DEVELOPMENT, PH.D.

Admissions to the Development, Ph.D. have been suspended as of spring 2019. If you have any questions, please contact the department (academicaffairs@cals.wisc.edu).

The mission of the Ph.D. program in development studies is to prepare Ph.D. graduates for careers in social science research, policy, and education related to international development issues. The target audience includes people who wish to prepare for careers in international development as well as midcareer international development professionals who will return to their original employer or employment sector after earning a Ph.D. Applicants are expected to have experience working in developing countries. The program emphasizes interdisciplinary social science research and analysis designed to address the problems of developing and emerging economies.

Students from the United States and 40 countries have enrolled since the program was established in 1970. Over 125 alumni work in a wide range of capacities with various government agencies, nongovernment agencies, and universities in the United States and other countries. Most alumni from other countries have returned there to take up senior-level posts in government and other national institutions and in academia.

ADMISSIONS

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ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Students seeking admission to the program must already hold a master’s degree in a social science, preferably with a thesis requiring original research. Previous experience living and/or working in a developing country in some capacity (Peace Corps, non-government organizations, individual initiatives, etc.) is an important aspect of a successful applicant’s background. A student’s application is judged on the basis of previous academic records, letters of recommendation, a personal statement, and a research proposal. This proposal will form the cornerstone of the student’s program. It will provide the admissions committee with a clear explanation of the direction the student intends to take with the research. In their statement of purpose, students should clearly outline their reasons for choosing the Ph.D. in development.

The online application must contain the following:

- Personal statement
- The research proposal
- Official transcripts for all post-secondary institutions attended
- Three letters of recommendation
- A curriculum vitae

Test Scores. General Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores for all applicants and TOEFL or IELTS scores for international applicants are required.

Details on the requirements can be found on the program website (http://devstudies.wisc.edu/admission.html).

FACULTY ADVISOR

Applicants will not be admitted unless a member of the program faculty agrees to serve as advisor. If the Admissions Committee judges your application favorably, you will receive a provisional admission. You should identify one or more potential advisors from the list of faculty (http://devstudies.wisc.edu/people_faculty.html) and include that information in your Reason for Graduate Study. The Admissions Committee will contact potential advisors in order to obtain a match. Most students remain with their initial advisor; others find a more compatible match during the first semester.

DEADLINE

The Development Studies Program will only consider applications for fall semester admission. The deadline is January 15.

GRADUATE SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic degree programs and the Graduate School. Applicants must meet requirements of both the program(s) and the Graduate School. Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (https://grad.wisc.edu/admissions).

FUNDING

Graduate School resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information (https://grad.wisc.edu/funding) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and processes related to funding.

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

PROGRAM RESOURCES

The Development Studies Program is unable to provide financial support to students, however many students are able to find funding through other means. Prospective students are encouraged to seek support through university departments, private scholarships, or government-sponsored funding. We will enter you in university-wide fellowship competitions for which you are eligible. Admitted students from developing countries may be eligible for one semester of MEO fellowship support. Most fellowship funds are awarded to students entering in the fall semester. We recommend that you:

1. Write to international organizations and investigate fellowships and grants available from private foundations.
2. Consider the possibility of obtaining support from your own university, your employer, or your government.
3. Contact university departments about the possibility of obtaining an assistantship.

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/
#policiesandrequirementstext), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

**MAJOR REQUIREMENTS**

**MODE OF INSTRUCTION**

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<tr>
<th>Face to Face</th>
<th>Evening/Weekend</th>
<th>Online</th>
<th>Hybrid</th>
<th>Accelerated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Mode of Instruction Definitions

**Evening/Weekend**: These programs are offered in an evening and/or weekend format to accommodate working schedules. Enjoy the advantages of on-campus courses and personal connections, while keeping your day job. For more information about the meeting schedule of a specific program, contact the program.

**Online**: These programs are offered primarily online. Many available online programs can be completed almost entirely online with all online programs offering at least 50 percent or more of the program work online. Some online programs have an on-campus component that is often designed to accommodate working schedules. Take advantage of the convenience of online learning while participating in a rich, interactive learning environment. For more information about the online nature of a specific program, contact the program.

