The Center for Compassion

The Center for Compassion provides opportunities for the Evangel Community to engage in compassionate service and educational and internship opportunities.

The Center also coordinates training opportunities for Evangel students and community members who desire how to effectively demonstrate compassion through action.

The Center for Compassion continues to pursue its ideal of inspiring students to a lifetime of service by engaging them in academic exploration, volunteerism and internship opportunities.

Bachelor in Community Relief and Development

This program will educate and equip students to deliver and lead compassion-based care that elevates and empowers the lives of the impoverished, hungry, and hurting. This degree prepares students to deliver humanitarian care based on the foundation of God’s compassion and to apply biblical theology to the practice of humanitarian care. Students learn principles to be effective in a variety of domestic and international settings, including nonprofit leadership, volunteerism, disaster response, holistic self-care, community development, public policy, partnership cultivation and advocacy. Curriculum emphasizes the best practices and real-world experience while establishing a strong academic knowledge base and culminates with a capstone experience.

Bachelor of Science in Community Relief and Development Program Learning Outcomes

1. Compare diverse worldviews and explain how they influence intercultural studies and missions.
2. Explain theoretical frameworks and purposes of nonprofit social enterprise organizations.
3. Summarize the theology of compassion and explain and defend the role of the church in compassionate actions.
4. Discuss administrative and financial strategies for leading and supporting humanitarian projects.
5. Identify basic practices of crisis intervention specific to relief, development strategies, and procedures to support compassion services.
6. Summarize physical, psychological, and spiritual methods of helping the poor and suffering.
7. Evaluate a plan for relief, development, and long-term sustainability to disaster scenarios in domestic and international settings. Include strategies for collaboration with local, regional, international religious, relief, and government organizations.

The Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts in Community & Development consists is a 124 credit degree program consisting of the following courses: GNST/BEHV 100; BIBL 111, 115, 116, and 360-370 Book Study option; FIN 138; PSYC 138 or 112; ENGL 123; 7 credits of Natural Science, one with Lab option;
Effective Communication Option; MATH 210 or 129 or 231; Historical Inquiry Option; Artistic Expression Option; SOCI 111, PHIL 110, 111, or 115; ICST 350 Global Connections; THEO 320; ICST 111; NBUS 238, 323; THEO 325; BEHV 332; CRDV 330, 334, 340; 498; 410; Choose one: CRDV 356, 426 or 433; Choose one: CRDV 362, 436, BIOL 448 or CRDV 468. BA requirements are: Foreign Language I and II. BS requirements are: 6 hours of science electives.

The **Community Relief and Development minor** is an interdisciplinary minor consisting of 21 credit hours that equips students with basic theoretical understanding of issues related to domestic and international community relief and development, as well as entry-level skills and interventions. Courses are: ICST 111; NBUS 323; THEO 325; CRDV 334; BEHV 332; BIOL 448; Choose one of the following: LEAD 250, 350, SWK 354, 355, 372; ICST/ANTH 310, NBUS 238, SOCI/SWK 340, TESL 433, or CRDV 498.

**Community Relief and Development Courses**

**CRDV 330: Domestic Disaster Services (3 cr.)** Presents the foundational principles and skills necessary to plan and conduct services for the four phases of disasters: Preparation, Mitigation, Response and Recovery. Emphasis includes coordination among governmental, non-governmental and religious-based organizations.

**CRDV 334: Principles of Relief and Development (3 cr.)** Explores practical and applied principles of relief and development to include disaster response and long-term sustainability efforts. Students will understand basic practice of crisis intervention, rehabilitation and development. Additionally, students will analyze the role of the church in compassionate action and learn to apply concept of biblical justice, specific to community relief and development.

**CRDV 340: Conflict Management and Negotiation (3 cr.)** Develops a biblical and practical understanding of conflict. Students examine the conflict cycle, styles of conflict management, and intervention strategies for resolving conflict. Special focus is given to the leader’s pivotal role in managing conflict, using conflict for positive change, and setting the cultural climate conducive for addressing conflict. The roles of mediation, arbitration, and negotiation also are examined.

**CRDV 356: International Disaster Relief (3 cr.)** Presents the foundational principles and skills necessary to plan and conduct services for the four phases of disasters: Preparation, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery. Emphasis is upon coordination of services between international governmental, non-governmental, and religious-based organizations.

**CRDV 362: Health Management in a Global Setting (3 cr.)** Providing support through humanitarian outreaches can become physically, spiritually, mentally, and psychologically demanding on the relief providers. This course places a particularly strong emphasis on health management for the relief provider in the demanding environments often associated with disaster mitigation. Students learn to monitor themselves and fellow relief participants to ensure sustained productivity in a variety of settings.
CRDV 410: Working with Refugees and Migrant Populations (3 cr.)
Populations of refugees and migrating groups undergo deep physiological, psychological, and economic challenges. Whether man-made or natural causes behind the disaster, those who experience these traumas are affected to varying degrees based on local, language, age, gender, support structures, and socioeconomic dynamics. Students review the forces at work, current research, and individual and community-based approaches to serve these groups with compassion and effectiveness.

CRDV 426: Public Policy and Advocacy (3 cr.) Governments use public policy to address social problems such as housing and welfare, to counter threats such as crime and illegal drugs, and to pursue other objectives, including revenue generation. A nation’s regulatory, distributive, and redistributive policies have direct impact to prevent, mitigate the impact, and to recover from natural and created disasters. This course prepares students to interact with and influence decision makers at all governmental levels. Special focus is on the advocacy for those people who often have a weaker voice in the decision process.

CRDV 433: Crisis Psychological Management (3 cr.) The first few days through which individuals experience crisis are critical to their physical and psychological survivability. Support personnel must understand the foundational aspects of acute distress in both those experiencing crisis and those providing relief and support. Students are trained to identify stress symptoms and emotional suffering to assist as much as appropriate and then to direct individuals to qualified support specialists. This course is not intended for professional or trained counselors, but for those who are on site immediately following natural or human caused disasters.

CRDV 436: Children in Crisis (3 cr.) Children and youth are especially susceptible to the traumatic effects of natural and human-made disasters. Because of their higher level of innocence, minimal experience, and the vulnerable place they have in many societies, relief actions and strategies must identify actions and strategies as quickly as possible. Students identify stress symptoms and emotional suffering to help as fully as appropriate and then to direct individuals to qualified support specialists. This course is not intended for professional or trained counselors, but for those who are on site immediately following natural or human caused disasters, or who conduct outreaches where children and youth may be in crisis.

CRDV 468: Leading Compassion Projects (3 cr.) Providing disaster and humanitarian relief is a complex process involving individuals from diverse backgrounds, locations, languages, preparation, involvement, and commitment. Leadership in these settings requires both skills in leading multifaceted projects, delegating responsibilities, inspiring volunteers, and managing funds. This course prepares students for leadership within the field of community relief and development.

CRDV 498: Practicum/Internship (3 cr.) Supervised field experience in a nonprofit, humanitarian-focused service organization(s) for practical application of the nature and scope of humanitarian relief and developmental theories and skills.