Social Sciences

Master’s in Development Practice

The MDP is a multidisciplinary, integrated program that aims to produce a new generation of development professionals who are prepared and committed to serving as catalysts to vulnerable people’s own efforts to pursue livelihood security, economic opportunity, and meaningful empowerment.

MDP at a glance:

- 2 summers (up to 20 weeks) of experience working as “embedded” practitioners-in-training within leading humanitarian organizations across the world
- 2 semesters of engaged learning experience within grassroots organizations working with underserved communities in the Atlanta area (Year 1)
- 2 semesters of internship within Atlanta-based NGOs working on development, human rights, public health, environmental conservation, and education (Year 2)
- 12 core courses in the natural, social, health, and management sciences taught in top-ranked academic departments and professional schools
- 1 Global Classroom course, an innovative interactive learning experience connecting MDP around the world with world-class development experts
- 3 – 5 electives from various concentration areas (ex. global health and wellbeing; sustainable livelihoods and environments; rights, ethics, and governance; business, planning, and management)
- 4 to 6 workshops per semester on practical skills (ex. monitoring and evaluation, GIS; participatory methods; qualitative data analysis; leadership and teamwork)
- Interaction with high level development experts and practitioners at the CDC, CARE, The Carter Center and other humanitarian organizations
- Emphasis on critical thinking and systemic understanding of development process and practice
- Small class-size enabling collaborative learning and personalized mentoring by Emory faculty
A Holistic Approach to Sustainable Development

The Natural Sciences
The natural science aspects of the MDP training are covered by Emory’s Department of Environmental Studies, the Department of Global Health and the 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 (ranked 18th among public universities in the U.S.).

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. The Candler School of Theology offers opportunities for critical reflection on ethical issues and interfaith relations, through innovative, integrative initiatives such as the Interfaith Health Program. In addition, the Emory School of Law provides a focus on environmental law, human rights, and social vulnerabilities.

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, which is ranked 7th among public health schools in the country. It offers 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.

Management Science
Consistently ranked among the top 20 business schools in the U.S., Emory’s Goizueta School of Business provides cutting-edge instruction in management, communication, human resource development, commodity chain analysis, and economic policy.

The Curriculum
The MDP 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 are:

- Foundational preparatory intensive
- 12 cross-disciplinary core courses, with a concentration in a particular region and theme
- 3 – 5 concentration electives
- Field practicum (two summers)

Foundational Preparatory Intensive
During the month prior to their first semester, students participate in an intensive, highly interactive preparatory seminar that addresses MDP core concepts and theory, history of development theories and efforts, practical and ethical issues in development work. This course also establishes a MDP learning team, defining team objectives and co-learning processes.

Core Courses
Students take a minimum of 50 credits over four semesters in the health sciences, natural sciences, social sciences, and management. In addition to this interdisciplinary set of core courses, first semester students attend a foundational course, titled “Global Classroom: Sustainable Development Practice” course. This course 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.

Concentration Electives
During their second, third, and fourth semester, students develop a concentration area by selecting 3 – 5 electives (one per semester). Examples of concentration areas are: Global Health and Wellbeing, Sustainable Livelihoods and Environments, Rights, Ethics and Governance, and Business Planning and Management.

Field Practicum
Students participate in intensive, “hands-on” field practicum experiences during two successive summers. The field practicum provides students the opportunity to gain firsthand experience with innovative development approaches and practice in real-world settings.

In Year One of the field practicum, students join ongoing projects at partner organizations that allow them to become familiar with key aspects of development practice. While in the field, students work closely with and receive mentorship from development professionals based in their host organization.

In Year Two of the field practicum, students return to the same site of year-one field practicum and collaborate with their host organizations in catalyzing constructive changes in the projects in which they have worked the previous summer.
MDP Partners
Some of the most established MDP partner organizations include:

**CARE**
www.care.org
One of the world’s leading nongovernmental organizations involved in the fight against global poverty, CARE focuses on empowering women, in the context of community-based efforts to implement sustainable development.

