MASTER’S IN DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE
EMORY UNIVERSITY
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 • 60 million girls ages 17 or younger in developing countries are married; many to men over twice their age • The risk of death in pregnancy and delivery for girls under the age of 15 is five times higher than for women in their 20s • 1 in 5 women will be the victim of rape or attempted rape • Ninety-nine percent of pregnancy-related deaths occur in developing countries • Out of the world’s 72 million out-of-school youth, 60 percent are girls • Mothers with some education immunize their children 50 percent more often than mothers who are not educated • HIV & AIDS spreads twice as quickly among uneducated girls than among girls that have even some schooling • In some countries, women are more likely to die in childbirth than to receive an education • If child marriage continues at its current rate, an additional 100 million girls in developing countries will be married within the next decade, or 25,000 a day for the next 10 years • The UN Secretary General found in a recent study that 102 member states have no specific laws on domestic violence • Recent studies in Africa indicate that between 16 and 47 percent of girls in primary and secondary school report sexual abuse or harassment by male teachers or classmates • Infectious diseases continue to blight the lives of the poor across the world. An estimated 40 million people are living with HIV/AIDS, with 1 million deaths in 2004 • Every year there are 350–500 million cases of malaria, with 1 million fatalities • Africa accounts for 90 percent of deaths from malaria and African children account for over 80 percent of malaria victims worldwide about 443 million school days a year are due to water-related illness • The costs associated with health spending, productivity losses and are greatest in some of the poorest countries. Sub-Saharan Africa loses about 5% of GDP or some $28.4 billion annually, a figure that exceeds total aid flows and debt relief to the region in 2003. More than 80 percent of the world’s population lives in countries where income differentials are widening.
The Master’s in Development Practice Degree at Emory University

One of the most pressing challenges of our time is achieving sustainable development in the face of global poverty, political and ethnic conflict, a degrading natural resource base, and irreversible climate change. The Master’s in Development Practice (MDP) program at Emory University is designed to meet that challenge by combining hands-on learning and field experience with rigorous training in a broad range of academic disciplines.

Emory MDP at a Glance

- 2 summers (up to 20 weeks) of experience working as “embedded” practitioners-in-training within leading humanitarian organizations in Africa, Asia, and Latin America
- 2 semesters (4-5 hours/week) of engaged learning experience within grassroots organizations working with underserved communities and neighborhoods in the Atlanta area (Year 1)
- 2 semesters (4-5 hours/week) 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 electives chosen from various concentration areas (e.g. 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 (e.g. monitoring and evaluation, GIS and spatial analysis; participatory tools for development; 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
Emory’s Curricular Resources

Emory’s MDP degree draws on the wealth of educational resources that exist at the University and in the surrounding areas. Emory MDP has developed partnerships with top-ranked institutes and professional schools at Emory and beyond to prepare students for a productive career in development practice.

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 (ranked 8th in the U.S.) and the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at the University 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 contribute expertise in the socioeconomic and institutional 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 an array of relevant courses and faculty expertise, with 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 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
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

**Introductory MDP Seminar** In the month before their first semester, students take an intensive introductory course that addresses MDP core concepts, history of development efforts, practical and ethical issues in development work. This course includes field visits to local community-based organizations and development projects.

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

**Core Courses** Students take core courses in the health sciences, natural sciences, social sciences, and management. In each semester, at least one core course provides opportunities for integration among academic disciplines and across academic learning and practical training.

**Concentration Electives** After their first semester, students select a concentration that combines courses on a geographic region with those that focus on specific sectors or themes of interest. 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.

**Field Experience** Students participate in intensive, “hands-on” field training abroad for two successive summers. The field training, which begins after the completion of the first full academic year, provides students the opportunity to gain experience with innovative development approaches and practice in real-world settings. In addition to the international field practicum, students engage in service learning with community-based organizations that work with underserved populations in the Atlanta area during the two academic years of their studies at Emory.
Concentration Electives

Below are some examples of possible concentration areas and elective courses that students may select. There are many other areas and courses from which students may choose. Students work out the specifics of their concentrations in consultation with their MDP advisor.

### Rights, Ethics & Governance
- Skills in Conflicts Transformation I & II
- Human Rights in Context
- International Humanitarian Law
- Political Culture, Rights & Development
- Child Advocacy
- Transitions to Democracy
- Markets, Justice & Ethics
- Migration
- Politics, Governance, and Development

### Global Health & Wellbeing
- Health & Human Rights
- Epidemiological Methods in Human Emergencies
- Introduction to Public Health Surveillance
- Water & Sanitation in Developing Countries
- Maternal & Child Nutrition
- Gender & Global Health
- Monitoring and Evaluating Global Health Programs
- Global Elimination of Micronutrient Malnutrition
- Theory in Behavioral Science and Health Education
- Inferential Statistics II

### Sustainable Livelihoods & Environments
- Perspectives & Policies for Sustainable Development
- International Environmental Policy
- Conservation Biology & Biodiversity
- Sustainable Water Resources
- Agrarian Transitions
- Issues in Sustainability
- Culture & Demography
- Bio-Cultural Perspectives on Food & Nutrition
- Environment, Climate, & Infectious Diseases
- Risk Assessment I & II
- Geographic Information Systems

