

**Alexander Kase Vandenberg**  
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**Master of Professional Studies in Community & Economic Development** May 2023  
Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA

**Bachelor of Science in Biology, Minor in Psychology** May 2020  
Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA

**Relevant Coursework** GPA: 3.94

1. **CEDEV 430 - Principles of Local Economic Development** | Grade: A | Credits: 3.0  
Explored community-based strategies for sustainable economic growth and resilience.
2. **CEDEV 500 – CEDEV: Theory and Practice** | Grade: A | Credits: 3.0  
Analyzed theoretical frameworks and practical applications for community development.
3. **CEDEV 505 - Leadership Development** | Grade: A | Credits: 3.0  
Developed skills in strategic decision-making & stakeholder engagement.
4. **CEDEV 452 - Community Structure, Process, and Capacity** | Grade: A | Credits: 3.0  
Studied community dynamics and capacity-building to enhance social cohesion.
5. **CEDEV 509 - Land Use and Financial Planning** | Grade: A- | Credits: 3.0  
Learned land-use planning, grant writing, & financial modeling for sustainable urban design.
6. **CEDEV 575 - Methods and Techniques for CEDEV** | Grade: A- | Credits: 3.0  
Mastered research methodologies for evaluating community projects and policies.
7. **CEDEV 580 - Research Applications and Practice** | Grade: A | Credits: 3.0  
Applied empirical analysis to real-world community development challenges.
8. **CEDEV 597C - Launching Community Ventures & Nonprofits** | Grade: A | Credits: 3.0  
Studied social entrepreneurship & strategies for creating sustainable community ventures.
9. **STAT 800 - Applied Research Methods** | Grade: A | Credits: 3.0  
Advanced statistical methods for evaluating community development initiatives.
10. **CEDEV 596 - Individual Studies** | Grade: A | Credits: 3.0  
Conducted self-directed research on applied community development principles.

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**Master's Paper:** **Effective Components of an Empathy Education Program in High Schools**

Activating Empathy is an empathy education program implemented for 50 high school students in Canada. Participants completed an Emotional Quotient (EQ) test before, midway, and after the course. Four empathy components—demographics, emotion perception, emotional understanding, and emotional resonance—were analyzed against EQ scores. Results indicated that gender significantly influenced empathy levels, with females scoring higher in perceiving masked emotions and recognizing typical emotional responses. Additionally, the ability to perceive common emotions and understand others' feelings during interactions were most strongly correlated with empathy development, highlighting their importance in high school empathy education programs.

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## Undergraduate Coursework

### Biology Major:

- *Function & Development of Organisms*
- *Populations & Communities*
- *Molecular & Cellular Biology*
- *Mammalian Physiology*
- *Biology of Cancer\**
- *Vertebrate Evolution*

### Psychology Minor :

- *Developmental Psychology*
- *Social Psychology*
- *Physiological Psychology*
- *Educational Psychology*
- *Human Sexuality*
- *Moral & Ethical Psychology*

### Additional STEM Courses:

- *General Chemistry*
- *Organic Chemistry*
- *Biochemistry*
- *Calculus I & II*
- *Statistics*
- *Physics I & I*

\*course was taken as an abroad program at Peking University in Beijing, China.

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### Additional Undergraduate Coursework:

- **Communications:**
  - *Mass Media & Society* (COMM 100)
  - *Art of Cinema* (COMM 150)
  - *Technical Writing* (ENGL 202C)
  - *Effective Speech* (CAS 100A)
- **Cultural & Experiential Learning:**
  - *Introduction to World Wines* (HM 311)
  - *Introduction to Athletic Training* (KINES 135)
  - *Scuba Diving* (KINES 45)
  - *Rock Climbing* (KINES 10)
  - *History of The Beatles* (MUSIC 109)
- **Advanced Placement Transfers**
  - *Chemistry*
  - *Psychology*
  - *History*