**The Carter Center**
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.

**CCAFS**
www.ccafs.cgiar.org
The Climate Change, Agriculture, and Food Security program is an interdisciplinary applied research initiative of the Consortium for International Agricultural Research, which aims to improve climate and risk management among smallholder farmers in the Global South.

**The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**
www.cdc.gov
The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in particular the CDC’s Coordinating Office for International Agricultural Research, addresses global health challenges through partnerships with Ministries of Health worldwide, UN organizations, the World Bank, and nongovernmental organizations.

**The Global Health Institute**
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.

**Habitat for Humanity**
www.habitat.org
Habitat is a nonprofit, Christian housing ministry that believes that every man, woman and child should have a decent, safe and affordable place to live. With more than 1,500 local affiliates in the United States and more than 80 branches around the world, they have helped to build or repair over 600,000 houses for 3 million people.

**IWMI**
www.iwmi.cgiar.org
International Water Management Institute (IWMI) addresses water and land management challenges faced by poor communities in the Global South with the goal of improving livelihoods and wellbeing while maintaining a sustainable environment.

**MAP International**
www.map.org
Founded in 1954 as Medical Assistance Programs, MAP International works to improve the health and wellbeing of impoverished people in over 100 countries through community-based interventions.

**The Nature Conservancy**
www.nature.org
The Nature Conservancy is the leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people through non-confrontational, pragmatic solutions to conservation challenges.

**FAO**
www.fao.org
The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations leads international efforts to defeat hunger by improving agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices. It focuses its efforts on rural areas, home to 70 percent of the world’s poor and hungry people.

**OXFAM**
www.oxfam.org
OXFAM works directly with communities and seeks to influence the powerful to ensure that poor people can improve their lives and livelihoods and have a say in decisions that affect them.

**UNICEF**
www.unicef.org
The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) works in 190 countries to bring about a world where the rights of every child are realized. Its programs focus on child survival and development, basic education and gender, HIV/AIDS among young people, and child-centered policy and advocacy.

Jennie V. Dowdle with MAP International in Bolivia
Applying to MDP: Frequently Asked Questions

How does the Emory MDP differ from a degree in Development Studies?
The MDP program at Emory University builds on the critical thinking and contextual understanding of development processes that is usually provided by an academic course of study, but also equips students with the essential competencies and knowledge needed to function as effective development practitioners. It aims to produce professionals who are equally at home in scientific and policy circles as well as at the community level.

What career opportunities are available to Emory MDP graduates?
Emory MDP graduates have exciting and rewarding career opportunities in a variety of contexts, including policy, research, and practice. Employers include multilateral (ex. United Nations, World Bank) and bilateral (ex. USAID, DFID) foreign assistance organizations as well as humanitarian and relief agencies (ex. CARE, Oxfam, Red Cross). Graduates may also find jobs with non-profit or for-profit consulting agencies or in research centers, such as those that constitute the Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

How much does it cost?
Please refer to the James T. Laney Graduate School website (www.gs.emory.edu) for information on tuition and fees.

Is Emory MDP funding available?
We offer tuition scholarships to promising students, upon acceptance into the program (the average scholarship being around $20,000 over four semesters). Funding for MDP studies is also available from external scholarship programs. MDP students may apply for federal loans through the Office of Financial Aid.

MDP Leadership
DR. DAVID NUGENT, PHD Director, MDP and Professor of Anthropology, Emory University
Dr. Nugent is a leading economic and political anthropologist who has done research and published extensively on the role of the state, the law and human rights in the development process. His past research in Latin America, East Africa, and North America has addressed the interconnections between natural resource management, sustainable livelihoods, economic growth, and political processes.

DR. CARLA RONCOLI, PHD Associate Director and Director of Graduate Studies, MDP
Dr. Roncoli is an environmental anthropologist with 20 years of experience in interdisciplinary research and international development. Her research centers on the human dimensions of climate variability, agricultural decision making, participatory processes, and gender, with a regional focus on West and East Africa.

For More Information
To be placed on a mailing list, please visit www.emory.edu/mdp or email mastdev@emory.edu.
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