MASTER OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE
PROGRAM
Center for Latin American Studies & Center for African Studies
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL

PROGRAM MANUAL 2014-15
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1. MISSION

The MDP Program at the University of Florida provides an interdisciplinary curriculum in the health, natural, social and management sciences through integrated academic, practice and skills training. The curriculum is complemented by the opportunity to specialize in a particular field of interest from the university’s diverse departments. The MDP Program is supported by more than 40 core and affiliate faculty from over 7 schools and 20 different departments, centers and research institutions at the University of Florida, drawing in this way, on the University of Florida’s considerable depth. The program is committed to helping students understand the multidimensional nature of development challenges, to gain the analytical capacity and tools applicable to development challenges, as well as to become critical thinkers concerning development processes and their implications.

The UF MDP Program trains students to become skilled practitioners who are able to:

• Intellectually and culturally address complex sustainable development challenges by working across disciplinary boundaries and bridge scholarship and practice
• Analyze and communicate multi-dimensional development problems (such as poverty, weak governance, natural resource degradation and climate vulnerability) at the interface of the environment, health and development.
• Plan, manage and monitor development interventions.
• Acquire the knowledge and skills for assessing and/or managing organizations, staff and teams.

In addition to on-campus instruction, students carry out a capstone: field-based training in collaboration with partners in regions of Africa, Latin America or other part of the world. Their practicum field and research experience is designed to help students build strong networks with practitioners and to apply their skills to real development challenges spearheaded by partner, host organizations.

Utilizing the approaches indicated, the UF MDP program prepares graduates to take integrated approaches to advancing economic opportunities, public health, political empowerment and environmental conservation in Latin America, Africa and other regions of the world. Graduates assume positions that require development professionals in global nonprofits, private enterprises, governments, policy think tanks, NGOs and grassroots organizations, depending on their professional interests and aspirations.

With its institutional home in the Center for Latin American Studies and the Center for African Studies and its collaborative links to faculty representing diverse departments, the UF MDP Program fully aligns with the Mission and Institutional Purpose of the University of Florida and the Mission of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.
2. INTRODUCTION

In 2009, the University of Florida was awarded a grant from the MacArthur Foundation to develop a Master’s program focused on training a new generation of development practitioners. The UF Master of Sustainable Development Practice (MDP) Program is now part of a global consortium of over 30 educational institutions offering a Master’s degree in Development Practice. The MDP Program at the University of Florida accepted its first cohort of students in the Fall Semester of 2010.

The MDP Program at the University of Florida is a professional, interdisciplinary program designed for individuals aspiring to pursue work in international development. Coursework is combined with hands-on field experience to provide the fundamental knowledge and skills necessary for a career in a wide range of development organizations and institutions. The overall MDP Program curriculum integrates the social sciences, health sciences, natural sciences, and management sciences into a holistic approach to sustainable development.

Applicants to the program may possess a degree in any discipline participating in development processes directly or indirectly. The program is taught in English. Students from all regions of the world are encouraged to apply.

Full-time enrollment spans four academic semesters and a summer field practicum. Students take eight core classes during their first two semesters. Next, students undertake an intensive 10-12 week field practicum over the summer, during which they apply the knowledge and skills acquired during the first academic year to address specific development challenges identified by governments, communities and/or organizations in different parts of the world. Students are required to produce a deliverable that will be developed with input from partners to which they are linked during the field practicum. This deliverable constitutes a part of the student’s final field practicum report. The presentation and defense of this report are essential last steps in earning the MDP degree. Following the field practicum, students take three additional core courses and four elective courses. Elective courses can be applied towards an individually tailored specialization and/or to meet the requirements of an existing certificate, concentration or minor.

The program is administered jointly by the Center for African Studies (CAS) and the Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS). These centers attract faculty from numerous academic units and departments who cover a wide array of disciplines, and share a passion and commitment to development and conservation work with communities in regions throughout Africa and Latin America and other parts of the world. Core and affiliate faculty members of the program work within several departments and centers in the UF. They contribute their development expertise, teaching and advisement with invaluable impacts on the success of the MDP Program. A comprehensive list of core and affiliate MDP faculty is found in Appendix A. MDP students have an opportunity to interact with these faculty members and begin building a professional network in their areas of interest.

Students who complete the program will be awarded a Master of Sustainable Development Practice degree. The MDP degree may also be completed as part of a joint or concurrent degree program with another approved graduate or professional program at the University of Florida.

The MDP Program also offers a Graduate Certificate in Sustainable Development Practice (SDP) to Master and PhD students who are not enrolled in the MDP graduate program. The certificate provides training in interdisciplinary knowledge and skills in sustainable development practice for researchers and practitioners. To obtain the certificate, UF students at the Master’s level are required to take 12 credits, while PhD students must complete 15 credits, which include core coursework requirements from the four pillars of learning that characterize the MDP curriculum.
Figure 1 below illustrates the UF MDP program framework with the aforementioned integration of natural sciences, social sciences, health sciences and management sciences, taking into account the practice-based field experience and the specialization focus each student pursues.

Figure 1. UF MDP Framework

3. PRINCIPLES AND ATTRIBUTES OF THE PROGRAM

The MDP at the University of Florida represents a natural progression from the Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) Program. TCD has amassed a strong record in training development practitioners from around the world over the past three decades. The core principles of the TCD program strongly influenced the orientation of the UF MDP. They include:

- Involvement of faculty and graduate students across the UF campus. Seven colleges and academic units are involved in the MDP program.

- Implementation of innovative, experiential and non-traditional approaches to student learning that seeks to bridge theory and practice.

- Consolidation of strong support for the program from a network of faculty, affiliated faculty and development practitioners in order to provide an exciting a rewarding experience for students as well as ensure desirable outcomes for local governments, communities and organizations that collaborate with the program.
Field practice carried out with communities in Africa, Latin America and elsewhere using bottom-up and community-driven development approaches.

Attract a vibrant mix of early and mid-career professionals comprised of international and US citizens.

**MDP PROGRAM EXPECTATIONS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The University of Florida Master of Sustainable Development Practice Program (UF MDP) has a number of attributes that make it unique and complex. As has been pointed out, it attracts students from diverse academic and professional backgrounds with marked differences with regards to their career aspirations. Its explicit interdisciplinary focus requires students to forge connections among departments and areas of study that are not commonly pursued in disciplinary degrees. Finally, since the MDP Program was developed to train a new generation of development practitioners, it generates on-going discussion about what competencies a “development practitioner” should possess: a question with important implications for the evolving curriculum and the manner in which the program is conducted.

The curriculum of the UF MDP Program was developed to foster the development of the core competencies alluded to in the previous paragraph. These are summarized here in the Program Manual and on the UF MDP Website. A broader overview of Core Competencies was developed in a document prepared by the Global Association of the MDP Program, outlining underlying assumptions of the MDP Program to help guide member universities in the development of their respective programs. Content Areas in the four pillars of the program – Health Sciences, Natural Sciences and Engineering, Social Sciences and Management – are also described, as are core competencies related to skills. This document is available on the Global MDP website. This “living” document complements these official reports, as a means to ensure that UF students and faculty share an understanding of MDP program goals and expectations.

The UF Institutional Assessment requires graduate degree and certificate programs to develop Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) Assessment Measures. In the case of the UF MDP, the assessment methods focus on three types of outcomes: Knowledge, Skills and Professional Behavior, all vital for development practitioners. After the final presentation and defense of the field practicum report carried out by each MDP student, members of the supervisory committee, in the presence of the student, indicate on an assessment form whether or not the student has met (fully or partially) the SLOs established for the program. These measures are used to carry out the final assessment of each student, and provide a logical framework for describing and explaining the expectations of the program.

**Knowledge outcome:** Thorough understanding of complex interdisciplinary dimensions of sustainable development, and the capacity to communicate in a clear manner the challenges associated with this endeavor

**Skills Outcome:** Competence in the tasks related to the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development initiatives, and the planning and utilization of participatory methodologies

**Professional Behavior Outcome:** Interacting with professional peers, partners and participants in development initiatives with honesty, ethical behavior, cultural sensitivity, teamwork, and effective communication

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These SLOs were developed carefully taking into account the qualities/attributes that characterize an effective development practitioner. Here, each of these SLOs will be explored further to describe the considerations behind them.

**Considerations relating to the Knowledge Outcome**

The core courses of the MDP Program introduce students to a considerable number of concepts and principles related to the four pillars of learning. Students are expected to understand these concepts and principles by attending class, being judicious with assigned readings and devoting time to reflecting on how these tie into their past experiences and upcoming field work. In this SLO, explicit efforts are made to integrate knowledge across disciplines since an underlying premise of the MDP is that sustainable development processes are interdisciplinary in nature and require practitioners to be cognizant of complex linkages among different realms of knowledge. Several MDP graduates have commented that one of the primary benefits of having participated in the program related to having gained this broader, interdisciplinary understanding of development challenges.