**Hybrid**: These programs have innovative curricula that combine on-campus and online formats. Most hybrid programs are completed on-campus with a partial or completely online semester. For more information about the hybrid schedule of a specific program, contact the program.

**Accelerated**: These on-campus programs are offered in an accelerated format that allows you to complete your program in a condensed time-frame. Enjoy the advantages of on-campus courses with minimal disruption to your career. For more information about the accelerated nature of a specific program, contact the program.

**CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS**

Minimum 51 credits

**Credit Requirement**

Minimum Residence Credit Requirement 33 credits

Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement

Half of degree coursework (26 credits out of 51 total credits) must be completed graduate-level coursework; courses with the Graduate Level Coursework attribute are identified and searchable in the university’s Course Guide.

Overall 3.2 GPA required.

Graduate GPA Requirement

Other Grade Requirements No other grade requirements.

Assessments and Examinations

Students must complete a written preliminary examination after the student’s program coursework has been completed. For more information, see the program’s website (http://devstudies.wisc.edu/about_prelim.html).

Language Requirements

Language requirements ranging from minimal competency to fluency in a non-native language will vary for each student depending on area of interest. Students are required to have or acquire language competency to complete their dissertation fieldwork.

**REQUIRED COURSES**

Students work with their advisors to design an individualized program of study. All students must complete the Program of Study form by the end of their second semester.

The minimum number of total required credits for the Ph.D. program is 51. Up to 12 credits may be transferred from the student’s master’s degree provided the committee determines that these credits meet program requirements. Ordinarily courses taken elsewhere may not be used to meet the development studies course requirement. Each program of study will differ, yet coursework should fit the following guidelines:

- **Interdisciplinary seminar**: minimum of 3 credits
- **Major discipline**: minimum of 24 credits that include:
  - 3 credits minimum of theory
  - 9 credits minimum of methods (must be taken from the department(s) of the major discipline or from course offerings in the Department of Statistics)
  - 12 credits minimum of other relevant courses in the major discipline (6 must be from development studies courses)
- **Secondary discipline**: minimum of 9 credits (3 must be from development studies courses)
- **Tertiary areas**: minimum of 9 credits
- **Dissertation research**: minimum of 6 credits

Both the major discipline and the secondary discipline are expected to be in the social sciences. In most instances, students will select from among sociology, economics, geography, anthropology, communication, political science, education, or urban and regional planning as their primary and secondary disciplines. Secondary disciplines may also include areas such as law, history, and public affairs.

At least one development studies course in the discipline of economics and one development studies course in the discipline of sociology must be completed by all students. Courses in the departments of Economics, Agricultural and Applied Economics, and Consumer Science, and economics courses in the School of Business fulfill the economics discipline, while courses in the departments of Sociology and Community and Environmental Sociology fulfill the sociology discipline. Development studies courses are social science graduate-level courses in which the majority of course content pertains specifically to international development. The Development Studies Instructional Committee will revise this list annually and make appropriate additions and deletions. All development studies courses must have been taken on an A–F basis at UW–Madison and be passed with a grade of B or higher.

“Topics” courses may be taken as development studies core courses by permission of the student’s committee and the Instructional Committee. Some examples of such topics courses are included below. Also, note that this list is highly provisional. In particular, there are likely to be some 400-, 500-, and 600-level courses with largely undergraduate clientele that would not be appropriate for development studies graduate students. There are also no doubt a number of courses unknown to us that should be added to the list. At this time we do not see a need to identify development studies core courses for the tertiary areas, or to
require that one or more development studies courses be taken in the tertiary areas. Courses in the tertiary areas may be in a social science discipline, a coherent set of area studies courses, or a coherent set of courses outside of the social sciences. Natural-science tertiary areas/disciplines (e.g., plant science, ecology, tropical agriculture) or interdisciplinary social science areas/disciplines (technology assessment, urban studies) are permitted and encouraged. Tertiary areas/disciplines that do not correspond to current Graduate School programs of study are permitted if they are coherent and well justified.

