



EMORY
LANEY
GRADUATE
SCHOOL



SOCIAL SCIENCES
MASTER'S IN DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE

Emory MDP is a two-year professional degree that prepares students for careers in the international development and humanitarian fields. Its curriculum combines rigorous cross-disciplinary, programmatic coursework with skill training and practicum experiences in international settings.

Grounded in a holistic approach to sustainable development, Emory MDP produces innovative and effective professionals who are equally at home in policy circles as well as at the community level. Students benefit from the resources offered by a world class, top-ranked research university and from Emory's partnerships with prominent humanitarian organizations.

MDP AT A GLANCE:

- Two summers of experience working as practitioners-in-training within leading humanitarian organizations across the world
- Internships within Atlanta-based NGOs working on development, human rights, public health, environmental conservation, and gender empowerment (optional)
- Engaged learning experience within organizations working with underserved communities in the Atlanta area (optional)
- Coursework in the natural, social, health, and management sciences taught in top-ranked academic departments at Emory University
- Concentration areas (ex. global health and wellbeing; sustainable environments and livelihoods; corporate social responsibility; program evaluation; gender)
- Workshops on practical skills (ex. monitoring and evaluation, GIS; participatory methods; qualitative data analysis; cross-cultural team management)
- Interaction with experienced development experts and practitioners at the CDC, CARE, The Carter Center, Habitat for Humanity and other 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

EXTERNAL FELLOWSHIP PARTNERS

Many MDP students qualify for internal and external funding for their studies. Emory MDP currently partners with the Yellow Ribbon Program for Veterans, the Paul D. Coverdell Fellowship for returned Peace Corps volunteers, and the Segal Americorps Education Award to provide additional support for eligible students. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellows have also completed their studies through MDP.

MDP STUDENTS: A MULTI-CULTURAL AND CLOSE-KNIT LEARNING COMMUNITY

Each MDP cohort includes an average of 15–16 students, a size that facilitates an interactive and personalized learning experience. The MDP program strives to recruit richly diverse cohorts, composed of students with different backgrounds and experiences. They often include returned Peace Corps Volunteers but also non-profit managers and consultants and mid-career professionals—such as a lawyer, a veterinarian, an engineer, and a minister. This diversity enables students to learn from one another—as well as through academic training and field practicums—through intense class discussions, joint projects, and team-building.

THE CURRICULUM: BRIDGING SECTORS AND DISCIPLINES

Emory MDP is an interdisciplinary program. Through a combination of core courses and a wide array of electives MDP provides students with customizable but cohesive academic training.

TRANSDISCIPLINARY CURRICULUM

MDP students gain knowledge and experience through courses and work with faculty in each school and unit of Emory University, including:

- **LANEY GRADUATE SCHOOL:** anthropology, economics, environmental science, history, political science, sociology, gender and sexuality, languages.
- **CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY:** interfaith relations, conflict transformation, social justice, ethics.
- **ROLLINS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH** (ranked 7th nationally): global health, nutrition and food security, sexual and reproductive health, water and sanitation, health care systems.
- **GOIZUETA SCHOOL OF BUSINESS** (ranked 20th nationally): social enterprise, corporate social responsibility, non-profit management, organizational behavior, macroeconomic policy.
- **EMORY SCHOOL OF LAW** (ranked 22nd nationally): environmental law, human rights, social vulnerabilities, international institutions.

CORE COURSES

- The Foundations of Development introductory seminar traces the history of development practice, engaging global scholars to explore the political, social and economic dilemmas that the field seeks to remedy and theories that inform proposed solutions.
- Students attain essential knowledge in the social sciences, natural sciences, health sciences, and management by choosing one or two options from a selection of courses offered by any of the collaborating Emory schools.
- During Y1 Fall and Spring semesters students take a course on applied and participatory research methods which equips them with

tools to design and implement program- and policy-oriented research and engage project participants and intended beneficiaries.

- Field seminars bookend the first field practicum, one (Y1 Spring semester) preparing the students prior to their deployment and another (Y2 Fall semester) providing an opportunity to process and integrate their summer experience.