Beyond the specific course content that students are expected to learn and understand, MDP faculty challenge students to hone their cognitive skills. Depending on the course, students are required to carry out a number of tasks and exercises to enhance their knowledge and comprehension:

- Interpret and prepare charts and graphs utilizing important metrics and indices
- Apply and integrate information in the preparation of literature reviews and the field practicum proposal
- Carry out analyses of qualitative and quantitative information using different tools and methodologies and derive results and conclusions from these analyses
- Carry out syntheses of information and knowledge from diverse sources in class assignments and in the field practicum final report

The program expects students to be proactive in the exploration of the literature, especially with regards to the area to which they will devote their field practicum. Students should be aware of and understand current issues, trends and debates surrounding different topics. The complementary specialization a student pursues through their elective courses will provide them with an opportunity to explore these aspects in greater depth in an area that especially interests them.

Students are also expected to recognize the importance of exploring both peer-reviewed academic sources and alternative sources of information, for example, gray literature and “local knowledge”.

This SLO also states that students should have “the capacity to communicate in a clear manner the challenges associated with sustainable development”. For example, a student might explain how social, cultural and environmental concerns impact outcomes of health interventions and how these programs are encouraged or constrained by policy, capacity building and institutional strengths or weaknesses. A student’s explanation would reflect his/her understanding of the importance of context and historical precedents and the linkages across scales and sectors. If the UF MDP is effective, a student’s understanding of this paragraph will evolve as a consequence of their enrollment in the program.

Finally, participation in the UF MDP Program should be both empowering and humbling. It is important for a student to recognize that the knowledge available to them is vast and evolving and approaches to integrating knowledge across disciplines continue to be works in progress. Clearly, a commitment to lifelong learning is an essential attribute of the development practitioner and we expect our graduates to continue enhancing their knowledge in the years to come.
Considerations relating to the Skills Outcome:
The SLO relating to skills emphasizes the capacity to carry out the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development initiatives, and the planning and utilization of participatory methodologies, and other important skills will also be nurtured during the MDP program. Pursuing a degree in development practice, MDP students understandably harbor a special interest in developing skills they will require as practitioners. At the same time the appropriate use of skills requires that practitioners base their use on a firm foundation of knowledge, as outlined in the previous SLO. In other words, the SLOs relating to knowledge and skills are complementary: to apply knowledge, the development practitioner must be competent in the utilization of a number of skills; and as indicated in the previous sentence, the development practitioner must be knowledgeable to make appropriate and effective use of skills.

During the MDP program, students have a considerable number of opportunities to develop important skills. In MDP core courses, students are exposed to and practice a number of skills for the planning and implementation of participatory methodologies. A number of these methods are practiced during the conduction of the field practicum, while others are enacted in classroom sessions and activities. The exact methods to be utilized in the field practicum will depend on the focus and objectives of the project the student undertakes. In like manner, all students gain experience in the development of proposals for a development project, oftentimes providing a service to an organization involved in development initiatives.

Beyond the skills emphasized in the SLO, the program seeks to foster the development of other essential skills. For example, written communication skills are vital to the development practitioner, and MDP students are expected to take full advantage of opportunities to enhance and sharpen these skills, for example, in the preparation of class assignments/literature reviews and in the drafting of the field practicum final report. Students also have opportunities to practice oral communication skills in individual and group presentations in class and during the conduct of their field practicums.

The program also introduces students to skills associated with team building, leadership and conflict management, and creates opportunities to apply them. Depending on their area of specialization a student may opt to strengthen skills in information management, geographical information systems (GIS) or rural enterprise development, to name a few. It will be important that students develop a list of the skills that most interest them, and make a concerted effort to develop/strengthen those skills during the MDP program.

Considerations relating to the Professional Behavior Outcome

The previous section indicated how the SLOs relating to knowledge and skills are complementary and interdependent. SLOs related to professional behavior are equally crucial to the success of development practitioners, and for that reason, much attention is devoted to them during the MDP Program. Being a development practitioner requires that work be carried out in institutional and international contexts with many different interpersonal and cultural challenges. Development practitioners are required to foster collaborative ties among persons and organizations with diverse and sometimes conflicting interests and worldviews, often with previous, and not always positive, interactions. These challenges have to be taken on while students are cognizant of their own personal limitations and biases.

While enrolled in the UF MDP program, students are held to high ethical standards and are required to carry out academic work with honesty and with respect for fellow students and faculty. Issues of cultural sensitivity are discussed frequently, and opportunities are created to role play and observe insensitive behavior, and practice empathic listening skills. Students are encouraged to develop empathy and respect for others, and by doing so, enhance their intuitive understanding of appropriate behavior in diverse contexts. Finally, students are expected to take advantage of opportunities to strengthen their ability to
work with others, contributing to group work when appropriate while valuing and being respectful of the opinions and contributions of others. The importance of “attitude” is also stressed, since it is of paramount importance for future effectiveness and success.

**Final considerations**

The UF MDP recognizes that the effective development practitioner integrates knowledge and skills with appropriate professional behavior. The challenge for the aspiring development practitioner is to devote time and effort to each of these dimensions. By doing so, not only will development practitioners enhance their effectiveness and success, they will also experience a more rewarding professional career. For students, there are many options available to develop their knowledge and skills while enrolled in the MDP program. Each student should take time to carefully consider their professional interests and goals to map out a study plan that caters to their specific needs. Taking a proactive approach, students will develop their study plans with the advisement and support of the MDP Graduate Coordinator and their supervisory committees, especially their committee chair/major advisor.

During their time in the University of Florida, students are afforded many opportunities to meet practitioners, become directly involved in co-curricular activities and community service, and begin establishing a network of personal and professional contacts. These opportunities are created by the MDP program, for example through the Practitioner Forum; the TCD Program; the Center for African Studies, the Center for Latin American Studies, and Global Health, just to name a few. Students are expected to attend and actively participate in all MDP Practitioner Forum seminars, and attend at least four final capstone MDP student final presentations. All students are required to attend the annual MDP Poster Session. Students are also highly encouraged to take advantage of other relevant opportunities to enhance their academic experience.

The capstone field practicum of the MDP program is conceptualized to provide students with an opportunity to apply their knowledge and skills, while challenging their ability to contribute to a development challenge with exemplary professional behavior. With a concerted effort, students not only strengthen and hone their knowledge and skills; they also gain confidence for meeting new challenges in the future in an effective manner.

The following figure illustrates the interconnectedness and complementary nature of the SLOs, providing a brief summary of important elements in each area.
**CURRICULUM**

1. **CORE CURRICULUM**

The curriculum is designed to link theory and practice and to strengthen skills needed by development practitioners across different fields. Core faculty members and affiliate faculty are practitioners with a long history of working with local communities, non-governmental organizations and institutions in Latin America, Africa and elsewhere, often employing grassroots development approaches.

MDP core classes are designed to integrate the four core pillars outlined above: health sciences, natural sciences, social sciences and management sciences. The field practicum provides students with an opportunity to apply a wide range of skills while working with communities and in project teams within the context of sustainable development, including management techniques and participatory methodologies.

To complement the broad core curriculum, students complete 12 elective credits in the second year to add depth and specialize in a particular area of interest.

The MDP is a non-thesis degree; however, students are required to complete a comprehensive final report based on the outcomes of their field practicum. While the final report must meet established criteria, its primary focus may vary depending on the objectives of the practicum. For example, a student may carry out a needs assessment, put in place a monitoring and evaluation system, contribute to the development of a funding proposal or generate a report related to specific policy questions, among other activities.
The following table provides a summary of the current MDP program curriculum, and may undergo modifications over time to respond to students’ evolving interests and needs. A summary of each core course is found in Appendix B.