Policies

Graduate School Policies

The Graduate School's Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy) provide essential information regarding general university policies. Program authority to set degree policies beyond the minimum required by the Graduate School lies with the degree program faculty. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

Major-Specific Policies

Graduate Program Handbook

A Graduate Program Handbook containing all of the program’s policies and requirements is forthcoming from the program.

Prior Coursework

Graduate Work from Other Institutions

With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 12 credits of graduate coursework from other institutions. Coursework earned ten years or more prior to admission to a doctoral degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

UW—Madison Undergraduate

No credits from a UW—Madison undergraduate degree are allowed to count toward the degree.

UW—Madison University Special

With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 9 credits of coursework numbered 300 or above taken as a UW—Madison University Special student. Coursework earned ten or more years prior to admission to a doctoral degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

Probation

If students fall below the satisfactory progress requirements, including the 3.2 GPA, the program will launch an assessment exercise analyzing the student’s fit in the program.

Advisor / Committee

All students must have an advisor. Admission into the development studies program is contingent on the Admissions Committee obtaining an advisor for the student. After the second semester the student will build a three-member faculty committee. At the time of defense, a five-member interdisciplinary committee must be established. At least 3 members of the dissertation committee must be readers.

Credits Per Term Allowed

15 credits

Time Constraints

A candidate for a doctoral degree who fails to take the final oral examination and deposit the dissertation within five years after passing the preliminary examination may be required to take another preliminary examination and to be admitted to candidacy a second time.

Doctoral degree students who have been absent for ten or more consecutive years lose all credits that they have earned before their absence. Individual programs may count the coursework students completed prior to their absence for meeting program requirements; that coursework may not count toward Graduate School credit requirements.

Other

If you need financial support, indicate this on the application form. Prospective students are encouraged to seek support through university departments, private scholarships, or government-sponsored funding. We will enter you in university-wide fellowship competitions for which you are eligible. We will advise you about funding opportunities, when possible.

Professional Development

Graduate School Resources

Take advantage of the Graduate School’s professional development resources (https://grad.wisc.edu/pd) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.

Learning Outcomes

1. Articulates research questions reflecting an interdisciplinary perspective on development research, theory and practice.

2. Formulates ideas and/or techniques beyond the current boundaries of knowledge within development studies.

3. Creates scholarship that makes a substantive contribution to development studies.

4. Demonstrates interdisciplinary breadth within their learning experiences.

5. Communicates complex ideas in a clear and understandable manner, both orally and in written form.

6. Fosters ethical and professional conduct in their research, teaching, and policy work.

People

Faculty

Samer Alatout, Associate Professor, Community and Environmental Sociology
Bradford Barham, Professor, Agricultural and Applied Economics
Katherine Bowie, Professor, Anthropology
Jean-Paul Chavas, Professor, Agricultural and Applied Economics
Jane Collins, Professor, Community and Environmental Sociology
Ian Coxhead, Professor, Agricultural and Applied Economics
Jo Ellen Fair, Professor, African Cultural Studies
Jeremy Foltz, Professor, Agricultural and Applied Economics
Theodore Gerber, Professor, Sociology
Gary Green, Professor, Community and Environmental Sociology
Kathryn Hendley, Professor, Law
Harvey Jacobs, Professor, Planning and Landscape Architecture
Richard Keller, Professor, Medical History and Bioethics
Nancy Kendall, Professor, Education Policy Studies (Chair)
Heinz Klug, Professor, Law
Chaeyoon Lim, Associate Professor, Sociology
Lisa Naughton, Professor, Geography
Thomas Oliver, Professor, Population Health Sciences
Gay Seidman, Professor, Sociology
Ajay Sethi, Associate Professor, Population Health Sciences
Hemant Shah, Professor, Journalism and Mass Communication
Randy Stoecker, Professor, Community and Environmental Sociology
Leann Tigges, Professor, Community and Environmental Sociology
Aili Tripp, Professor, Political Science/Gender and Women's Studies
Matthew Turner, Professor, Geography
Stephen Ventura, Professor, Soil Science
Stephen Young, Assistant Professor, Geography

**STAFF**
Linda Davis, Program Coordinator, linda.davis@wisc.edu

Contact information for faculty affiliated with the Development Studies Program can be found on our website (http://devstudies.wisc.edu/people_faculty.html).