### Business, Planning, & Management
- Community Needs Assessment
- Social Marketing
- Global Macroeconomic Perspectives
- Catalyzing Social Impact
- Project Management & Collaboration
- Decision Modeling
- Financial Reporting & Analysis
- Data & Decision Analytics
MDP Partners

Emory MDP students form collaborative relationships with leading centers and institutes in the field of sustainable development. New institutional partnerships are continuously emerging and being developed, so that additional field practicum opportunities become available all the time. The following organizations are among the most established MDP partners to date:

**CARE**  
[www.care.org](http://www.care.org)  
As 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.

**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 Carter 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, addresses health challenges around the world through partnerships with Ministries of Health, UN organizations, the World Bank, and NGOs.

**FAO**  
[www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)  
The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) 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.

**GHI**  
[www.globalhealth.emory.edu](http://www.globalhealth.emory.edu)  
The Global Health Institute (GHI) at Emory University seeks to develop innovative research, training and institutional collaborations, particularly in the global South.

**INSP**  
[www.insp.mx](http://www.insp.mx)  
The National Institute of Public Health (INSP) is Mexico’s leading research center in the fields of development and public health, and is one of the country’s premier educational institutions.

**MAP International**  
[www.map.org](http://www.map.org)  
Founded in 1954 as Medical Assistance Programs, MAP works with people in over 100 countries to promote a holistic approach to health and wellbeing through community-based interventions.

**OXFAM**  
[www.oxfam.org](http://www.oxfam.org)  
OXFAM (Oxford Committee for Famine Relief), 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.

**The Nature Conservancy**  
[www.nature.org](http://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.

**UNICEF**  
[www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)  
The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) has global mandate and authority to bring about a world where the rights of every child are realized. It works on child survival and development, basic education and gender, HIV/AIDS among young people, and child-centered policy and advocacy. UNICEF works in 190 countries through country programs and National Committees.

*Photo Credit (Opposite Page): Roncoli*
Field Experience

The Emory MDP Program is designed to produce a new kind of development professional — one who has the academic training necessary to understand the multi-dimensional causes of poverty as well as the practical skills needed to redress the limitations of current development approaches. The two summers of field research that students engage in are an essential component of their preparation as professionals.

PRE-FIELD TRAINING The pre-fieldwork training helps students understand the distinctive nature of development issues in the specific socio-cultural, political-economic and environmental setting in which they will work.

YEAR ONE INTENSIVE FIELD PRACTICUM I 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.

YEAR TWO INTENSIVE FIELD PRACTICUM II 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.

Engaged Learning

For the first academic year of their Master’s program, students serve as interns for a few hours a week at community-based organizations in the greater Atlanta area. These community partners work with low income neighborhoods, refugee and immigrant communities, and urban agriculture and environmental projects.

Refugee Family Services (RFS) supports the efforts of refugee women and children to become self-sufficient by providing them with educational and economic opportunities.

Whitefoord Community Program (WCP) is a place-based organization that strives to engage and empower children and families of the Edgewood community in Atlanta though provision of education and health services.

The Office of Neighborhood Empowerment (ONE DeKalb) works to achieve a responsive and people-centered government, leading to better informed and engaged citizens for enhanced personal and community life.
“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
FAQs

How does the Emory MDP differ from a degree in Development Studies?
The MDP program at Emory University is explicitly designed to produce development practitioners who are equally at home in scientific and policy circles as well as at the community level. It does so through a rigorous curriculum that combines interdisciplinary coursework and extensive field experience.

What career opportunities are available to Emory MDP graduates?
The Emory MDP program prepares students for positions of leadership and responsibility in international development. We anticipate that Emory MDP graduates will have exciting and rewarding career opportunities in a variety of contexts, including policy, research, and practice. These 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.

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.

Is Emory MDP funding available?
We offer tuition scholarships to a significant number of 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. In addition, MDP students may apply for federal loans through the Office of Financial Aid.

Who covers the cost of the summer field experience abroad?
The MDP program and, in some cases, partner organizations, cover most of the travel and subsistence expenses relative to the summer field training in developing countries. Students may need to pay for some incidentals and personal expenses.

How are summer field placements decided?
The Emory MDP program offers a wide range of opportunities for summer field training, including different countries and types of partner organizations. We work closely with our partner organizations to identify places and projects that best fit the individual student’s sectoral and regional interests.

What is the most important part of the application?
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. Please refer to the MDP program admission page (www.web.emory.edu/mdp) for more detailed information on each of these requirements.

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.

How can I apply?
Please visit: www.emory.edu/mdp
Call: (404) 712-6373 or
Email: mastdev@emory.edu
Emory MDP is a master’s program within the James T. Laney School of Graduate Studies and is sponsored by the MacArthur Foundation.

EMORY UNIVERSITY
For more information visit:
www.gs.emory.edu
www.macfound.org/mdp
www.emory.edu/mdp