### MDP Orientation and Follow up meeting (Semester One):
*Incoming students are expected to participate in these activities. The meetings will familiarize students with the MDP Program and its philosophy, including cohort-building activities, discussion of expectations, learning objectives, competencies and field practicum (FP) planning.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester One (Fall)</th>
<th>Social Sciences</th>
<th>Natural Sciences</th>
<th>Health Sciences</th>
<th>Management Sciences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LAS 6943/AFS 6305 Global Classroom: Development Theory and Practice [Schmink/ Serra] 3 Credits</td>
<td>AGR 5277C Tropical Crop Production [Koenig/ MacDonald] 3 Credits</td>
<td>PHC 6764 Global Health and Development I [Rheingans] 3 Credits</td>
<td>LAS 6291 Communication and Leadership Skills [Dain] 3 Credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Semester Two (Spring)</td>
<td>LAS 6938/AFS 6905 Foundations of Economic Analysis for Sustainable Development [Deere/Serra] 3 Credits</td>
<td>EVR 5705 Natural Resource Management and Innovation Systems [Porzecanski] 3 Credits</td>
<td>PHC 6445 Global Health and Development II [Rheingans] 3 Credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Evaluation:
*Individual performance (competencies, skills, group participation and leadership) will be evaluated throughout the educational process.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summer Field Practicum</th>
<th>Social Sciences</th>
<th>Natural Sciences</th>
<th>Health Sciences</th>
<th>Management Sciences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Field practicum in Africa, Latin America or other region of the world: Includes the application of competencies and skills in the context of a development process following the FP Guidelines. Students are required to prepare a poster and final report during the 2nd academic year.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Mid-point meeting: (Semester three): All students will schedule to meet with the Graduate Coordinator, Program Coordinator, and MDP Director in early Fall semester. The student’s supervisory chair will also be invited to attend. Topics covered in the meeting include finalization the program study plan, graduation requirements, and student learning outcomes. The student will also have an opportunity to share any feedback on their program experience thus far. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester Three (Fall)</th>
<th>Social Sciences</th>
<th>Natural Sciences</th>
<th>Health Sciences</th>
<th>Management Sciences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two Elective Courses (6 credits)</td>
<td>LAS 6938/AFS 6905 Conservation and Development Practicum [Galloway/Rheingans/Child] 3 Credits</td>
<td>LAS 6938/AFS 6905 Development Administration [Galloway] 3 Credits</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester Four (Spring)</th>
<th>Social Sciences</th>
<th>Natural Sciences</th>
<th>Health Sciences</th>
<th>Management Sciences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two Elective Courses (6 credits)</td>
<td>LAS 6938/AFS 6905 Conservation and Development Practicum [Galloway/Rheingans/Child] 3 Credits</td>
<td>LAS 6938/AFS 6905 Development Administration [Galloway] 3 Credits</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Final Evaluation (Semester four): Each student will be required to present the results of their field practicum in a public seminar followed by a defense with their supervisory committee. During the defense, the supervisory committee will also apply a “Learning Objectives Assessment” that focuses on outcomes related to knowledge, skills and professional behavior. Students will have the opportunity to take part in a final participatory evaluation of the overall program. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Sciences</th>
<th>Natural Sciences</th>
<th>Health Sciences</th>
<th>Management Sciences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LAS 6938/AFS 6905 Conservation and Development Practicum [Galloway/Rheingans/Child] 3 Credits</td>
<td>LAS 6938/AFS 6905 Development Administration [Galloway] 3 Credits</td>
<td>LAS 6938/AFS 6905 Development Administration [Galloway] 3 Credits</td>
<td>Management Skills Course [course options provided to meet this requirement] 3 credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In special cases students may request a course substitution or course deferral following procedures outlined in appendices C and D.

2. COMPETENCIES

To guide the development of the curriculum, the MDP program focuses on learning competencies in the four pillars of this global initiative as was pointed out earlier. Competencies in each of the pillars are designed to make complementary linkages to the other areas, consistent with the interdisciplinary nature of the program.

Students graduating from the program are expected to meet UF approved program learning outcomes related to knowledge, skills and professional behavior. The student learning outcomes assessment and rubric are included in Appendix C. The following are competencies within each pillar of learning.

The Global MDP Association has developed a set of competencies and associated skills under the four learning pillars of social sciences, health sciences, natural sciences & engineering and management, which students will find as a useful reference in defining their academic focus and interests.

**Social sciences**
- A comprehensive understanding of the interaction between social, economic and political processes in shaping access to services and resources.
- The ability to apply principles of economics to understand how institutional and political structures influence policies at various levels and ultimately impact developmental outcomes.
- Recognition of the potential unintended consequences of relief and development activities.

**Natural sciences**
- Recognition of the drivers of resource utilization and environmental degradation, as well as an outlook on the implications of future environmental change and resource dilemmas.
- Skills to analyze the sustainability of complex social-ecological systems.
- The application of policy, market and community-based approaches to sustainable resource management.

**Health sciences**
- A scientific and cultural understanding of the management of healthcare resources, with particular focus on the complex interactions between individual, community and global health actors.
- The role that these interactions have on effective assessment of outcomes, formulation of health policy, and delivery of services.
- An understanding of the intersection of social, cultural and environmental factors in determining health problems and solutions.

**Management sciences**
- An understanding of program administration and the processes of conceptualization, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- The development of a toolset for collecting, organizing, analyzing and applying data to address challenges.
- An ability to apply communication, leadership, social learning, adaptive management, and administration skills across cultural contexts and at local, national and regional levels
3. SPECIALIZATIONS

In consultation with the MDP graduate coordinator and the supervisory committee, each MDP student is encouraged to pursue a 12-credit specialization (here, in the broad sense of the term – refer to definitions below for a better understanding of the options available) in a specific field of interest. The pursuit of a specialization is advantageous as it is instrumental in providing the student with an area of expertise within which to focus, and position them strategically for a future career in development. To ensure appropriate guidance, at least one member of the student’s committee will possess demonstrated disciplinary strengths in the specialization of interest. In some cases, students may opt to pursue an existing certificate, concentration or minor and in other cases may choose to tailor design their own specialization, with guidance and approval from their supervisory committee.

Graduate School Definitions

Program is the student's primary field of study (such as the MDP program). This is the student's major. Programs offered at UF are approved by the Graduate Council, Faculty Senate, Board of Trustees, and Florida Board of Governors (specialist and doctoral degrees). The degree and program name appear on a student's transcript. Available programs are identified under the degree name in the list of graduate degrees and programs.

Specialization is an informal designation used by academic units to indicate areas of research or scholarly strength, such as the specialization required with the MDP program, but has no formal significance. Track and emphasis are similar unofficial terms. No tracks, emphases, or specializations appear in official, university lists or on students’ transcripts.

Certificates are offered by academic units and programs that also offer graduate degrees. The certificate indicates that the student took a required number of courses in a specific area, generally 12-15 credits. It requires Graduate Council approval and is listed on the student transcript. Students can pursue more than one certificate.

Concentration is a subprogram in a major. The Graduate Council approves concentrations offered at UF. The concentration, degree, and program appear on a student’s transcript.

Minor is a block of coursework completed in any academic unit outside the major, if approved for master’s or doctoral programs listed in the graduate catalog. If a student earns more than one course from an academic unit contributing to the major of another, the student is not eligible to earn a minor from the contributing academic unit. If a minor is chosen, the supervisory committee must include a representative from the minor field. A minor requires at least 6 to 15 credits depending on the program. The minor appears on the student’s transcript along with the program name and the degree awarded.

Joint degree program is a course of study that leads simultaneously to a graduate degree and a professional degree (i.e., D.M.D., D.V.M., J.D., M.D., Ph.D.). Normally 12 credits of professional courses are counted toward the graduate degree and 12 credits of graduate courses are counted toward the professional degree. Individual academic units determine whether a joint degree program is appropriate. Joint programs established before January 1, 2003, may have other requirements.

Concurrent degree program is simultaneous study on an individualized basis that leads to two master's degrees in two different graduate programs or two master's degrees in the same major. Such a program is initiated by the student and requires prior approval of each academic unit and the Graduate School. If the student is approved to pursue two master's degrees, no more than 9 credits of course work from one
degree program may be applied toward the second master's degree. This option would also have to be approved by a student’s supervisory committee.

**Specialization Options for MDP students**

To pursue a certificate, minor or concentration, students must meet the requirements established by the certifying department. Students should contact the coordinator for the appropriate department to ensure they meet the requirements and apply through the designated procedures. Students include the focus of their electives in the MDP Study Plan. With a carefully thought-out study plan, students can complete more than one certificate or minor.

