

Development Practice

The UC Berkeley Master of Development Practice (MDP) is an interdisciplinary, professional degree program designed to prepare leaders to tackle the local, regional, and global challenges of the coming decades. Graduates go on to careers “with meaning” in non-profit, business and government organizations. Attracting experienced, engaged, and entrepreneurial students from around the world, its rigorous curriculum provides core scientific knowledge; skills in problem-solving, design and management; analytical and decision-making tools, and integrative perspectives. The program’s foundational core curriculum is supplemented by individually customized specialization, drawing from the unparalleled breadth and depth of the world’s top public university.

The Berkeley MDP’s focus is on practice with hands-on, experiential learning infused throughout the program. It emphasizes peer learning, enriched by a student cohort diverse in education, profession, and culture. Students come with backgrounds across the sciences and humanities; 40-50% of each cohort has been from outside the US, with alumni representing 26 nations.

The Berkeley MDP is a member of the Global Association of MDP programs — thirty-two graduate programs in nineteen countries — sharing a common approach and designed around a set of core capabilities developed through a year-long consultative process supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Admission to the University

Minimum Requirements for Admission

The following minimum requirements apply to all graduate programs and will be verified by the Graduate Division:

1. A bachelor’s degree or recognized equivalent from an accredited institution;
2. A grade point average of B or better (3.0);
3. If the applicant comes from a country or political entity (e.g., Quebec) where English is not the official language, adequate proficiency in English to do graduate work, as evidenced by a TOEFL score of at least 90 on the iBT test, 570 on the paper-and-pencil test, or an IELTS Band score of at least 7 on a 9-point scale (note that individual programs may set higher levels for any of these); and
4. Sufficient undergraduate training to do graduate work in the given field.

Applicants Who Already Hold a Graduate Degree

The Graduate Council views academic degrees not as vocational training certificates, but as evidence of broad training in research methods, independent study, and articulation of learning. Therefore, applicants who already have academic graduate degrees should be able to pursue new subject matter at an advanced level without the need to enroll in a related or similar graduate program.

Programs may consider students for an additional academic master’s or professional master’s degree only if the additional degree is in a distinctly different field.

Applicants admitted to a doctoral program that requires a master’s degree to be earned at Berkeley as a prerequisite (even though the applicant already has a master’s degree from another institution in the same or

a closely allied field of study) will be permitted to undertake the second master’s degree, despite the overlap in field.

The Graduate Division will admit students for a second doctoral degree only if they meet the following guidelines:

1. Applicants with doctoral degrees may be admitted for an additional doctoral degree only if that degree program is in a general area of knowledge distinctly different from the field in which they earned their original degree. For example, a physics PhD could be admitted to a doctoral degree program in music or history; however, a student with a doctoral degree in mathematics would not be permitted to add a PhD in statistics.
2. Applicants who hold the PhD degree may be admitted to a professional doctorate or professional master’s degree program if there is no duplication of training involved.

Applicants may apply only to one single degree program or one concurrent degree program per admission cycle.

Required Documents for Applications

1. **Transcripts:** Applicants may upload *unofficial* transcripts with your application for the departmental initial review. *If the applicant is admitted*, then *official* transcripts of all college-level work will be required. Official transcripts must be in sealed envelopes as issued by the school(s) attended. If you have attended Berkeley, upload your unofficial transcript with your application for the departmental initial review. *If you are admitted*, an official transcript with evidence of degree conferral *will not* be required.
2. **Letters of recommendation:** Applicants may request online letters of recommendation through the online application system. Hard copies of recommendation letters must be sent directly to the program, not the Graduate Division.
3. **Evidence of English language proficiency:** All applicants from countries or political entities in which the official language is not English are required to submit official evidence of English language proficiency. This applies to applicants from Bangladesh, Burma, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Latin America, the Middle East, the People’s Republic of China, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, Southeast Asia, most European countries, and Quebec (Canada). However, applicants who, at the time of application, have already completed at least one year of full-time academic course work with grades of B or better at a US university may submit an official transcript from the US university to fulfill this requirement. The following courses will not fulfill this requirement:
 - courses in English as a Second Language,
 - courses conducted in a language other than English,
 - courses that will be completed after the application is submitted, and
 - courses of a non-academic nature.

