Frequently Asked Questions about the Community and Social Change program at UM

What is the C&SC program?
The 30-credit program in Community and Social Change is designed to prepare a new generation of creative leaders for the not-for-profit/non-governmental sector. Graduates of the program receive a Master of Science in Education (MSEd) degree.

Vision: to be a hub for innovative and applied leadership in community wellbeing and social change

Mission: to prepare globally aware leaders, researchers, and agents of change who create, inspire, and engage community organizations to foster well-being in diverse community settings.

What do people do with a C&SC degree?
The CSC Master’s Program prepares individuals to lead community organizations in this increasingly complex and changing world. It is designed to prepare students systematically for careers in communities by teaching them to understand and contribute to the processes of organizational development, community development, and social well-being in community settings. This program also prepares graduates to pursue doctoral training in applied social and behavioral sciences such as counseling, community psychology, clinical psychology, social work, or law.

Students who complete the program are prepared to play these roles in the community settings detailed below:

- Leaders
- Activists
- Advocates
- Administrators
- Consultants
- Evaluators
- Managers
- Organizers
- Program developers
- Researchers

Students will be prepared to play a variety of roles in a many different types of community settings, including:

- Community Organizations
- Consulting agencies
- Educational settings
- Faith-based organizations
- Global agencies
- Government organizations
- Health organizations
- Humanitarian agencies
- National organizations
- Neighborhood associations
- Philanthropic organizations
- Policy/advocacy/ research institutes
When is the application deadline?
The C&SC program has rolling admissions, but for international students, Peace Corps Masters International (PCMI) students, and priority consideration for scholarships, students should apply by February 1st. All application materials for international students, PCMI students, and students seeking C&SC scholarships must be submitted by February 1. All application materials must be submitted online to the Graduate School (applyweb.com/apply/miamigrd/index.html). The program begins in late August.

What time of day are the classes offered?
C&SC courses are scheduled with sufficient flexibility to accommodate working professionals and students who cannot relocate to South Florida. Most core program courses are held over 1 weekend per month during the fall and spring. Two of the core courses are held as week-long intensive courses at the beginning and end of the first academic year. Other courses are taught online, by arrangement, or during the regular semester. Some elective courses are offered in the evenings, from 5-7:40 PM.

How long does it take to complete the C&SC program?
The program takes one year to complete if attending full time. It starts in August and ends the following August. It is also possible to attend the program on a part-time basis and take longer to complete.

Can one get a Ph.D. in C&SC?
We have a Ph.D. program in Community Well Being (CWB) for highly qualified students that have completed a masters degree. For students intending to pursue a Ph.D. after completing their C&SC masters degree, we suggest completing a masters thesis for your capstone project. Please visit the CWB website for more information (http://education.miami.edu/Program/Programs.asp?Program_ID=148).

Does the C&SC program provide financial support to students?
The Community and Social Change Program has need and merit-based scholarships available. For consideration, all application materials must be submitted by the February 1st deadline. Additionally, applicants seeking program scholarships should send a letter (1 page maximum) to the program director that outlines outstanding need and/or merit. City Year alumni receive a 25% tuition fellowship. Students seeking loans should complete the FAFSA (fafsa.ed.gov), making sure to include the University of Miami as a recipient of the FAFSA materials. Students may also apply for graduate student work opportunities include Federal Work-Study, departmental hirings, and graduate assistantships.

Who is a typical C&SC student?
We consider applicants of all ages, as long as they have a bachelor's degree. About 1/3 of each cohort is made up of recent college graduates. The other 2/3 are people who have been out of school for varying amounts of time returning to gain new knowledge and skills or make a career change. Many of these students have been working in non-profit community-based organizations.

Do I need to take the GRE?
Most applicants are required to submit a GRE score to be considered for admission. Applicants that have been working full-time for 2+ years in a non-profit, human service agency, or related field may qualify for a GRE waiver. Inquire with your details for more information.