The following table includes a list of possible certificates options for MDP students, however a more expansive list of certificate programs is also available online in the UF Graduate School catalog: [http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=4&navoid=992](http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=4&navoid=992)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialization</th>
<th>Contact Person(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Graduate Certificate Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD)</strong></td>
<td>Patricia Sampaio, TCD Coordinator: <a href="mailto:psampaio@latam.ufl.edu">psampaio@latam.ufl.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.tcd.ufl.edu/certificate.shtml">http://www.tcd.ufl.edu/certificate.shtml</a></td>
<td>Karen Kainer, TCD Graduate Coordinator: <a href="mailto:kkainer@ufl.edu">kkainer@ufl.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students take 12 credits consisting of two required core courses, plus one course in tropical ecology and one social science course relevant to tropical conservation and development. Several MDP core courses can be applied towards the TCD Certificate.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Graduate Certificate in Latin American Studies</strong></td>
<td>Richmond Brown, Associate Director, Latin American Studies: <a href="mailto:rfbrown@latam.ufl.edu">rfbrown@latam.ufl.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.latam.ufl.edu/Academic/gradlas.stm">http://www.latam.ufl.edu/Academic/gradlas.stm</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Graduate Certificate in Latin American Studies requires 15 credit hours of Latin American Area Studies courses. Students are required to take LAS 6938 (variable topics) and demonstrate proficiency in a Latin American language.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Graduate Certificate in African Studies</strong></td>
<td>Todd Leedy, Associate Director, Center for African Studies: <a href="mailto:tleedy@ufl.edu">tleedy@ufl.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://web.africa.ufl.edu/graduatesStudies/graduateminor.html">http://web.africa.ufl.edu/graduatesStudies/graduateminor.html</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students take at least 12 credits of course work relating to Africa in at least two departments or academic units. These include a one-credit bibliography course (AFS 5061) offered by the Africana collection librarians introducing students to printed and electronic resources on Africa.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Graduate Certificate(s) in Public Health</strong></td>
<td>General certificate Information: <a href="mailto:ph@phhp.ufl.edu">ph@phhp.ufl.edu</a>, 1-866-62-UFMHP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://certificate.mph.ufl.edu/">http://certificate.mph.ufl.edu/</a></td>
<td>Academic advisor: <a href="mailto:martints@phhp.ufl.edu">martints@phhp.ufl.edu</a>, 352-273-6444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This 15-credit Graduate Certificate in Public Health is an exciting way to build a foundation in public health, expand your job opportunities or enhance your current degree program. Four courses, Statistical Methods for Health Sciences, Principles of Epidemiology, and Psychological, Behavioral, and Social Issues in Public Health, and UF Health Care Systems are generally offered in the Fall semester. Environmental Health Concepts in Public Health is generally offered in the Spring semester.</td>
<td>Registration/Applications: <a href="mailto:chrisser@phhp.ufl.edu">chrisser@phhp.ufl.edu</a>, 352-273-6443 or 1-866-62-UFMHP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Graduate Certificate and Minor in Tropical Agriculture

**[http://cta.ufl.edu/assistantship.shtml#cert](http://cta.ufl.edu/assistantship.shtml#cert)**

The **Certificate** curriculum is designed to prepare graduate students for work in situations requiring knowledge of both the biological and social aspects of tropical agriculture. A Steering Committee advises students on course work appropriate for careers in international agricultural development. The certificate requires a minimum of 12 credit hours, and up to 24. These credit hours may, with approval of supervisory committees, also count toward the M.S. and Ph.D. Foreign language abilities and work experience in a foreign country are strongly encouraged.

The **Minor** seeks to promote the educational and research goals of the CTA through increased involvement of graduate students from disciplines across the University of Florida, while providing enrolled graduate students with a credentialed focus in Tropical Agriculture. Students studying for a Ph.D., Masters of Science or Masters of Agriculture may participate. The curriculum is designed to provide graduate students with a focused preparation for careers in Tropical Agriculture, including agricultural production, food systems, environmental issues, natural resources, and agribusiness in the tropics.

**Dr. Richard E. Litz**, Director, Center for Tropical Agriculture, University of Florida, e-mail [relitz@ufl.edu](mailto:relitz@ufl.edu)

**Dr. Nicholas B. Comerford**, Soil and Water Science Department, Email: [nbc@ufl.edu](mailto:nbc@ufl.edu)

### Graduate Certificate in Gender and Development

**[http://web.wst.ufl.edu/wst/graduate/cert_GAD.php](http://web.wst.ufl.edu/wst/graduate/cert_GAD.php)**

The certificate in Gender and Development (GAD) is designed for graduate students from any discipline who wish to focus on issues related to gender and development. Applications for the certificate must be submitted to the Graduate Coordinator in Women’s Studies. The GAD Committee will review each student’s application to the certificate. The committee includes Dr. Anita Anantharam, Dr. Marta Hartmann, Dr. Florence Babb, and Dr. Sandra Russo.

**Anita Anantharam**, Graduate Coordinator: [aanita@ufl.edu](mailto:aanita@ufl.edu)

### Interdisciplinary Concentration in Climate Science

**[http://climateconcentration.program.ufl.edu/](http://climateconcentration.program.ufl.edu/)**

The interdisciplinary concentration in climate science is for students seeking to better understand climate and climate change, as well as resulting impacts and societal responses. This concentration emphasizes (1) an understanding of the interactions and feedbacks between the atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, geosphere and cryosphere that comprise the climate system; (2) system specific responses to variations in climate; (3) quantitative methods for studying and understanding climate science; and (4) human dimensions of climate science, particularly as related to economic and environmental sustainability. Graduate students, either MS-level or PhD-Level, who elect to earn the concentration, must complete a minimum of 12 credit hours with at least one approved course in each of four categories above.

**Carolyn Cox**, Coordinator, Florida Climate Institute: [crcox@ufl.edu](mailto:crcox@ufl.edu), (352) 392-1864 x233

**Dr. Thomas K. Frazer**, Chair, Climate Science Faculty Committee, School of Natural Resources and Environment: [frazer@ufl.edu](mailto:frazer@ufl.edu), (352) 392-9230
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interdisciplinary Concentration in Geographic Information Systems (GIS)</th>
<th>Dr. Scot E. Smith, University of Florida, Phone (352) 392-4990, Email <a href="mailto:sesmith@ifas.ufl.edu">sesmith@ifas.ufl.edu</a>, Or visit [<a href="http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/icgis/course">http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/icgis/course</a> s.htm](<a href="http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/icgis/course">http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/icgis/course</a> s.htm) for more information.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.dcp.ufl.edu/urp/academics/certificates/icgis.aspx">http://www.dcp.ufl.edu/urp/academics/certificates/icgis.aspx</a></td>
<td>The Interdisciplinary Concentration in Geographic Information Systems (ICGIS) offers students the opportunity to take a variety of GIS courses in five related categories: Fundamentals of GIS, Geomatics (Measurements, Data Organization &amp; Reliability); Geostatistics; Remote Sensing and Image Processing Fundamentals; Spatial Analysis, Modelling and Decision Support.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>Courses in School of Forest Resources and Conservation (SFRC)</th>
<th>Cynthia Hight, Academic Coordinator: <a href="mailto:chight@ufl.edu">chight@ufl.edu</a> Grenville Barnes, MDP Faculty/SFRC faculty/Geomatics: <a href="mailto:gbarnes@uf.edu">gbarnes@uf.edu</a> Tim White, Professor &amp; Director, SFRC: <a href="mailto:twhite@ufl.edu">twhite@ufl.edu</a></th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://sfrc.ufl.edu/academics/courses/#FNRFOR">http://sfrc.ufl.edu/academics/courses/#FNRFOR</a></td>
<td>The SFRC offers a number of courses taken by MDP students, which focus on forest &amp; natural resource conservation, and Geomatics. MDP affiliate faculty teaches several courses. The link above provides a list of courses offered. Courses taken by MDP students have included: Agroforestry, Community Forest Management, Landscape planning for Ecotourism, Field Skills for Conservation, Land Tenure and Administration, GIS Land Resource Management, Digital Mapping, Remote Sensing Application, GIS Analysis, and Water Sustainability.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minor in Entrepreneurship</th>
<th>Jamie Kraft, MDP Affiliate Faculty:<a href="mailto:jamie.kraft@warrington.ufl.edu">jamie.kraft@warrington.ufl.edu</a> or Kristen Joos, MDP Affiliate Faculty:<a href="mailto:kristin.joos@warrington.ufl.edu">kristin.joos@warrington.ufl.edu</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://warrington.ufl.edu/centers/cei/minors.asp#graduate">http://warrington.ufl.edu/centers/cei/minors.asp#graduate</a></td>
<td>Offered through the College of Business: Required Courses: ENT6006 or ENT6008 and (2) ENT-based Courses. Courses options include Entrepreneurship, The Entrepreneurial Opportunity, Social Entrepreneurship, Global Entrepreneurship, Venture Analysis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minor in Family, Youth and Community Sciences</th>
<th>Gregg Henderschiedt Coordinator of Academic Programs Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences <a href="mailto:ghenderschiedt@ufl.edu">ghenderschiedt@ufl.edu</a> Michael Gutter, Ph.D. Graduate Coordinator Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences <a href="mailto:msgutter@ufl.edu">msgutter@ufl.edu</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://fycs.ifas.ufl.edu/Graduate/Minors/index.php">http://fycs.ifas.ufl.edu/Graduate/Minors/index.php</a></td>
<td>Offered through the department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences (FYCS): A graduate minor that provides students from other disciplines with knowledge about the theories and body of research that explain how families, youth, and communities develop and interact. The programs emphasize an ecological model in which the interactions and relationship among the individual, the family, and the community form the framework for addressing the issues, problems, and policies that affect youths, families, and communities in the United States and globally.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minor in Nonprofit Organizations</th>
<th>Gregg Henderschiedt Coordinator of Academic Programs Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences <a href="mailto:ghenderschiedt@ufl.edu">ghenderschiedt@ufl.edu</a> Michael Gutter, Ph.D. Graduate Coordinator Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences <a href="mailto:msgutter@ufl.edu">msgutter@ufl.edu</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://fycs.ifas.ufl.edu/Graduate/Minors/index.php">http://fycs.ifas.ufl.edu/Graduate/Minors/index.php</a></td>
<td>Offered through the department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences (FYCS): The minor in nonprofits provides students from other disciplines with an understanding of how to develop organizations to address problems facing families, youth, and communities. The minor consists of six hours of study. Students are encouraged to complete course work outside the department in relevant areas, selecting appropriate courses in close consultation with their supervisory committee.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Examples of past MDP Student Specializations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certificate in Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Pursued and obtained by multiple students)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Specialization</strong> in advanced research methods in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family, Youth and Community Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Certificate</strong> in Gender and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Specialization</strong> in GIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Specialization</strong> in advanced research methods in Information Systems and Operations Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Certificate</strong> in Tropical Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Certificate</strong> in Public Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Specialization</strong> in Agroforestry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Specialization</strong> in Ecotourism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Minor</strong> in Entrepreneurship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Certificate</strong> in African Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Specialization</strong> in Value chain analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Specialization</strong> in Environmental education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Specialization</strong> in Community forest management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Specialization</strong> in Water resource management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Minor</strong> in Organizational Leadership for Nonprofits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Specialization</strong> in Monitoring and Evaluation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students potentially interested in anyone of these specializations, may enquire about the courses students from past cohorts have taken to earn the “specialization”.

