



EMORY
LANEY
GRADUATE
SCHOOL



INTERDISCIPLINARY SCIENCES

MASTER'S IN DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE

Emory MDP is a two-year degree program that prepares students for careers as global development and humanitarian professionals. Our curriculum combines rigorous, cross-disciplinary coursework with skill training and practicum experiences with a diversity of partner organizations.

Grounded in a contextual understanding of sustainable development, Emory MDP produces innovative and committed professionals who can operate at multiple scales including global, national, and local levels.

MDP AT A GLANCE

- Coursework in six competency areas: social sciences; health sciences; environmental sciences; management sciences; research methods and applied skills; social justice and diversity
- Concentrations (e.g., global health and wellbeing; sustainable environments and livelihoods; water, sanitation, and hygiene; corporate social responsibility; gender justice; monitoring and evaluation, program management
- Skill-based modules (ex. monitoring and evaluation; geographic information systems; social network analysis; organizational leadership) often taught by visiting faculty and development professionals
- Two summer field practicums (8-10 weeks each) with development and humanitarian organizations in their projects across the world
- Academic-year internships with globally-focused NGOs or locally-focused non-profits working with communities in the Atlanta area (optional)
- Limited cohort size (15-18) enabling collaborative learning and personalized mentoring by Emory faculty development professionals, and MDP alumni
- Emphasis on critical thinking; contextual understanding of development; commitment to social justice, equity, diversity and inclusion in the classroom, in development practice, and beyond

EXTERNAL FELLOWSHIP PARTNERS

Emory MDP participates in the following programs: Paul D. Coverdell Fellowship for Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, Segal AmeriCorps Education Award, Yellow Ribbon Program for Veterans, Former Jesuit Volunteer Graduate Scholarship, Repair the World Fellowship. Other internal and external scholarships are available on competitive basis.

A MULTI-CULTURAL, CLOSE-KNIT LEARNING COMMUNITY

Each MDP cohort includes an average of 15 -18 students, a size that facilitates an interactive and individualized learning experience. The MDP program strives to recruit richly diverse cohorts composed of students with different backgrounds and experiences. Students may be returned Peace Corps Volunteers, non-profit managers and consultants, or mid-career professionals such as teachers, lawyers, veterinarians, engineers, IT specialists, graphic artists, and ministers. This diversity is central to the MDP pedagogical approach, enabling students to learn from one another through intensive class discussions and teamwork, as well as from coursework and practical experiences.

BRIDGING SECTORS AND DISCIPLINES

Through a combination of core courses and a wide array of electives, MDP provides students with customizable but cohesive academic training.

TEACHING RESOURCES

MDP students gain knowledge and experience through courses and work with faculty in many schools and units of Emory University, including:

LANEY GRADUATE SCHOOL: anthropology, economics, environmental science, political science, history, sociology, gender and sexuality, languages.

ROLLINS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH (ranked in the top 5 nationally): global health, nutrition and food security, sexual and reproductive health, water and sanitation, health care systems.

GOIZUETA SCHOOL OF BUSINESS (ranked in the top 20 nationally): social enterprise, corporate social responsibility, non-profit management, macroeconomic policy.

EMORY SCHOOL OF LAW (ranked in the top 20 nationally): environmental law, human rights, social vulnerabilities, international institutions.

CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY: interfaith relations, conflict transformation, social justice, ethics.

Emory MDP is strongly committed to exposing students to a rich diversity of instructors and knowledge systems. In addition to Emory faculty, experienced professionals from partner organizations teach skill-based and special topic seminars with MDP each semester.



Emory MDP students participate in professionalizing experiences, such as the Global Health Case Competition



Skill-based seminars expose Emory MDP students to development experts from partner organizations

COURSEWORK

- The Foundations of Development seminar introduces students to theories and histories of global development, exploring political, social and economic challenges and contexts of development practice.
- Students acquire essential knowledge in the social sciences, natural sciences, health sciences, and management sciences by selecting 1-2 options for each competency area.
- Students build competency in social justice and diversity by selecting 1-2 courses that focus on race, class, gender, ability, and other forms of inequality and privilege in development practice.
- Students take courses on research methods and applied skills in which they learn how to collect, analyze, and utilize evidence to design, implement, and evaluate development programs.
- Interdisciplinary seminars bookend the 1st summer field practicum: one (Y1 Spring semester) prepares students for the field and the other (Y2 Fall semester) enables them to process their summer practicum work and apply their classroom learning.