MDP Faculty and Staff at the Creekmore Internationalization Award Ceremony honoring MDP Director Dr. David Nugent

SKILL SEMINARS AND MODULES

The MDP Program supplements Emory courses and resources with skill-focused classes and modules, often taught by prominent development practitioners. Examples include Gender Analysis, Monitoring and Evaluation, Global Information Systems, Institutional Leadership, Cross-Cultural Team Dynamics, Grant Writing and Management, Policy Analysis, Developing Inclusive Markets, Qualitative Data Analysis, and Emergency and Disaster Response.

Though MDP does not require foreign language competencies for admission, knowledge of a UN language (French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, etc.) in addition to English is encouraged. Students can pursue language training through formal courses and conversational roundtables.

CONCENTRATIONS

MDP students have the option of pursuing one or two concentrations in specific areas of interest through their selection of elective courses. Relevant practicum experiences may also count towards building the concentration. Examples of the most popular concentration areas are: Corporate Social Responsibility, Faith and Peacebuilding, Gender, Global Health and Wellbeing, Program Evaluation, Sustainable Livelihoods and Environments, and Water, Hygiene, and Sanitation (WASH).

FURTHER CREDENTIALING OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to concentrations, students can obtain a Graduate Certificate in Human Rights. The certificate requires a foundational course paired with electives and a relevant practicum or research project. Past projects include organizing an Atlanta Human Rights Film Festival, mapping food access for refugee families, and combating human trafficking in the Atlanta area.

Students can also pursue a Master's in Development Practice/Master of Divinity (MDP/MDiv) with Emory's Candler School of Theology. This program combines MDP training with religious and theological studies and formation for ministry. Students complete both degrees in four years instead of the five required to attain the degrees separately.



Organizing and participating in the Atlanta Climate Change March

FIELD PRACTICUMS: THE “EMBEDDED PRACTITIONER” MODEL

The field practicum experiences are the cornerstone of the Emory MDP curriculum, enabling students to practice the skills learned in the classroom in real-life settings and to build strong professional networks for their future careers. Students serve as “embedded practitioners” within international development and humanitarian organizations. As such, they are expected to perform as professionals-in-training and produce high quality work, while building their own competencies and experience.



Recording qualitative data on how climate change impacts rice markets in Bangladesh

Emory MDP students spend two summers contributing to design, implementation, and evaluation of projects in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. They operate in a wide range of sectors, including global health, climate change, disaster response, sustainable agriculture, water and sanitation, social enterprise, rights and governance, and conflict management. In a typical summer, the program has students working with about 20 partner organizations in over 20 countries.

During the academic year – when students must be on campus to attend classes – many of them work with partner organizations that have offices in the Atlanta area – such as CARE, the Carter Center, Habitat for Humanity, the Nature Conservancy, and the International Rescue Committee. Several of these opportunities are paid internship positions, which enable students to earn some income during their time in the program.

Below are some examples of the innovative work Emory MDP students do in the course of their summer field practicum:

CARE (BANGLADESH GHANA, INDIA, MALI, MALAWI, TANZANIA)

Teams of MDP students participated in mid-term evaluation of the Pathways to Empowerment program, a multi-country, multi-sectoral initiative to enhance rural women’s productivity, livelihood security, and decision-making; collected, analyzed qualitative data to identify barriers and measure progress towards empowerment.

UNICEF (INDONESIA)

Analysis of the effects that menstruation-related issues can have on girls’ health and education through field research and statistical analysis, identified cultural and environmental barriers; produced a comic book (which was the subject of an NPR broadcast) aimed to raise awareness among boys of the challenges faced by girls.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INTERNATIONAL (PHILIPPINES)

Evaluation of Habitat’s resettlement program through participatory research among communities displaced by natural disasters to assess state of infrastructure, housing, livelihoods, social networks and mental health and identify priority areas for future programming.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY (PAPUA NEW GUINEA)

Design and implementation of social impact evaluation of Fair Trade cocoa production and marketing cooperatives, aimed at providing local households with alternative income sources and incentives to protect mountain rainforest; identified drivers of environmental conservation and land use decisions to inform future interventions in the area.

THE CARTER CENTER (LIBERIA)

Participated in justice system reconstruction in post-conflict settings through research on traditional forms of dispute resolution; assessment of community legal advisors program which seeks to improve information about and interaction with formal judicial system in rural areas through mobile team deployment.

