MASTER’S IN DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE: EMORY UNIVERSITY
One of the most pressing challenges of our time is achieving sustainable development in the face of entrenched poverty, environmental degradation, social conflict, and climate change. The Master’s in Development Practice (MDP) program at Emory University is designed to meet that challenge by combining experiential learning and field-based practicum with rigorous academic training in a broad range of disciplines.

This integrated approach aims to produce a new generation of development professionals - prepared and committed to serving as catalysts to vulnerable people’s own efforts to pursue livelihood security, economic opportunity, and meaningful empowerment.

Among the 6.7 billion people on earth, 3.4 billion live in poverty. 1 billion don’t have enough to eat. 1 billion lack access to clean water. 2 billion lack access to sanitation. 1 billion adults are illiterate. 10 million children die each year from easily preventable diseases.
Disciplines:
- Natural Sciences
- Social Sciences
- Health Sciences
- Management Science

Themes:
- Sustainable Livelihood Systems
- Environmental & Agricultural Risk Management
- Place-based Knowledge & Citizen’s Science
- Participatory Processes & Democratic Governance
- Global Human Health
- Gender & Human Rights
- Disaster & Emergency Response

Skills:
- Program Design & Implementation
- Monitoring & Evaluation
- Participatory Rural Appraisal
- Institutional Analysis
- Gender Analysis
Emory’s Development Resources

**The Natural Sciences**
The natural science aspects of the MDP training are covered by Emory’s Department of Environmental Studies, by the Department of Global Health, and by our Center for Global Safe Water. Additional training and resources are provided by Emory’s partner institutions, including: the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology and the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at the University of Georgia, the land-grant institution for the state of Georgia.

**The Social Sciences**
The Departments of Anthropology, Economics, History, Political Science, Sociology and Women’s Studies provide expertise in the social and economic dimensions of development. Coursework features the microeconomics and macroeconomics of development and in-depth analysis of local, national, and global structures of power, politics and culture. Particular emphasis is placed on a gendered, rights-based approach, which is used as a lens to understand the impact of development policies and processes on vulnerable groups. In addition, the Emory School of Law offers an array of relevant courses and faculty expertise, with a focus on environmental and natural resource law, human vulnerability and the organization of society, feminism and legal theory, and human rights.

**The Health Sciences**
Training in the health-related aspects of sustainable development is offered by Emory’s Woodruff Health Sciences Center, in particular the Rollins School of Public Health and the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing. These two schools offer academic and applied training in fields such as nutrition, epidemiology, reproductive health and disease control, as well as in the design, management and maintenance of health care systems in developing countries.

**Management Science**
Emory’s Goizueta School of Business provides excellent training in management, communication, human resource development, commodity chain analysis and finance.
The Curriculum

The Master’s in Development Practice program leads to a graduate degree awarded by Emory’s James T. Laney School of Graduate Studies.

Students enrolled in the program undertake rigorous, interdisciplinary practical training, supplemented by field experiences.

The four main components of the MDP program at Emory University are:

- intensive pre-master’s program
- cross-disciplinary core courses, with a specialization in a particular region and theme
- global course
- field training

### Intensive Pre–Master’s Program

During the month prior to their first term, students take an intensive introductory course that prepares them for the MDP curriculum and establishes learning processes, and solidifies a learning team.

### Core Courses

Students take a minimum of 48 credits over four semesters in the health sciences, natural sciences, social sciences, and management. Within this broad framework, students select a concentration that combines courses on a geographic region with those that focus on specific sectors or themes. The specific concentration that a student pursues depends on the individual’s past training, experience and career goals and is decided in consultation with MDP faculty.

### Global Course

The “Global Classroom: Integrated Approaches to Sustainable Development Practice” course (3 credits) is an information technology-based interactive and comprehensive course that fosters cross-border and cross-disciplinary dialogue and allows students and teachers to participate in collective assignments and co-learning processes.

### Field Training

Students participate in intensive, “hands-on” field training (practicum) experiences during two successive summers. The field training, which begins after the completion of the first full academic year, provides students the opportunity to gain firsthand experience with innovative development approaches and practice in real-world settings.
MDP Partners

Students in Emory’s Master’s in Development Practice program form collaborative relationships with leading centers and institutes in the field of sustainable development.

MDP partner organizations include:

**CARE**
[www.care.org](http://www.care.org)
One of the world’s leading non-governmental organizations involved in the fight against global poverty. CARE focuses on empowering women, in the context of community-based efforts to implement sustainable development. CARE has 12,000 employees worldwide working in 71 countries, and has extensive collaborative relationships with governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as private foundations and corporations.

**The Carter Center**
[www.cartercenter.org](http://www.cartercenter.org)
A world leader in the promotion of democracy, human rights, conflict resolution, health and development. The Center has ongoing projects in many parts of the world, and hosts a variety of lectures and training modules.

**CDC**
[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)
The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in particular the CDC’s Coordinating Office for Global Health, manages key partnerships with Ministries of Health worldwide, UN organizations, the World Bank, private foundations and non-governmental organizations. CDC has 400 US Government staff and 1,500 locally-employed staff overseas, working in 54 countries.

**FAS**
[www.fas-amazonas.org](http://www.fas-amazonas.org)
FAS (Amazonas Sustainability Foundation), is an innovative non-profit organization committed to the conservation of the Amazon rainforest and to improving the livelihoods of the forest’s traditional and indigenous populations. The Foundation partners with businesses, individuals, government and NGOs who seek to promote conservation and the sustainable development of the Amazon.