If applicants have previously been denied admission to Berkeley on the basis of their English language proficiency, they must submit new test scores that meet the current minimum from one of the standardized tests. Official TOEFL score reports must be sent directly from Educational Test Services (ETS). The institution code for Berkeley is 4833. Official IELTS score reports must be mailed directly to our office from the British Council. TOEFL and IELTS score reports are only valid for two years.

Where to Apply

Visit the Berkeley Graduate Division application page (<http://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/apply/>).

Admission to the Program

Berkeley offers admission to applicants who appear to have the highest potential for graduate study and who, with the benefit of a graduate education, are the most likely to contribute substantially to their academic or professional fields through teaching, research, or professional practice.

International applicants must demonstrate English proficiency by taking one of the following exams:

1. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)
2. International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

Selection criteria for the master's program will include the applicant's talent, academic background, work experience, leadership experience, vision, involvement in critical issues or new areas of research (such as poverty or climate change) and/or proven entrepreneurship. Applicants oriented towards developing managerial skills, improving public policy, and increasing interdisciplinary capacities as development practitioners will receive priority.

In addition to technical backgrounds and leadership potential, we will aim to establish diverse cohorts seeking balance among gender and ethnicity. We expect a highly competitive selection process leading to a mix of qualified international and domestic students. UC Berkeley requires a minimal level of mathematical and statistical skills that will be augmented by the bootcamp, which will aim to ensure that students have the necessary computer skills and a basic understanding of economics, sociology, and business concepts.

Curriculum

Courses Required

Summer Boot Camp – Intro to Program, Basic Skills Training		
A,RESEC C253	International Economic Development Policy	3
DEVP 222	Economics of Sustainable Resource Development	3
DEVP 232	Foundations of Public Health	2
DEVP 228	Strategic Planning and Project Management	3
DEVP 227	Principles of Natural Resource Management	2
DEVP 233	Law, Politics, and Policymaking	3
DEVP 237	Leadership, Conflict Resolution, and Community Development	3
DEVP 220	Course Not Available	3
DEVP 225	Course Not Available	3
DEVP 239	Interactive/Multidisciplinary Seminar (Each Semester)	2
PB HLTH 290	Health Issues Seminars (Quantitative Methods and Impact Evaluation)	3

4 units of Independent Study for Final Project/Thesis, 9 units of electives (100/200 level coursework)

Development Practice

Expand all course descriptions [+] Collapse all course descriptions [-]

DEVP 221 Climate, Energy and Development 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Fall 2020

Graduate seminar examining the role of energy science, technology, and policy in

international development. The course will look at how changes in the theory and practice

of energy systems and of international development have co-evolved over the past half-

century, and what opportunities exist going forward.

A focus will be on rural and decentralized energy use, and the issues of technology, culture,

and politics that are raised by both current trajectories, and potential alternative energy

choices. We will explore the frequently divergent ideas about energy and development that

have emerged from civil society, academia, multinational development agencies, and the

private and industrial sector.

Climate, Energy and Development: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate student standing or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Development Practice/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Roland-Holst

Climate, Energy and Development: Read Less [-]

DEVP C221 Climate, Energy and Development 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2018, Fall 2017

Graduate seminar examining the role of energy science, technology, and policy in

international development. The course will look at how changes in the theory and practice

of energy systems and of international development have co-evolved over the past half-

century, and what opportunities exist going forward.

A focus will be on rural and decentralized energy use, and the issues of technology, culture,

and politics that are raised by both current trajectories, and potential alternative energy

choices. We will explore the frequently divergent ideas about energy and development that

have emerged from civil society, academia, multinational development agencies, and the

private and industrial sector.

Climate, Energy and Development: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate student standing or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Development Practice/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Kammen

Also listed as: ENE,RES C221/PUB POL C221

Climate, Energy and Development: Read Less [-]

DEVP 222 Economics of Sustainable Resource Development 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Fall 2020, Fall 2019

This course will introduce the basic concepts including economic welfare, externality, public good, global commons, policy approaches for dealing with externality, and techniques for quality analysis. It will include case studies where groups will design economic incentives and policy solutions to major problems. It will have sections on particular problems including climate change, water and air quality, animal waste, toxic contamination, forestry and fishery policy.