FUNDACIÓN ESCUELA NUEVA (COLOMBIA)

Developed indicators and conducted research to assess learning outcomes in USAID-supported multi-grade rural schools based on pioneering pedagogical model; trained local staff in rigorous evaluation approaches; assisted with adaptation and transfer of approach to other countries.



Working with rainforest communities with The Nature Conservancy in Papua New Guinea

LOCALLY-FOCUSED INTERNSHIPS: DEVELOPMENT ABROAD AND "AT HOME"

Issues that development initiatives aim to address are also present in places like the United States. MDP students work on these issues both in Atlanta and abroad. The Atlanta area is home to a large and diverse refugee community, which is assisted by a network of service agencies. It also hosts entrenched pockets of urban poverty, where community-based organizations are engaged in efforts to improve livelihood security and environmental stewardship. Atlanta's major international airport also makes the city a global hub for human-trafficking, a problem that partner organizations endeavor to address. Many Emory MDP students conduct internships with these partners during the academic year.

BEYOND MDP: CAREERS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

As a practice-oriented program, Emory MDP intentionally emphasizes job-readiness, and provides professional development coaching during the two years of the program as well as after graduation. Emory MDP graduates have an 85% rate of employment in relevant fields after graduation (a few move on to PhD programs).

Emory MDP graduates have exciting and rewarding career opportunities in a variety of contexts. Employers include federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, faith-based organizations, consulting firms, research programs, policy think-tanks, and the private sector. The following are some examples of positions occupied by recent graduates:

- Public Health Analyst, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Foreign Service Officer, U.S. Embassy (Indonesia), U.S. Department of State
- Program Officer, Gender and Empowerment, CARE USA
- Program Associate, Conflict Resolution, The Carter Center
- Urban Conservation Director, The Nature Conservancy
- Associate Director, Disaster Risk, Response, Recovery, Habitat for Humanity Intl.
- Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Food Security and Livelihoods, Mercy Corps
- Youth Program Supervisor, International Rescue Committee
- Impact and Systems Specialist, Partners-in-Health
- Research Manager, Department of Environmental Health, Emory University
- Program Coordinator, Office of Sustainability Initiatives, Emory University.



Visiting beneficiary children at a primary school in Uganda with Habitat for Humanity.

MDP LEADERSHIP

DR. DAVID NUGENT, PHD – MDP Director, and Professor, Department of Anthropology. Interests: Democracy and Governance; Law and Human Rights, Economic Development, Latin America

DR. CARLA RONCOLI, PHD – MDP Associate Director, Senior Research Scientist, Department of Anthropology. Interests: Climate Change, Agriculture, Natural Resource Management, Indigenous Knowledge, Africa

MS. REBECA QUINTANA – MDP Program Manager

CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information about the Emory MDP, please contact us or visit: <http://web.gs.emory.edu/mdp>

Master's in Development Practice
Emory University 1599 Clifton Road, NE
Atlanta, GA 30322

Phone: 404.712.6373
Email: mastdev@emory.edu



Requests for Additional Information:

Recruitment and Admissions
James T. Laney School of Graduate Studies
209 Administration Building
201 Dowman Drive
Atlanta, GA 30322

(404) 712-6373
mastdev@emory.edu

web.gs.emory.edu/mdp/graduateschool.emory.edu



LANEY GRADUATE SCHOOL DEGREE PROGRAMS

Anthropology	<i>Genetics and Molecular Biology</i>	Biomedical Engineering	Development Practice	Health Services Research and Health Policy	Nursing
Art History	<i>Immunology and Molecular Pathogenesis</i>	Biostatistics	Economics	Hispanic Studies	Nutrition and Health Sciences
Behavioral Sciences and Health Education	<i>Microbiology and Molecular Genetics</i>	Business	English	History	Philosophy
Bioethics	<i>Molecular and Systems Pharmacology</i>	Chemistry	Environmental Health Sciences	Islamic Civilizations Studies	Physics
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	<i>Neuroscience</i>	Clinical Psychology	Environmental Sciences	Mathematics	Political Science
<i>Biochemistry, Cell and Developmental Biology</i>	<i>Population Biology, Ecology, and Evolution</i>	Cognition and Development (Psychology)	Epidemiology	MD/PhD	Religion
<i>Cancer Biology</i>		Comparative Literature	Film and Media Studies	Music	Sociology
		Computer Science and Informatics	French	Neuroscience and Animal Behavior (Psychology)	Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies