

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.

The Berkeley MDP is a member of the Global Association (<http://mdpglobal.org/>) of MDP programs — thirty-seven graduate programs in twenty-seven 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

Applying for Graduate Admission

Thank you for considering UC Berkeley for graduate study! UC Berkeley offers more than 120 graduate programs representing the breadth and depth of interdisciplinary scholarship. The Graduate Division hosts a complete list (<https://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/choosing-your-program/list/>) of graduate academic programs, departments, degrees offered, and application deadlines can be found on the Graduate Division website.

Prospective students must submit an online application to be considered for admission, in addition to any supplemental materials specific to the program for which they are applying. The online application and steps to take to apply can be found on the Graduate Division website (<https://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/steps-to-apply/>).

Admission Requirements

The minimum graduate admission requirements are:

1. A bachelor’s degree or recognized equivalent from an accredited institution;
2. A satisfactory scholastic average, usually a minimum grade-point average (GPA) of 3.0 (B) on a 4.0 scale; and
3. Enough undergraduate training to do graduate work in your chosen field.

For a list of requirements to complete your graduate application, please see the Graduate Division’s Admissions Requirements page (<https://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/steps-to-apply/requirements/>). It is also important to check with the program or department of interest, as they may have additional requirements specific to their program of study

and degree. Department contact information can be found here (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/archive/2024-25/graduate/degree-programs/>).

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 Boot Camp, which will aim to ensure that students have the necessary computer skills and a basic understanding of economics, sociology, and business concepts.

Curriculum

Year 1

DEVP 240	Introduction to Development Practice	2
DEVP 222	Economics of Sustainable Resource Development	3
DEVP 228	Strategic Planning and Project Management	3
DEVP 237	Leadership, Conflict Resolution, and Community Development	3
DEVP 229	Quantitative Methods and Impact Evaluation	3
PUB POL 230	Politics and Policymaking in Comparative Perspective	3-4
DEVP 252	International Poverty and Economic Development	4

Year 1 or Year 2

DEVP 232	Foundations of Public Health	2
DEVP 227	Principles of Natural Resource Management	2
DEVP 221	Climate, Energy and Development	3
One Business Course from Pre-Approved List		3

Summer Semester

Individual Project-Based Practicum International or Domestic

Year 2

DEVP 200	The Capstone Experience	6
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Electives

DEVP 209	Decision Analysis, Modeling and Quantitative Methods	3
DEVP 290	Special Topics	1-3
DEVP 296	Innovative Finance for Development	3
DEVP 299	Independent Study	1-4

Development Practice

DEVP 200 The Capstone Experience 6 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025

The MDP Capstone Experience aims to guide students to successfully complete their capstone (final project or master's thesis) milestone from the Master of Development Practice (MDP) program. The course aims to help students create an outstanding final project or master's thesis, and to provide an appropriate scaffolding. Students will reflect on their pedagogical and professional journey during the MDP program. One can expect to acquire research-related skills, such as writing a proposal, designing a research project, and writing a literature review, and gain proficiency in the use of Internet-based search engines, data collection, and electronic journals, etc as well as produce stellar presentations.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Only second year MDP students can register for the course

Hours & Format

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

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Development Practice/Graduate

Instructor: Reddy

Formerly known as: Development Practice 200B

DEVP 200A The Capstone Experience 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023

The MDP Capstone Experience aims to guide students to successfully complete their capstone (final project or master's thesis) milestone from the Master of Development Practice (MDP) program. The course aims to help students create an outstanding final project or master's thesis, and to provide an appropriate scaffolding. Students will reflect on their pedagogical and professional journey during the MDP program. One can expect to acquire research-related skills, such as writing a proposal, designing a research project, and writing a literature review, and gain proficiency in the use of Internet-based search engines, data collection, and electronic journals, etc as well as produce stellar presentations.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Only second year MDP students can register for the course

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. This is part one of a year long series course. A provisional grade of IP (in progress) will be applied and later replaced with the final grade after completing part two of the series.

