The Critical Ethnic and Community Studies (CECS) Program is a critical comparative ethnic studies graduate program with signature elements emphasizing transdisciplinarity and the recognition of transnational global-local connections. CECS centers on race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, class, and other social categories related to power and privilege that impact the experiences of both U.S.-born and immigrant members of racialized communities in the United States. The transdisciplinary program brings together scholarly research, cultural expression, and meaningful community partnerships in order to understand the histories and contemporary lives of racialized communities in the United States, their experiences as part of diasporic communities with transnational linkages, and their agency and self-determination. As part of this learning, students engage in critical analysis of how migration—to, from, and within the United States—forms an integral part of the experiences of racially and economically marginalized communities.

CECS Students...

- Work with a racially and ethnically diverse, nationally recognized faculty with expertise in transdisciplinary research and teaching practices that draw from ethnic studies, cultural studies, sociology, anthropology, history, psychology, public health, public policy, gender and sexuality studies, and literary and popular culture studies.
- Join a group of students with diverse life experiences, identities, professional goals, and academic backgrounds committed to promoting social transformation and collective empowerment.
- Individualize their programs in order to develop more-focused understandings and skills in analysis, research, program development, program evaluation, education, and other applications necessary for pursuing a wide array of careers.
- Foster skills and experience partnering with community-based organizations working with racially and economically marginalized communities to mobilize strengths promoting resilience, growth, and social justice.
- Benefit from close mentoring in developing a capstone project that integrates student learning from the curriculum in relation to a real issue or challenge of the student’s choice.

About UMass Boston

The University of Massachusetts Boston, metropolitan Boston’s only public university, offers its diverse student population both an intimate learning environment and the rich experience of a great U.S. city. UMass Boston’s eleven colleges and graduate school serve nearly 17,000 students. UMass Boston is also a federally recognized Minority Serving Institution, designated by the U.S. Department of Education as an Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution. Approximately 60% of students at UMass Boston are first-generation college students. To learn more about UMass Boston, visit www.umb.edu.
**PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The CECS Program consists of 37 to 40 credits, distributed over 6 core courses, an individualized sequence of 5 electives, and a minimum of 6 credits devoted to a capstone project and associated seminar.

**Core courses for MS in CECS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program of Study</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TCCS 600 Professional Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCCS 610 Topics in Transnational Cultural and Community Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCCS 611 Migration and Diaspora</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCCS 612 Community Formation and Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCCS 622 Transdisciplinary Research in Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCCS 623 Transdisciplinary Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCCS 698 MS Capstone Project</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits for MS</strong></td>
<td><strong>37</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

**TCCS 600: Professional Seminar**

A one-credit course consisting of workshops on assessing, developing, and supporting skills for successful graduate studies and career planning.

**TCCS 610: Topics in Transnational, Cultural, and Community Studies**

An introduction to critical concepts and issues in TCCS, including: racial formation, intersectionality, colonialism and post-colonialism, globalization, transnationalism, and community formation.

**TCCS 611: Migration and Diaspora**

Explores recent scholarship and theories in migration and diaspora studies as well as various forms of cultural expression (e.g., poetry, film, music, and literature) produced within diasporic communities.

**TCCS 612: Community Formation and Development**

Using case studies drawn from local communities, students learn concepts, theories, and techniques for understanding community dynamics as well as conducting research in and working with communities.

**TCCS 622: Transdisciplinary Research in Practice**

Provides hands-on experience in designing and implementing research across disciplinary boundaries.

**TCCS 623: Transdisciplinary Research Methods**

Provides training in designing transdisciplinary research that integrates multiple disciplines, and in transdisciplinary collaboration.

**Individualized Programming: Electives and Certificates**

Five electives build upon the core curriculum and complement students’ interests and professional goals. Students may develop a unique sequence of electives or complete a CECS-approved graduate certificate program. Electives for CECS include graduate courses from within CECS as well as courses from other graduate disciplines or programs, such as Global Inclusion and Social Development, Conflict Resolution, American Studies, Environmental Sciences, Gerontology, Urban Planning and Community Development, or Applied Sociology. Alternatively, CECS offers the unique opportunity of fulfilling the elective sequence through the completion of a graduate certificate (at least 15 credits) in one of various areas, including:

- Human Rights
- Conflict Resolution
- Survey Research
- Gender, Leadership, and Public Policy

For a current list of CECS-approved electives and certificate programs see the program’s website.

**ADMISSIONS INFORMATION**

A completed application includes:

- A statement of purpose and interest in CECS (approximately 1,200 words).
- Two letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with the applicant’s interests and who can evaluate the potential for sustained graduate study. At least one letter must be from a faculty member with whom the applicant is studying or has studied.
- Official transcripts for all undergraduate and/or graduate programs attended.
- An example of the applicant’s writing from coursework in critical ethnic and community studies or related academic or professional fields.
- An application fee of $60 (domestic applicants) or $100 (international applicants).
- Current resume or CV.
- Where applicable, Official TOEFL/IELTS test scores.

We do not require the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) test scores.

Applications are due March 1. Applications received after that date will be reviewed on a space-available basis. For additional details, see the program website [www.umb.edu/cecs](http://www.umb.edu/cecs).

**Apply online at** [www.umb.edu/admissions/grad/apply](http://www.umb.edu/admissions/grad/apply). For additional information, send an email to CECS.program@umb.edu.