THE MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IN DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY | SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL & PUBLIC AFFAIRS | THE EARTH INSTITUTE

www.sipa.columbia.edu/mpa-dp
THE MPA–DP PROGRAM

The Master of Public Administration in Development Practice (MPA-DP) trains current and aspiring practitioners to develop, implement, and manage comprehensive approaches to sustainable development.

The goal is to create a new generation of development practitioners who can speak the “languages” of many specialties, understand the complex interactions among them, and coordinate stakeholders from all levels and disciplines to better address development challenges.

Graduates of the MPA–DP program are prepared to work in a range of organizations that address sustainable development issues, including: local and international NGOs; UN agencies; private sector companies; consulting firms; social enterprises; government institutions; international finance institutions; bilateral aid agencies; philanthropic organizations; and academic institutions.

Nearly half of the world’s population lives on less than two dollars a day. Such extreme poverty perpetuates hunger, poor health, environmental degradation and low completion rates for primary education. The MPA in Development Practice is founded on the idea that these complex challenges can only be solved by connecting knowledge and insights from a range of disciplines.

LET US FACE THE FACTS: THE OLD MODEL IS BROKEN. WE NEED TO CREATE A NEW ONE – A NEW MODEL FOR DYNAMIC GROWTH. GROWTH THAT IS EQUITABLE ... GROWTH THAT CAN BE SUSTAINED WITHIN PLANETARY BOUNDARIES ... GROWTH THAT WILL BENEFIT CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.

– Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations

MPA-DP student Joel Sanchez assesses the nutritional status of a child in Nepal.

THE MPA–DP PROGRAM
CROSS CUTTING CURRICULUM

To complement the core curriculum, the MPA-DP offers two unique courses that meet throughout the two-year program to integrate the knowledge and skills learned across semesters.

DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE LAB (DP-LAB)

To integrate the competencies across sectors, students attend a series of clinics each semester to get training in skills such as problem analysis, project design, spatial analysis, cost-benefit analysis, institutional analysis, and participatory approaches to development.

DEVELOPMENT PRACTITIONERS SEMINAR (DP-SEMINAR)

Most Fridays, students attend a seminar with accomplished development practitioners, providing them the opportunity to ask candid questions and gain practical insight on how to function effectively in their future careers. It also promotes long-term professional exchanges that may open the door for future employment opportunities.

A GLOBAL ASSOCIATION

Columbia University launched the first MPA-DP program in 2009. Since then, the Global Masters in Development Practice Secretariat and the MacArthur Foundation have helped more than 25 higher learning institutions launch Development Practice programs, providing students with exceptional international resources and opportunities. The Columbia MPA-DP program is administered by the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) and the Earth Institute, with support from the Masters in Development Practice Secretariat.

NEW YORK

The School of International and Public Affairs draws strength from the resources of New York City. The presence of so many non-profits, institutes, international organizations, UN headquarters, and a high-profile city government offers students many opportunities to gain additional experience outside of the classroom. Renowned for its parks, theaters, museums, restaurants, and cultural events, NYC is also an exciting and dynamic place to live.
Graduates of the MPA-DP will be able to:

- Apply cross-disciplinary knowledge to address complex sustainable development challenges.
- Critically analyze development policies, strategies, plans, and budgets.
- Design, implement, monitor, and evaluate development projects across sectors.
- Facilitate collaboration with stakeholders across sectors, including local communities, NGOs, scientists, policy makers, government officials, and private firms.
- Integrate social and earth sciences to inform development policy and programs.
- Navigate the development landscape and understand the roles of major players such as national and international development agencies, finance institutions, governments, donors, and UN agencies.