Economics of Sustainable Resource Development: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate student standing or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Development Practice/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructors: Zilberman, Sunding, Roland-Holst, Norgaard

Economics of Sustainable Resource Development: Read Less [-]

DEVP 227 Principles of Natural Resource Management 2 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2021, Spring 2020, Spring 2019

This course will introduce concepts in natural resource management.

Segment 1 will cover basic modeling, techniques, and methodology in natural resource management and sustainability. Segment 2

will address genetic resources and agriculture. Segment 3 will cover

principles of natural resource management, namely water and air, in the development context. Segment 4 provides an overview of major concepts

in the conservation of biodiversity. Students are expected to present research reports based on case studies.

Principles of Natural Resource Management: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate student standing or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Development Practice/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructors: Resh, Kremmen, Feldman, Lemaux

Principles of Natural Resource Management: Read Less [-]

DEVP 228 Strategic Planning and Project Management 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Fall 2020, Fall 2019

A pragmatic, interdisciplinary introduction to strategic planning and project management, introducing students to a portfolio of models, tools, and techniques drawn from the private, nonprofit, and public sectors. It will offer an opportunity through case studies, simulations and class projects to apply those approaches in settings relevant to the development field.

Strategic Planning and Project Management: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate student standing or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Development Practice/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructors: Horvath, Agogino, Danner, Scharffenberger

Strategic Planning and Project Management: Read Less [-]

DEVP 229 Quantitative Methods and Impact Evaluation 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Spring 2021, Spring 2013

This course is designed to introduce students to the basic concepts of estimation, prediction, and hypothesis testing. The course will focus on impact evaluation theory and methods and will explore the variety of tools available for rigorously measuring the impact of development programs on poverty.

Quantitative Methods and Impact Evaluation: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate student standing or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Development Practice/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructors: Auffhammer, Miguel

Quantitative Methods and Impact Evaluation: Read Less [-]

DEVP 232 Foundations of Public Health 2 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Fall 2020

The seminar will introduce core disciplines and concepts in public health, using a case-based, integrated approach. Examples of cases discussed include: respiratory disease and air pollution; tobacco control and prevention of smoking-related conditions; disease elimination or eradication via childhood immunization; environmental control and prevention of schistosomiasis; behavior change and prevention of HIV/AIDS; and novel economic approaches to improving healthcare delivery to impoverished groups.

Foundations of Public Health: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for DEVP 232 after completing PB HLTH W200. A deficient grade in DEVP 232 may be removed by taking PB HLTH W200.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Development Practice/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Reingold

Formerly known as: Development Practice C232/Public Health C253

Foundations of Public Health: Read Less [-]

DEVP 233 Law, Politics, and Policymaking 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2021, Spring 2020, Spring 2019

Law, Politics, and Policymaking will introduce students to principles of law, the mechanisms of politics, political economy, and policymaking delving into fundamentals of business, as well as environmental, international, and human rights law in the context of development. This course will provide students with insights into real-world contexts in which sustainable development practice takes place. It will consist of case studies of political economic and legal analysis.

Law, Politics, and Policymaking: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate student standing or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Development Practice/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructors: Farber, Rausser

Law, Politics, and Policymaking: Read Less [-]

DEVP 235 Economic Development and Policy 3 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Learn to apply the tools of economic analysis to problems of growth, poverty, and environmental sustainability in developing countries and to understand what can be done to promote development through policies and investment projects, and learn to analyze the economic, social, and environmental impacts of specific initiatives. This course will teach students to use data to conduct development analyses and learn to prepare the corresponding reports for international development agencies and policymakers.

Economic Development and Policy: [Read More](#) [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Microeconomics and econometrics at the undergraduate upper-division or Master's level

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Development Practice/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructors: de Janvry, Roland-Holst, Raphael

Economic Development and Policy: [Read Less](#) [-]

DEVP 237 Leadership, Conflict Resolution, and Community Development 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2021, Spring 2020, Spring 2019

This three-segment course starts with critical evaluation of literature and methods for communal natural resource management, followed by a segment that emphasizes leadership skills and conflict resolution approaches for development. The third segment will address issues of conflict and policymaking in a global context and provide the institutional perspective of development organizations and strategies.

