



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Master of Development Practice program provided me with the academic training, technical skills, and field experience to help me bridge the theory and practice of international development work. I was able to have access to practitioners, policy makers, and majors players like USAID that helped to foster my professional development.

Frantzie Saint Juste

Through dynamic interdisciplinary training in public policy, education, public health, and natural and social sciences, the Master of Development Practice (MDP) degree program prepares students for careers in international development, equipping them with the skills needed to address the problems of poverty, social justice, and sustainable development. While the large majority of our MDP students are focused on the developing world, some graduates use their skills to work in the domestic arena.

The MDP degree program spans seven academic units across the University of Minnesota and provides training in policy analysis and management, health and education, natural sciences, social sciences, and interdisciplinary research methods.

The MDP degree is jointly administered by the Humphrey School and University of Minnesota's Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global Change (ICGC), which are members of the Global MDP Association.

DEGREE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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Addresses issues of poverty, social justice, and sustainable development in the developing world for those committed to public service

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Teaches the knowledge and interdisciplinary tools to develop, assess, and evaluate alternative approaches to current and emerging issues in international development

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Provides a dedicated cohort of international development professionals who share a passion for making the world a better place

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Offers a thriving environment of dynamic discussions through policy forums with visiting scholars, community activists, and government leaders

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Provides access to many departments, centers, and schools, taking full advantage of the talent and expertise across the University of Minnesota





“Through my research in the developing world, I have seen firsthand how people challenged by poverty, disease, and unemployment can build their own futures with the support and guidance of international development professionals. This is what MDP graduates do—what you can do with an MDP from the Humphrey School.”

Professor Ragui Assaad, professor and director of graduate studies, MDP program

POSITIONS HELD BY MDP GRADUATES

Career options span all levels of government, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector.

SPECIAL ADVISOR TO THE MINISTER OF GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

Republic of Liberia

CONSULTANT

Organization of American States, Washington, D.C.

POLICY OUTREACH ASSOCIATE

Center for Global Development, Washington, D.C.

INTERNATIONAL RECRUITER

American Refugee Committee, Minneapolis

SPECIALIST

International Horticulture Collaborative Research Support Program, University of California–Davis

PROJECT MANAGER

Health and Wellness Community Partnerships, HealthPartners, Minneapolis

The Twin Cities offer a wealth of opportunities to engage with the international community. Many local organizations work on development, trade, human rights, or other international issues, including the American Refugee Committee, Center for Victims of Torture, Global Volunteers, Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, International Institute of Minnesota, and The Advocates for Human Rights.

INTERDISCIPLINARY CURRICULUM

Drawing on the rich resources of the University of Minnesota, the MDP offers interdisciplinary coursework options ranging from epidemiology to environmental change, from global public health to agricultural systems, from educational reform to financial analysis, and many more.

REQUIRED CORE COURSES

- Ways of Knowing and Sustainable Livelihoods
- Research Methods for Sustainable Livelihoods
- Field Study and International Field Seminar
- Capstone Workshop in Development Practice
- Theories and Policies of Development
- Development Planning and Policy Analysis
- Empirical Analysis I
- Introduction to Financial Analysis and Management
- Economics of Development

PLUS COURSEWORK IN:

- Education policy
- Management and policy analysis
- Environmental sciences
- Public health

ACCESS TO EXTENSIVE RESOURCES

The Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global Change, which offers the core courses for the MDP, supports research and scholarship addressing issues of peace, conflict, security, social and environmental change, human rights, and international cooperation.

REQUIREMENTS

- Intensive development practice orientation
- 50 semester credits
- Electives in the natural sciences, health and education, management and policy analysis, and social sciences
- International field experience

PREREQUISITES

While no specific experience or academic pathway is required, students with a strong liberal education background and sound quantitative and analytical skills will be best prepared for academic success at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

Previous coursework in mathematics, statistics, and economics is recommended. Past applicants needing to strengthen this part of their skill set have found courses in introductory microeconomics, college algebra, and introductory statistics to be helpful preparation.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

- Résumé
- Personal statement
- College transcripts
- GRE scores
- Three letters of recommendation
- TOEFL/IELTS scores (required for most non-native English speakers)

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

HUMPHREY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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