Instructor: Reddy

DEVP 209 Decision Analysis, Modeling and Quantitative Methods 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

This is the first of a two-course sequence in quantitative methods for MDP students. As such, it has two goals. First, we want to train you to think quantitatively and probabilistically – to understand basic terms, to be able to make sense of masses of data, to make informed decisions under uncertainty, and to have a good foundation for thinking intelligently about the two fundamental problems of statistics, the distinction between correlation and causation and the distinction between signal and noise. Second, we want to prepare you for the other courses in the MDP curriculum.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Development Practice/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

DEVP 221 Climate, Energy and Development 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

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.

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

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.

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

DEVP 222 Economics of Sustainable Resource Development 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

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.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate student standing or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

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

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Development Practice/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructors: Zilberman, Sunding, Roland-Holst, Norgaard

DEVP 227 Principles of Natural Resource Management 2 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

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.

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

DEVP 228 Strategic Planning and Project Management 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2024

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.

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

DEVP 228A Project Management 1 Unit

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2024

The primary objective of the Project Management course is to develop critical skills and the knowledge needed to successfully define, plan, implement and lead projects. Emphasis on this course is positioned on Project Planning. The course may be particularly useful to students who attend experiential learning programs, such as MDP, where teams of students may need to define and plan projects along their semester or the year. Course content includes lecture notes on Project Management theory and tools, Business Cases and Project Management software and a Simulation on Project Execution.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 6 weeks - 2.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Development Practice/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

DEVP 228B Strategic Planning and Management 2 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024

This course focuses on the tools, techniques and methodologies by which sustainable development leaders can enhance the impact and viability of their organizations and/or plans. In this course, we will assume a leadership perspective on the management of organizations with the intent of improving your strategic decision-making skills. You will learn the analytical tools used by organizations to maximize their impact on key stakeholders.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 8 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Development Practice/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

DEVP 229 Quantitative Methods and Impact Evaluation 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

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.

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.

DEVP 230 Politics of Policy Success 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Spring 2024

Delve into the triumphs of public policy in the Global South, with a primary emphasis on Latin America. Uncover stories of social welfare programs that lifted millions from poverty, criminal justice reforms that curbed human rights abuses, and transformative voting technologies. Assess the effectiveness of these policies, and explore the political dynamics that facilitated their success. By the end, you'll gain insights into the symbiotic relationship between good policy and good politics in the Global South.

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.

DEVP 232 Foundations of Public Health 2 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021

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.

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

DEVP 233 Law, Politics, and Policymaking 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

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.

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

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.

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

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

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

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.

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

DEVP 239 Interactive/Multidisciplinary Seminar 2 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Fall 2022

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.

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

DEVP 240 Introduction to Development Practice 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

Introduction to Development Practice is a course geared towards first-semester MDP students to provide an introduction, overview, and history of the development field, including a discussion of the emergence of various forms of development institutions and organizations, as well as key policies influencing the emergence and evolution of the field.

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: Reddy

DEVP 252 International Poverty and Economic Development 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024

The focus of the course is on rigorous analysis of issues in development economics from a microeconomics lens. We take a threefold approach to each topic: we examine, in turn, theory, evidence, and policy. Yet the goal of the course is not simply to have you learn facts and theories about poor countries—instead, the goal is that you learn, hands-on, how economists approach problems of development. As such, the bulk of the course will be devoted to in-depth analysis of (microeconomic) models and (micro-econometric) empirical methods. Finally, a sub-theme of the course is to provide the professional tools and experience in using data sets for analysis.

Hours & Format

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

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Development Practice/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

DEVP C253 International Economic Development Policy 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2022, 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.

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.

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

DEVP 290 Special Topics 1 - 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

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.

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

DEVP 295 Implementing and Assessing International Development Projects and Policies: From Theory to Practice 2 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2022

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.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 8 weeks - 4 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Development Practice/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Galletti

DEVP 296 Innovative Finance for Development 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

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.

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

DEVP 299 Independent Study 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2023, Fall 2022

Supervised Independent Study and Research

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 - 1-4 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Development Practice/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Zilberman