policy for Children and Families
- Theories of Organizational Change
- University-Community Relations
- Theories of Adult Learning and Development