Leadership, Conflict Resolution, and Community Development: [Read More](#) [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate student standing or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Development Practice/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructors: Ray, Carpenter, Barclay

Leadership, Conflict Resolution, and Community Development: [Read Less](#) [-]

DEVP 239 Interactive/Multidisciplinary Seminar 2 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Spring 2021, Fall 2020

This course provides an opportunity for Master of Development Practice students to interact with a diverse group of invited guest speakers, including academics and practitioners. It will also provide opportunities for group discussion of basic questions, and it will provide opportunities to present ideas and discuss research and internship plans and experiences.

Interactive/Multidisciplinary Seminar: [Read More](#) [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate student standing or consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Development Practice/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructors: Zilberman, Scharffenberger

Formerly known as: Development Practice 300

Interactive/Multidisciplinary Seminar: [Read Less](#) [-]

DEVP C253 International Economic Development Policy 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Fall 2020, Fall 2019, Fall 2018

This course emphasizes the development and application of policy solutions to developing-world problems related to poverty, macroeconomic policy, and environmental sustainability. Methods of statistical, economic, and policy analysis are applied to a series of case studies. The course is designed to develop practical professional skills for application in the international arena.

International Economic Development Policy: [Read More](#) [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Development Practice/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Also listed as: A, RESEC C253/PUB POL C253

International Economic Development Policy: [Read Less](#) [-]

DEVP 290 Special Topics 1 - 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Fall 2020

This course provides a hands-on introduction to entrepreneurship as it relates to sustainable development. Its focus is on exploring and developing the toolsets, skillsets and mindsets required to launch and sustain a successful venture, be it from the ground up or from inside an existing organization, for-profit or non-profit. Guided by visiting experts and guest lectures, students will learn how to focus on “customers” first and to understand “sustainability” not only in environmental and social terms but also how to ensure critically important financial sustainability. Special Topics: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Development Practice/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Coopersmith

Special Topics: Read Less [-]

DEVP 295 Implementation and Assessment of Internationally-Funded Development Projects 1 Unit

Terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2016, Fall 2015

This course will bridge the gap between development theory and its application by sharing the challenges that arise from: i) the implementation of projects and programs supported by international financing institutions like IFAD; and ii) the assessment of their impact. Since the mandate of IFAD is to focus on fighting rural poverty, the seminar will cover a range of topics regarding: i) sectoral/sub-sectoral domains such as rural development, natural resource management, and micro-finance; ii) vulnerable social groups such as indigenous people, marginal farmers, women and youth; and iii) key development processes such as targeting, empowerment, participatory planning, and monitoring and evaluation.

Implementation and Assessment of Internationally-Funded Development Projects: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 6 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Development Practice/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Galletti

Implementation and Assessment of Internationally-Funded Development Projects: Read Less [-]

DEVP 296 Innovative Finance for Development 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2021, Spring 2020, Spring 2019

This course will focus on the means and methods of finance applied to social, economic, and environmental challenges facing developing economies. It will survey the application of innovative financing emerging through new products and services, new processes and operations and organizational forms in addressing problems as diverse as entrepreneurial finance, renewable energy, environmental finance, global health, accelerating medical solutions, regional development, affordable housing, urban revitalization and infrastructure.

Innovative Finance for Development: Read More [+]

Objectives & Outcomes

Course Objectives: In addition to understanding the evolving field of development finance, students will discover why capital structure matters in aligning diverse interests into new business models for sustainable social and economic change and develop capacity in designing appropriate financial products/structure.

Student Learning Outcomes: Students will acquire and apply data gathering, economic, and financial analytical skills to identify specific market failures in developing economies enabling them to apply appropriate financial tools to bridge capital gaps for project and enterprise finance. They will:

- Design and construct an innovative finance application in a developing economy;
- Measure, analyze and report development impacts of an innovative finance project;
- Identify and develop how a development impact investment would benefit and expand capital access through the creative use of innovative financing tools;
- Assist a high-impact project to access flexible market and below-market financial tools;
- Identify how to structure the transaction and identify potential interested partners with aligned interests in the proposed project.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Development Practice/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Yago

Innovative Finance for Development: Read Less [-]

DEVP 299 Independent Study 2 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Spring 2021, Fall 2020

Supervised Independent Study and Research

Independent Study: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit up to a total of 2 times.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-4 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Development Practice/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Zilberman

Independent Study: Read Less [-]