FACULTY

JEFFREY D SACHS
Jeffrey O. Sachs is the Director of the Earth Institute, Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development, and Professor of Health Policy and Management at Columbia University. He is also Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. From 2002-2006, he was Director of the UN Millennium Project and Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan on the Millennium Development Goals. Professor Sachs was recently appointed by Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to lead the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

GLENN DENNING
Glenn Denning is the Director of the MPA-DP program at Columbia University, a professor of Professional Practice in International and Public Affairs, and Director of the Center for Globalization and Sustainable Development at the Earth Institute, Columbia University. He helped establish the MDG Center, East and Southern Africa in Nairobi, Kenya and served as its first Director (2004 to 2009). He previously held senior management positions at the International Rice Research Institute and the World Agroforestry Centre, and has lived and worked in Asia and Africa for more than 30 years.

Year 1 Focus: Core coursework, DP-Lab, and preparation for field placement.

PRE PROGRAM “GETTING STARTED”
An intensive one-week program introducing students to the field of development practice. Students also attend a series of workshops focused on communication, research, and teamwork skills. Followed by one week of general SIPA orientation.

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS FOR INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
First part of one-year economics sequence, focus on microeconomics.

FOUNTIONS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
The core course of the global network of development practice programs. This course is offered at universities around the world to facilitate international dialogue and collaboration among participants. Course topics focus on the inter-relationship of public health, agriculture and nutrition, environment and climate science, technology and engineering, economics, policy, anthropology, and management.

QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS
Introduction to the fundamentals of statistical analysis with a focus on applications to problems in public policy, international affairs, and the social sciences. Students will be trained in the STATA software package.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Offered by SIPA’s Office of Career Services: this course teaches skills needed to compete effectively in the international and public affairs job markets.

GLOBAL HEALTH PRACTICE
The aim of this course is to provide non-health experts with a basic understanding of global health issues and enable them to develop a minimum set of practical relevant skills in global public health. The course will focus on the Millennium Development Goals, health, health, maternal health and sanitation, other important diseases) alongside the interdependence of the MDGs and health outcomes. In addition, challenges to health systems and barriers to access are addressed.

GLOBAL FOOD SYSTEMS
Overview of the core bio-physical elements of food production: land, soil, water, and biodiversity. The course surveys a selection of important food security systems in China and uses a country case study approach.

FIELD EXPERIENCE
The rigorous academic coursework is complemented by practical hands-on experience. Through the Field Placement Program, students work on the ground with an integrated, multi-sectoral development project in close collaboration with practitioners, community members and faculty mentors. It encompasses 12 weeks at select locations and several additional months of preparation and follow-up activities in New York.

MANAGEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONALS
The course focuses on practical skills that match the complex, interdisciplinary reality of development management.

HUMAN ECOLOGY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
This course uses quantitative methods to examine the interactions between ecological constraints, anthropological activities, and economic development.

PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE COURSE
Students choose from list of approved courses: may be taken in any semester.

Year 2 Focus: Electives, internships, and preparation for job market.

GMTP: FOUNDATIONS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT II
Second part of one year sequence. Focus on macrosconomics.

DP-LAB
A series of hands-on, practitioner-led workshops focusing on skills in program design, implementation and evaluation. Using these tools, students work in teams to produce deliverables for real-world clients.

Solutions Network.

Sustainable Development, and Professor

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF BHUTAN

SAVE THE CHILDREN

THE SYNERGOS INSTITUTE

US DEPARTMENT OF STATE

US AID

WITNESS

Non-Profit

Private Sector

Government/International Institutions

Academia

ALUMNI EMPLOYERS

Including:

African Leadership Foundation

B: Corporation

Compartamos Con Colombia

Dai

Ethiopian Agriculture Transformation Agency

Fintrac

Gain

IFC World Bank Group

Mdg Centres: West And Central Africa & East And Southern Africa

Mercy Corps

Alumni of the MPA-DP program pursue their passion for development by working in the public, private, and non-profit sectors in countries around the world.

3 core credits

9.5 core credits

10 core credits

3 core credits

3 core credits

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Please visit our website for more information about admission, tuition, financial aid, and details on how to apply: www.sipa.columbia.edu/mpa-dp

If you would like to speak to a program representative, please email the Program Manager, Dr. André Corrêa d’Almeida: sipa_mpdp@columbia.edu

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