**GHI**
[www.globalhealth.emory.edu](http://www.globalhealth.emory.edu)
The Global Health Institute (GHI) at Emory University was established by the President of Emory in 2006 to develop innovative research, training and institutional collaborations to address the most pressing health challenges in the world, particularly in the global South. The Global Health Institute has a special interest in the relationship between health and development.

**INSP**
[www.insp.mx](http://www.insp.mx)
The National Institute of Public Health (INSP) is the republic of Mexico’s leading research center in the fields of development and public health, and is one of the country’s premier educational institutions.
“The Master’s program in Development Practice is the first of its kind to integrate the four pillars of sustainable development—health science, natural science, social science, and management—and leverage new information communication technologies to promote collaboration across the fading boundaries of national borders. The program’s rigorous and comprehensive coursework is complemented by an overarching emphasis on managing for results, including through field assignments to provide students with practical training on the ground. The master’s program will empower a new generation of practitioners with the cross-disciplinary training needed to confront the key sustainable development challenges of our time, including extreme poverty, infectious disease, and climate change.”

—John W. McArthur
CEO and Executive Director, Millennium Promise
Faculty Leadership

Stephen B. Blount, MD, MPH
Acting Director, Center for Global Health; Director, Coordinating Office of Global Health, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Martha Albertson Fineman, JD
Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Law, Emory University

Carla Freeman, PhD
Winship Distinguished Research Professor of Anthropology and Women’s Studies, Emory University

Joseph Hughes, PhD
Karen and John Huff School Chair, School of Civil and Environmental Engineering; Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering; Professor of Materials Science Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology

Gerrit Hoogenboom, PhD
Professor in Crop Modeling and Agrometeorology; Coordinator for Research, Extension, and Instruction of the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, University of Georgia

Uriel Kitron, PhD
Professor and Chair, Department of Environmental Studies, Emory University

Jeffrey P. Koplan, MD, MPH
Vice President, Global Health, Rollins School of Public Health; Director, Global Health Institute, Emory University

Peter D. Little, PhD
Professor of Anthropology; Director, Program in Development Studies, Emory University

Reynaldo Martorell, PhD
Robert W. Woodruff Professor of International Nutrition, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University

David Nugent, PhD
Director, Master’s in Development Practice Program; Professor of Anthropology, Emory University

Sita Ranchod-Nilsson, PhD
Director, Institute for Developing Nations, Emory University

Jeffrey Alan Rosensweig, PhD
Associate Professor of International Business and Finance, Goizueta Business School, Emory University
Application Questions

What is the application deadline?
Applications deadlines for the 2011 incoming class have not yet been announced.

What do you look for in an applicant?
We seek applicants with a combination of the academic ability needed to undertake the MDP’s rigorous curriculum and at least one to two years of relevant work or volunteer experience. We evaluate candidates based on the following criteria: the statement of purpose, letters of recommendation, résumé/CV, transcripts, and lastly, the GRE. The personal statement is the single most important part of the application. In it you should clearly demonstrate your interest in the program and how it fits into your specific career goals. Please refer to MDP website’s admission page for more detailed information on each of these requirements.

What is required in the MDP application?
- Statement of Purpose
- Letters of Recommendation
- Transcripts
- Résumé/Curriculum Vitae
- GRE

Do I need to have a certain major?
You are not required to have a specific undergraduate major. However, students with majors that are far removed from fields related to development are advised to clearly explain in their statement of purpose why they wish to “change gears” and study development practice.

How important is work experience?
Our applicants come from all over the world and have vastly different backgrounds and professional experiences. Previous experience will certainly make your application more competitive, though it is impossible to make specific recommendations about what kind of work experience is considered appropriate.

Do you accept applicants directly from undergraduate schools?
We welcome applications from students who are just finishing or will soon finish their undergraduate work. However, students who have had relevant work and/or study abroad experience and some proficiency in a foreign language will be the most competitive applicants.

Can I use a work reference for one of my letters of recommendation?
All applicants must submit three letters of recommendation. At least one of these must be from a faculty member or a development professional who can speak to the applicant’s experience with development-related activities (whether in the form of work experience, study abroad, internships, etc). At least one letter must be from a faculty member who is familiar with the applicant’s academic performance.

How much does it cost?
Please refer to the Graduate School website (gs.emory.edu) for information on tuition and fees. You may also consult the Office of Financial Aid (www.emory.edu/FINANCIAL_AID) for advice on how to handle expenses related to attending Emory University.

Are MDP scholarships available?
We are able to offer a very limited number of scholarships: recipients will be selected based on their application and an interview. We plan to introduce an expanded scholarship program in the future and are currently holding discussions with corporate and foundation partners to leverage the necessary resources.

Do I have to take the TOEFL?
International students who have earned their highest degree in institutions where English is NOT the language of instruction must submit proof of competency in English by taking the TOEFL. A minimum score of 570 on the paper test, 230 on the computer-based test or 88 on the internet-based test.

Do I need to have my foreign documents translated?
Transcripts in a language other than English must be translated and notarized. Please submit both the original and the translated versions.

For more information:
To be placed on a mailing list, please visit www.gs.emory.edu/mdp or email mastdev@emory.edu.
Emory’s Master’s in Development Practice is a program under the Laney Graduate School and is sponsored by the MacArthur Foundation.

For more information contact:
www.gs.emory.edu
www.macfound.org/mdp
web.gs.emory.edu/mdp