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4. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE (SDP) GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

In 2012, the MDP Program was approved by the UF to offer a certificate in Sustainable Development Practice (SDP) for UF graduate students not enrolled in the MDP program. The certificate provides training in interdisciplinary knowledge and skills in sustainable development practice for researchers and practitioners. It provides a platform for students to enrich their graduate education and future professional experience through interdisciplinary coursework, and a focus on the practical application of skills and knowledge related to sustainable development.

To obtain the certificate, students at the Master’s level are required to take 12 credits while PhD students must complete 15 credits. Students must achieve a GPA of 3.00 or higher in certificate courses. Required credit hours include the following courses:

- 3 credit hours of LAS 6305/AFS 6905 Development Theory and Practice in Africa and Latin America (social science course)
- 3 MDP required courses (9 additional credit hours), or equivalents, one each in natural sciences, health sciences, and/or management sciences (the latter may include up to 3 credits of a supervised practicum in development practice, taken as LAS 6940 Tropical Conservation and Development Practicum)
- At the PhD level, one additional MDP course is required, or an equivalent

To fulfill these requirements, students will select from existing MDP courses or appropriate substitutes approved by the MDP Graduate Coordinator. Substitute courses may be counted from the student’s major.

**Prerequisites:** Admission to the graduate school in a participating academic unit.

The SDP Certificate is administered by the Center for African Studies and Center for Latin American Studies. The MDP Program oversees policies, admission and course requirements for the SDP Certificate.

Non-MDP Master and PhD students may apply for the Certificate program through the Master of Sustainable Development Practice (MDP) Graduate Coordinator Dr. Renata Serra (rserra@ufl.edu).
**Application Instructions**

**Step one**  
Download and review the **SDP Certificate Enrolment form**. Apply to the Certificate program as directed in ISIS.

**Step two**  
Schedule and meet with the SDP Graduate Certificate Coordinator, **Dr. Renata Serra**.

**Step three**  
Complete and submit the enrolment form. You will be added to the certificate database and the MDP Listserv. Welcome to the UF MDP Community!

**Step four**  
During the mid-point of your degree program, check in with the MDP Program Coordinator to ensure you are on track to completing the certificate.

**Step five**  
During your final semester prior to your graduation, download and complete the **SDP Certificate Credit Verification form**. You are required to have a final consultation with SDP Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Renata Serra in order to finalize completion of the certificate requirements and assess the SDP Certificate student learning outcomes (SLOs).

More information about the Certificate program can be found in the UF Academic Assessment Plan for the SDP Certificate. At the updating of this Program Manual, the Assessment Plan was still in the process of being officially approved.
ADMISSIONS

1. ADMISSION DEADLINES

The MDP Program admits a new cohort of students each Fall semester. Although there is no application deadline, we strongly suggest applicants meet the priority deadline of February 1st. After this date, applications are reviewed on a case-by-case basis, depending on availability of enrolment spaces remaining.

2. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must meet the following requirements for admission into the MDP program:

- Have a background and interest in development and conservation issues. This interest can be demonstrated through undergraduate course work, study abroad, work and/or volunteer experience.
- A recognized bachelor’s, graduate or professional degree in a related field from a regionally accredited college/university, or an international equivalent based on a four-year curriculum.
- 3 letters of recommendation. At least one letter must come from an academic source.
- A 3.0 GPA or higher in all upper-division undergraduate coursework.
- Satisfactory scores on the Graduate Records Examination (GRE).
- Passing scores for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or IELTS (International English Language Testing System) for non-exempt international students.

Students are required to show proof of immunization for measles and rubella, and a tuberculosis skin test, if required, prior to registering for classes at UF.

3. APPLICATION

- **Complete the online application:**
  On your graduate school online application please indicate that you are applying to the Master of Arts in Latin American Studies (MALAS) program and list MDP as your Specialization. The application should include a statement of purpose and 3 recommendation letters. You also have the option to upload a copy of your CV or resume, and copies of your transcripts and other documents. Official transcripts must still be sent from all prior academic institutions to the UF Office of Admissions.

- **Statement of purpose:** Your statement of purpose should demonstrate your interest and understanding of sustainable development issues, taking into consideration your personal perspective and background and highlighting the set of skills and experience you bring, both academic and practice-based. It should provide a thoughtful articulation of the potential field practicum project/research you aspire to carry out, and include your regional, disciplinary and topical interests. The statement of purpose should reflect the commitment and passion you will bring to the MDP Program and to your future career as a development practitioner.

- **3 letters of recommendation:** At least one letter of recommendation must come from an academic source. If references are unable to submit letters online, they may be sent as hard copies to the MDP office or e-mailed as an attachment. Each letter must be accompanied by a UF Graduate School Recommendation Form.
• After submitting the online application, the applicant is instructed to email the program coordinator his/her UFID number and indicate that they have submitted an online application.

4. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to the online application, applicants are required to submit other materials to both the Office of Admissions and the MDP Program Office

The following materials should be submitted directly to the Office of Admissions:
• **Official transcripts** from all postsecondary institutions attended (with official English translations, when necessary)
• **Official GRE scores** (The UF school code is 5812)
• **Official English Language Test scores** (international students from non-English speaking countries only). A list of countries exempt is available here: [http://gradschool.ufl.edu/personnel/english-testing-exemptions.html](http://gradschool.ufl.edu/personnel/english-testing-exemptions.html)

International applications should consult the UF International Center **International Student Services** and the **UF Graduate School International Admissions** for additional help and resources regarding admissions.

Once officially admitted into the program, international applicants are required to document proof of financial support for the first year. The International Student Advisors at the University of Florida International Center (UFIC) will only contact admitted student via email to request this information. Providing electronic copies of the documents, only when requested, is encouraged.

Additional information about the I-20/DS-2019 Process as well as further admissions process resources and visa information can be found at the [UFIC website](http://gradschool.ufl.edu/).

**Materials submitted by mail to the Office of Admissions should be sent to the following address:**

Mail/Post
Office of Graduate Admissions
University of Florida
PO Box 114000
Gainesville, Florida 32611-4000

Courier/Overnight
Office of Graduate Admissions
University of Florida
201 Criser Hall
Gainesville, Florida 32611-4000

**Applicants should submit the following materials to the MDP Program Office at the address below:**

• **Copy of transcripts** from all postsecondary institutions attended
• **Copy of GRE**
• **Copy of English Language test scores (if applicable)**
• **Letters of Recommendation**: if referees are unable to submit letters online
• **Supplemental materials**: Applicants may submit a CV, a hard copy of their statement of purpose and other materials they wish to be considered by the admissions committee.

Mail/Post
MDP Program Admissions
University of Florida
PO Box 115560
Gainesville, Florida 32611-5560

Courier/Overnight
MDP Program Admissions
University of Florida
470 Grinter Hall
Gainesville, Florida 32611-5560
5. ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE DECISIONS

The admissions committee will only review an applicant’s file once all application materials have been received and the applicant’s file is complete. The MDP Admissions Committee typically meets once in mid-Spring to review applications and make admissions decisions. After this date, admission decisions are made on a rolling basis into early summer for the upcoming academic year. As indicated before, prospective students are encouraged to apply as early as possible.
KEY STEPS AND DATES IN THE MDP PROGRAM

The MDP Program requires students to complete 45 credits: 33 credit hours of core MDP coursework and 12 credit hours of elective courses. Students are strongly encouraged to complete their program within 2 years; however, flexibility in study plans exists. Below are timeline indicators as an aid to help students keep their academic program on track throughout their time as an MDP student.

1. ORIENTATION

An MDP orientation will be given before the start of the Fall semester or during the first week of classes. The orientation will provide incoming students a comprehensive overview of the program’s vision, guidelines, requirements and expectations. All incoming students are expected to attend MDP Orientation. Faculty and 2nd year MDP students are also invited to attend the orientation. The orientation will provide an opportunity for students to introduce themselves, engage with peers and faculty, understand program expectations, and articulate their own expectations.

A follow-up meeting to orientation is scheduled in late September, which all students are asked to attend.

MDP students are invited and strongly encouraged to attend the TCD orientation, which is normally held on the Saturday at the end of the first week of classes.

In addition, students are also encouraged to attend the UF Graduate School Orientation. Orientation dates are e-mailed to incoming students before the start of classes.
2. INITIAL MEETING WITH MDP GRADUATE COORDINATOR

Within the first two weeks of classes, students are required to schedule a meeting with the graduate coordinator, Dr. Renata Serra, e-mail: rserra@ufl.edu, Office 301 Grinter Hall. Dr. Serra will discuss the study plan, the student’s specific interests for the practicum, and the makeup of the supervisory committee. The opportunities for earning a certificate or specialization during the MDP Program will also be discussed.

3. APPOINTMENT OF SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIR

The chair of the supervisory committee should be appointed as early as possible in the program. Since students must begin planning their field practicums during the first semester, the chair should be selected in the first half of the Fall semester so he/she can participate in this important process. The chair will provide invaluable advice during the development of the Study Plan.

The chair of the supervisory committee is often a core faculty of the MDP Program, but this is not a requirement. An extensive group of MDP affiliate faculty has committed to supporting the program and represents an important resource for MDP students. A list of core and affiliate faculty is available on the MDP Website and in Appendix A.

4. APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF THE SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE

In addition to the chair of the supervisory committee, at least one additional committee member is required. Selection of the second committee member should be done in consultation with the chair of the supervisory committee, and often the choice relates to the student’s specialization pursued through a carefully selected group of elective courses.

Professionals representing development or other academic organizations and institutions can also be invited to participate on your supervisory committee as a third member. The committee chair and graduate coordinator must approve their inclusion in the committee. These committee members must commit to participating in the student’s final presentation and defense of the field practicum report, either in person or utilizing online videoconferencing.

5. STUDY PLAN

Students will complete a program study plan by the end of first semester, which includes a list of the courses students take during the program, including the 12 credit hours of electives to satisfy the requirements of the specialization, which often represents a certificate, concentration, and/or minor. It must also list the supervisory committee members, the intended practicum site and other background information.

The study plan must be completed, submitted, and signed by the end of the 1st semester with guidance from the Graduate Coordinator and the chair of the supervisory committee. Modifications to a student’s study plan must be approved by the student’s committee. The approved changes should be communicated to the MDP Program coordinator. A template of the study plan is provided to students at orientation and is included as Appendix F.

Once completed and signed, the student must provide a copy to the Program Coordinator and keep a copy for their records.
6. FIELD PRACTICUM PROPOSAL AND FIELD PRACTICUM PAPERWORK

Students should carefully review the field practicum guidelines provided during orientation, which detail the requirements of the practicum, the development of the proposal, and the deadlines to apply for practicum funding. During the Spring course, Design and Methods in Sustainable Development Practice (formerly Sustainable Development Practice Seminar), students will develop their field practicum proposals as a key deliverable for the course.

Input from the student’s supervisory committee members is required and critical during the development and approval of the field practicum proposal and supervisory committee members must approve the final version before the student departs on his/her practicum.

In January, students will be asked to attend a meeting to discuss IRB submission, field practicum guidelines, and the funding application. Students must submit to the Institutional Review Board (IRB) application for approval during the month of February (second semester). Guidelines and forms for nonmedical projects can be found online at http://irb.ufl.edu/irb02. It may take up to two weeks or more to receive a response from the IRB, so every effort should be made to submit a strong application. In some cases, the IRB office will require specific changes to your protocol. Please make those changes as soon as possible and resubmit.

7. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIELD PRACTICUM PROJECT

During the implementation of the field practicum, students are strongly encouraged to organize on a continual basis the information collected as the work progresses and take meticulous notes while in the field, including insights, reflections, and important observations each day.

Students are required to present the preliminary results and findings of their work to the communities and organizations that participated in the project, while still in country. Please refer to the field practicum guidelines for specific indications and requirements of the field practicum.

8. POSTER SESSION, FINAL REPORT, PRESENTATION & DEFENSE

Within the course Conservation and Development Practicum, students will develop a poster and present it in an annual public poster session towards the end of the Fall semester as one deliverable for the course.

Students will also develop the first draft of their final field practicum report as another deliverable of the aforementioned course, with complementary guidance by their respective supervisory committees.

Early in the fourth semester, students will schedule and complete their practicum report presentation and defense.

9. GRADUATION

Students finalize and submit their final field practicum report in the fourth semester, and may opt to submit their paper to the UF Institutional Repository.

Students are required to complete an online application in ISIS as instructed by the UF Graduate School in Spring semester, and are ultimately responsible for ensuring that they have met all MDP Program and Graduate School requirements and deadlines to successfully graduate.
GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT ADVISING

Each student will have a supervisory committee comprised of two members: a committee chair, and a second member. A third committee member is optional. In general, the committee chair will be selected based on the student’s regional interest, proposed fieldwork and the specialization he/she intends to pursue. Committee chairs are often MDP core and affiliate faculty.

The supervisory committee will guide students by:

- Providing direction on the development of competencies/skills needed to successfully meet the program learning outcomes and as a development practitioner
- Advising students during the development of a comprehensive proposal for the field practicum following MDP guidelines, signing the IRB Protocol Application, and providing oversight during the field practicum
- In some cases, designation of the committee chair as the Principal Investigator (PI) to a students’ IRB protocol.
- Providing conceptual, technical and sometimes editorial support during the preparation of the final MDP project
- Evaluating the student’s final project in writing and during the final presentation and oral defense

To ensure timely and effective follow-up of decisions and recommendations made during meetings with members of their supervisory committees, students are strongly encouraged to use the form provided in Appendix G for tracking these meetings, and provide the completed form to their committee members following any meeting.

The UF Graduate School defines supervisory committees for non-thesis degrees in the following way:

Supervisory Committee (non-thesis degrees): For non-thesis degree programs, the oversight is at the academic unit/department/college level only. Non-thesis programs may choose to have a formal committee or an alternate structure as determined by the program’s graduate faculty and consistent with academic unit policies. The oversight authority will be considered as the supervisory committee. Units are able to enter their internal information into GIMS as a convenience. Regardless of the degree program, any student with a minor must have the name of the graduate faculty member overseeing the minor entered into GIMS.

Supervisory Committee Guidelines (for Faculty)

MDP Supervisory Committees
Committees are generally composed of core and affiliate MDP Program faculty. In some cases, however, faculty members who are not yet affiliated with MDP agree to serve on MDP student committees. In the latter circumstance, given their important contribution to the program, the MDP Program seeks to invite these faculty members to become a MDP affiliate faculty, adding to a growing list of UF faculty from diverse academic units who support the program.

The MDP Program Graduate Coordinator offers initial advisory support to incoming students. However, MDP students are expected to form a Supervisory Committee by the end of the first academic term. Students are required to select a chair and a second member. A third member is optional. Committee members generally have expertise in the area of the student’s specialization (including graduate minors
and/or certificates), regional/country, practicum and/or development interests. Students are responsible for scheduling regular meetings with their chair and committee members, whether consulting on an individual basis or as a group. Students are expected to honor agreed upon advising expectations, guidelines and deadlines as determined by their committee chair and other member(s).

When you agree to participate on a MDP student’s committee, you offer support and guidance in the following areas:

1. Guidance in the development of the student’s academic MDP Study Plan, which includes:

   o The courses the student will take during the program: A large proportion of these credits are core courses required of all MDP students. Other coursework include the 12 additional credit hours that satisfy the requirements of a “specialization” the student will pursue – this latter area is where guidance is especially invaluable.

   o Information and guidance regarding the field practicum project: Some students have a strong idea of what they want to do in their field practicum when they enter the program, while others may require more guidance. In some cases, committee members have helped MDP students identify a field practicum site and project topic. The degree of support required varies on a case-by-case basis.

   o The committee members are required to sign the student’s study plan at the close of the first academic term. These signatures indicate acceptance to serve as the chair or member of the student’s committee.

2. Support to the planning, realization and reporting of the Field Practicum

The committee chair reviews and approves the summer field practicum proposal developed by the student during the Sustainable Development Practicum course taken in the Spring Semester prior to their fieldwork. The chair is required to sign the UF IRB application. Committees maintain a degree of communication with the student while they are conducting their field practicum. However, the MDP Office manages all administrative concerns during their field practicum period.

3. Support to students in development of their Field Practicum Final Report

When students return from their fieldwork, they enroll in the Conservation and Development Practicum course offered in the Fall Semester. During this course, students develop the first draft of their field practicum final reports, and it is anticipated that committee members will provide some conceptual, technical and editorial support in this process to help ensure that the student progresses in the right direction.

4. Review of Field Practicum Final Report and participation in Final Presentation and Private Defense

In fulfillment of the requirements for the MDP degree, students carry out a final presentation and private defense in their final term. The chair and committee members will review the final version of the field practicum report, and will ultimately approve the final report and presentation, and the achievement of UF-approved student learning outcomes (SLOs) in the areas of knowledge, skills and professional behavior. The student is responsible for scheduling a presentation and defense date that is acceptable to all members of their committee. Committee members sign the finalized MDP Study Plan again in the student’s final term. They will also sign the UF MDP Student Learning Outcomes Assessment form at the end of the private defense.
A final note

MDP Supervisory Committee members play an essential advisory role in the MDP Program. Your acceptance to serve on a MDP student’s committee enriches not only their experience and success, but the program as well. We are grateful to you for this important contribution.
THE FIELD PRACTICUM OF THE UF MDP PROGRAM

The field practicum is the formative development practice experience for you, our MDP students. It will provide you with an opportunity to apply interdisciplinary and cross-cultural problem-solving skills outside the classroom in international contexts in association with experienced practitioners, working for diverse agencies and organizations involved in addressing important development challenges.

It is important to understand that the field practicum is not an internship in which you simply carry out tasks identified by a host organization seeking student support. Although providing this type of service would be personally enriching and of value to a host organization, it does not meet the requirements of the field practicum of the UF MDP program.

1. AN OVERVIEW: SO WHAT DOES CONSTITUTE A FIELD PRACTICUM?

The field practicum integrates several important attributes and criteria. Like the internship mentioned above, you will be required to work with a host organization on a topic/theme of mutual interest. In the case of the field practicum, however, you will be required to: i) select a development problem which you will contribute to address; ii) identify a coherent set of ultimate goals and intermediate objectives; and iii) design and implement the strategies that you will allow you to pursue such goals. In other words, while providing a service to your organization and working on a development problem that is relevant to them, you will be a main actor in establishing the intellectual design and purpose of your field practicum. Through this process you should demonstrate that you have developed and applied a wide set of expertise in development practice in a real-world setting.

You need to identify and plan the goals and activities to be implemented, in a written proposal to be prepared during the Fall and Spring semesters prior to the field practicum. The development of your field practicum proposal will be strengthened with guidance from your supervisory committee and must be endorsed by your host organization. The proposal will be the main deliverable of Sustainable Development Practice, a course offered in the Spring semester to support students during the preparation of their final field practicum proposals.

Data collection

An important attribute of the field practicum is that you will be required to gather and analyze quantitative and/or qualitative data/information utilizing different methods to address objectives of your practicum. Skills required for effective data collection and analysis (focus groups; participatory assessments; surveys) must figure in the practitioner toolbox of any professional aspiring to pursue a career in sustainable development. The field practicum will provide you with an opportunity to gain experience in the collection, analysis and evaluation of information from different sources, utilizing appropriate methodologies.

Project objectives

The duration of the field practicum, being only 10 to 12 weeks, will require that you identify clearly, with input from your host organization, the objectives you hope to accomplish. Commonly, UF MDP students have provided services to ongoing development initiatives being carried out by their respective host organizations. The type of services provided, however, has varied widely among students depending on
where in the project cycle they focus their work (visit MDP Field Practicum Placements). Within the project cycle, a preliminary phase of all projects involves gathering essential information for project planning. Once a project is approved and enters into the execution phase, monitoring is required to track project performance and to verify that the project is progressing towards the attainment of specific objectives. Projects also undergo periodic evaluations to determine to what degree the outcomes envisioned in the project document are being accomplished and to extract lessons learned for future initiatives.

You, as an MDP student, can provide an invaluable service to a host organization at any point in the project cycle. For example, a host organization may be in the process of planning a new initiative or a new phase of an ongoing initiative and your contribution might involve carrying out a needs assessment or generating information on important aspects of the sociocultural, economic and environmental context in which the initiative will be carried out. In other cases, an organization may recognize a need to complement the information that was available during project planning, to enhance the quality and effectiveness of their ongoing efforts. This situation is, not surprisingly, quite common, taking into consideration the complexity of sustainable development processes and the rather limited time typically available for the preparation of project proposals.

Several UF MDP students have collaborated with host organizations in the development of a monitoring plan in close consultation with project staff and beneficiaries. In other cases, students have developed and applied instruments like surveys to assess project impact and shed light on aspects that should be taken into account as the project moves forward. As you can appreciate, whether a student generates baseline data, develops and implements a monitoring plan, or contributes to the realization of a project evaluation, he/she will be involved in the collection, analysis and interpretation of quantitative and/or qualitative information (data) as required by the field practicum including, in some cases, policy analysis.

A few UF MDP students have opted to carry out youth leadership training to fulfill the field practicum requirement. These students delved into the literature to develop the curriculum of their respective courses, taking into account contextual realities where the training was carried out. In these particular cases, the students essentially completed the entire project cycle from planning to evaluation.

**Regional and Thematic Interests in your Field Practicum**

Students are encouraged to pursue regional and thematic interests in the identification of placement opportunities for their field practicum. In addition, they are also encouraged to integrate into their field practicums the application of skills and methods in which they are particularly interested, to better position themselves for future employment opportunities. For example, some students have pursued an interest in developing knowledge and skills in the important area of monitoring and evaluation. These students included courses on M&E in their study plans and integrated M&E into their field practicums. Additional examples of thematic interests include the role of gender in the adaptation of agricultural practices to climate change; the role of local governance in the effectiveness of community-based, natural resource management; or the ability of rural producers to tap into more attractive value chains for their products. With respect to skills, students may be interested in the development of rigorous quantitative or qualitative evaluation methods, the application of participatory methods, the collection and analysis of spatial data or the collection of data for social networking analysis, to name a few. The field practicum
provides MDP students with an opportunity to carry out a field practicum that caters to their specific interests.

**Context and Deliverables**

The realization of a high quality field practicum will require that you make a concerted effort to inform yourself to the degree possible about the context in which you will be working and to explore the literature on the topics to which you will devote your field practicum. Taking into account the interdisciplinary focus of the MDP program, you will be expected to seek a broad understanding (across disciplines, sectors and scales) of the context and topic(s) on which you will be concentrating, including current debates and controversies and in many cases local, regional and country-level historical information with implications on international development. By being well-informed before embarking on your field practicum, you will enhance your ability to contribute to the topics/processes of interest once in country.

In some cases, MDP students have committed to generating a specific deliverable for the host organization. A few illustrative examples include:

- Needs assessment
- Monitoring and evaluation plan
- Preliminary project proposal
- Program evaluation report
- Curriculum for a training program
- Business plan
- Promotional and targeted health campaign materials

In these cases the students have generally annexed the specific deliverable to the final report of their field practicum. Indications for the preparation of the final report are included in Appendix H.

In all cases, students are expected to present preliminary results to the appropriate community and stakeholders of the host organization before leaving the field, as well as share their final FP report with all partners.

Your field practicum should be viewed as a professional opportunity to apply and enhance your skills and knowledge, much like you would do in a 10-week consultancy. The tasks involved – problem identification, project design and planning, literature review, application of field methods, analysis of information, interpretation of results, derivation of conclusions and recommendations, preparation of specific deliverables and presentation of final report – are directly aligned with the types of activities you will be expected to carry out as professional development practitioners.
Other learning components: building networks, self-reflection and collaboration

The field practicum has several other important learning components. It should be seen as an invaluable opportunity to network with individuals and organizations with whom you may work in the future. During your placement, you will apply techniques of self-reflection, interpersonal and intercultural skills, oftentimes working in teams while remaining cognizant of personal attitudes, perceptions and biases. You will identify crosscutting issues in development and further develop an understanding of their interconnectedness. You will gain a greater understanding of the role of community participation in development project activities. You will be collaborating and building relationships with practitioners including government officials, NGOs, communities, donors and project personnel. To keep a record of important insights and experiences, it is highly suggested that you keep a journal of your personal reflections and observations. The main lessons from these self-reflective exercises should be included in the final report.

It is important to note that the field practicum can be carried out individually or as part of a student team. In some cases, students from in-country universities have joined with UF MDP students to collaborate with the field practicum, and offer when required, language support. These types of collaborative arrangements are not only permitted, they are encouraged by the program.

Finally, the planning and conduct of the field practicum should be realized with professionalism and enthusiasm.

2. FIELD PRACTICUM OPPORTUNITIES

Field Practicum options include placements and/or internships with suitable conservation and development NGOs and institutions in different parts of the world, preferably where UF faculty has developed strong connections with known partners. An evolving list of possible practicum opportunities is provided to students each Fall semester. It will be important to identify the host organization and country of placement during the Fall Semester. Although every effort will be made to support each student in the identification of an excellent field practicum opportunity, the ultimate responsibility rests with the student, who must be focused and proactive in securing a field practicum placement.