CERTIFICATES AND OTHER CREDENTIALS

MDP students have the option to pursue one or two certificates in specific areas of interest through elective courses. Relevant practicum experiences may also count towards these certificates

Current certificates offered by MDP are: Global Health and Wellbeing; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH); Sustainable Livelihoods and Environments; Corporate Social Responsibility; Gender Justice; Program Management; and Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL).

In addition to these MDP certificates, 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 dual degree with Emory's Candler School of Theology. The Master's in Development Practice/Master of Divinity (MDP/MDiv) program combines MDP training with faith-based engaged learning, theological studies, and formation for ministry. Students complete both degrees in three and a half years instead of the five required to attain the two degrees separately.



Field practicums provide opportunities to work in organizational teams

LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCE

MDP field practicums and internships are the cornerstone of the curriculum, enabling students to apply theories and skills acquired in the classroom. Students serve as “embedded practitioners” within partner organizations. As such they are integrated into teams and expected to perform as professionals-in-training and produce high quality work, while building their own competencies, experience, and networks.

Our partners include a range of organizations, including multilateral and government agencies, international and national NGOs, grassroots organizations, and social movements. They operate in a wide range of sectors, including global health, water and sanitation, environmental conservation, climate change, economic empowerment, education, human rights and governance, gender justice, disaster response, and refugee assistance.

SUMMER FIELD PRACTICUM

In a typical summer, the program has students working in about 20 different countries in the Global South. Given students’ career goals and special external circumstances (e.g. COVID-19) summer practicums may also be done in the United States.



Community engagement is a critical aspect of the Emory MDP practicum experience

Below are some examples of the innovative and impactful work Emory MDP students undertake during their summer field practicums:

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

Engaged in mid-term evaluation of a multi-sector gender justice initiative to enhance rural women’s productivity, livelihood security, and decision-making. They collected and analyzed qualitative data to identify barriers and measure progress towards empowerment (the comparative cross-country research involved a team of six students).

UNICEF (INDONESIA)

Analyzed the effects menstruation-related issues can have on girls’ health and education through field research and statistical analysis, identified cultural and environmental barriers, and produced a comic book aimed at raising awareness among boys of the challenges faced by girls during puberty.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INTERNATIONAL (PHILIPPINES)

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

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY (PAPUA NEW GUINEA)

Designed and conducted a social impact assessment of Fair-Trade cocoa production and marketing cooperatives aimed at providing local households with alternative income sources and incentives to protect the mountain rainforest. They also identified drivers of environmental conservation and land use decisions to inform future interventions in the area.

THE CARTER CENTER (LIBERIA)

Evaluated a program focused on reconstructing justice systems in post-conflict settings, researched traditional forms of dispute-resolution to inform the development of a community legal advisor program, which seeks to improve information about and interaction with formal judicial systems in rural areas.



MDP students take time out for bonding, relaxing and exploring during practicums in southeast Asia

ACADEMIC YEAR INTERNSHIPS

During the academic year, most MDP students do internships with organizations based in Atlanta, where Emory University is located. Partners include globally-focused NGOs as well as locally-focused non-profits that work on issues affecting communities in Atlanta and the United States. These engagements enable students to deepen their understanding of how global development challenges are inextricably linked to social and environmental justice issues in the Global North.

Many of these internships provide stipends and/or academic credits. In addition, students have the option of using their second-year internships in lieu of their second summer practicum to graduate in May rather than in August, as most MDP students typically do.

CAREERS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

As a practice-oriented program, Emory MDP intentionally emphasizes job-readiness and provides professional development support during the two years of the program and after graduation. A number of courses are designed to help students develop a professional portfolio to showcase their skills to potential employers.

Emory MDP graduates have over a 96% rate of employment in relevant fields after graduation (most of the others are pursuing doctorates or specialized professional degrees). About half of MDP alums work with non-profits, the rest serve with government agencies, consulting firms, research centers, and in the private sector. This network serves as an invaluable resource to current students and recent graduates, providing mentorship, internship opportunities, networking contacts, job leads, and enduring friendship.

The following are some examples of positions occupied by recent graduates:

- Technical Advisor, Trachoma Control, The Carter Center
- Program Associate, Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance, USAID
- Program Manager, Precourt Institute for Energy, Stanford University
- Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist, Habitat for Humanity International
- Private-Public Partnership Associate, CDC Foundation
- Evaluation Technical Assistance Provider, Deloitte
- Value Chain Sustainability Manager Dell Technologies
- Data Visualization Analyst, DevTech Systems
- Disaster Recovery Specialist, ICF International
- Community Organizer, Partnership for Southern Equity
- Public Health Analyst, U.S. Dept of Health & Human Services



Practicum experiences and internships may lead to employment with host organizations

MDP LEADERSHIP

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EMORY

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 S C H O O L

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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