Students work with their supervisory committee and an identified counterpart in practicum institution to develop an appropriate project in the Spring semester prior to the field practicum. Again, the MDP Program encourages individual initiative to identify appropriate field practicum opportunities and will support students who pursue an opportunity that caters to their professional interests and needs, as long as all field practicum criteria are met.

3. MDP FIELD PRACTICUM FUNDING

Limited funding is available to support MDP students to travel to field sites and to offset major expenses including airfare, lodging, and food. Students will be awarded variable amounts, according to their particular regional focus and budget needs. The maximum amount that may be requested is $5,000. Amount awarded will also depend on the availability of resources.

To apply for a field practicum funding, students should submit the following materials to the MDP office by the deadlines provided (470 Grintner Hall).
1st February: Submit initial proposal to Supervisory Committee

20th February: Funding Application to include:

1. An abstract of no more than 250 words explaining the project in non-technical language.

2. An initial proposal of no more than 4 single-spaced pages. A bibliography may be appended to the proposal. The proposal should include:
   o Brief context and background
   o Proposed placement and description of host institution(s)
   o In-country supervisor
   o How the practicum criteria listed above will be met
   o The proposed development problem(s) to be addressed
   o Objectives and methods
   o Proposed activities and anticipated products
   o A timetable for the proposed practicum

Note: The proposal should be as specific as possible even though conditions often change in the field

3. Proposed Budget (Budget Form provided): Please note that airfare will be purchased according to UF travel guidelines, with preference to lowest itinerary costs appropriate to roundtrip travel to practicum destination and back to Gainesville, FL. If airfare is secured for an amount less than that budgeted, the resultant savings will be subtracted from the budget.

4. Copy of submitted Institutional Review Board (IRB) application

Field Practicum Proposal Deadlines

As indicated, students should submit the initial proposal to their supervisory committee in advance of February 20th deadline in order to incorporate important feedback. Please note that the IRB application requires review and the approval signature of the student’s committee chair. The MDP Funding Applications committee will evaluate and make funding decisions based on the quality of the initial proposal. The committee may ask the student to clarify or improve some sections of the proposal. Students who have been asked to revise their initial proposal are strongly encouraged to do so within one week.

6th March: Submit Traveler information form checklist with requested documents below appended (see Appendix I)

After the committee has approved funding, the fiscal department within the Center for Latin American Studies or the Center for African Studies will purchase airfare for students in March.

- Proposed itinerary: Please search for and provide an actual itinerary that includes all flight information. There is no guarantee this will be the exact itinerary purchased, but every effort will be made to purchase flights on the communicated departure and arrival dates. All students will have an opportunity to confirm their approval of the reserved itinerary prior to purchase.

- UFIC Travel Registration: All students must register with UFIC, enrolling in Team Assist Emergency Assistance Program [http://www.ufic.ufl.edu/TravelRegistration.html](http://www.ufic.ufl.edu/TravelRegistration.html)

- CISI International Insurance or Gator Grad Care: Students who have Gator Grad Care will be covered internationally, and must provide a copy of their card. Students without this coverage
must purchase CISI insurance through UFIC. This expense can be included in the practicum funding budget.

- **UFIC Checklist** for International Travel (found at the website link above or in MDP Office)
- **IRB submission status** communicated by email
- **Passport/Travel Information**
  - Full name as it appears on passport
  - Passport number
  - Place of birth
  - Date of birth
  - Gender
  - Nationality
  - Place where passport was issued
  - Issuing authority of passport
  - Date of issue of passport
  - Expiration date of passport
  - Full local address

**14th – 24th March:** Copy of IRB approval letter, Terms of Reference Letter, signing of MDP Award Letter, and signing of other fiscal forms.

Upon submission, IRB approval typically takes up to 10 business days. In some cases, applications receive approval pending minor changes or questions, to which the student can respond to the IRB by email. If IRB submission occurs by February 20th, students should be able to receive IRB approval by March 14th. Every effort should be made to quickly address any questions or pending changes to the IRB office. A copy of the IRB approval letter is required in order to facilitate the release of any approved budget funds for the field practicum.

Paperwork to process student funding will not be submitted to the fiscal department unless students have IRB approval or an indication from the IRB office that they do not need IRB approval.

A letter indicating **agreed terms of reference with host institution(s)** is required. A template will be provided, however the content of this letter will vary depending on the agreed deliverables with the practicum host organization. In many cases, it may be quite helpful to draft a terms of reference letter yourself for the host organization, which they will be able to review, edit and approve.

An award letter will be prepared for students to sign, indicating the amount of award as well as terms and conditions for funding. Funding will not be disbursed until the student is within 10 days of their departure date. However, as indicated above, tickets will be purchased in March.

Upon return to the United States (not Gainesville), funding must be reconciled within 10 days. This requires the review and signing of an expense report provided by the fiscal department.

**15th April: Additional requirements before funding is processed**

- Final approval by the student’s committee chair indicating that the proposal meets MDP Field Practicum guidelines. An approval form will be provided.
- Attendance at **pre-departure orientation**

Beginning **May:** Proposal, travel and funding all finalized. Students depart on field practicums.

_Students are strongly encouraged to follow the above timeline in order to receive funding before the start of their field practicum._
Summary Timeline of Field Practicum Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st February</td>
<td>Students should submit <strong>draft proposals to their supervisory committees</strong> by or before February 1st. This will provide students adequate time to incorporate feedback on how to improve the proposal before submission to the MDP Funding Applications Committee on February 20th.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 20th February | Students should submit their **funding application packet** to the MDP office for review by the MDP Funding Applications Committee. In making funding decisions, the Committee will evaluate whether the proposed project meets the MDP field practicum criteria and will analyze the feasibility of the proposed project. The committee will also provide feedback to all students on how to improve their proposals. Students should have applied for IRB approval by this date, and indicate this submission has occurred. Funding applications will be reviewed by the committee with varying outcomes:  
  o May be approved for funding unconditionally  
  o Students may be requested to revise and resubmit their proposals for funding. Students who are requested to revise and resubmit their proposals for funding should do so within 1 week of receiving feedback.  
  o In some cases the committee may suggest that students should develop a different field practicum. |
| 6th March     | Submission of form with important travel information, international health insurance, UFIC registration and flight itinerary |
| 14th-24th March| **Copy of IRB approval due to MDP Office, Terms of Reference letter, signing of MDP Award Letter**, and other fiscal forms as required. Once IRB approval is submitted, the program coordinator will communicate to each student when his or her award letter is ready. |
| 10th April    | Additional requirements due before funding is processed including **final committee approval and pre-departure meeting** |
| January - May | Students will use **all of Spring semester to develop the definitive proposal** in the *Design and methods in Sustainable Development Practice* course and present their proposal to their peers. This proposal will be used as the final product for the class and as a guide for the student’s field practicum project. |

Submit a printed or emailed complete funding application packet by February 18th to:

MDP Program Office  
470 Grinter Hall  
P O Box 115560  
Gainesville, FL 32601-5560
4. FIELD CONSIDERATIONS, SAFETY AND EVALUATIONS

Supervision of Students in the Field

While overall supervision will typically be the responsibility of the student’s advisory committee, students should ideally be supported by a combination of local practitioners, community members and local faculty members while in the field. Regular communication between the lead supervisor and each student will be important, even essential, for the student’s safety and security as well as for his/her overall learning experience. Fluid communication will also be essential with the host organization during the planning and realization of the field practicum.

Safety and health of students in the field

Site placements for student field training should be in locations that have been identified as reasonably safe and secure by local partners and government officials. National and local authorities and Embassies of the student’s country of citizenship (if present) as well as country of home institution should be made aware of the students’ presence in the site, the objectives of the field practicum, and should support efforts to ensure that the student is safe and has access to assistance in case of emergency. Health services must be available within the community, and students will be required to obtain international health insurance. Students will take part in an orientation session on how to mitigate diverse risks during the Field Practicum. It is very strongly suggested that students be accompanied at all times by a fellow student or assistant during field work and to carry a list of important contacts and phone numbers to solicit support while abroad (in the host country and in Florida).

Unforeseen circumstances preventing the student from carrying out or completing the field practicum

In cases where unforeseen problems beyond the student’s control make it impossible to carry out the field practicum or result in only a partial completion of the of the work envisaged, the student’s supervisory committee and the MDP director will evaluate the situation on a case-by-case basis and decide on appropriate measures.

Student Evaluations

Student work during the field practicum may be assessed on the basis of feedback from local practitioners, completion of specific tasks, and project outputs including the final report. If students leave the program for personal, medical or security reasons, without completing at least [60%] of the expected time, they will be required to complete a similar field training program before graduating from the MDP. Students will be required to provide host institutions and collaborators with reports detailing the results of the study and important implications of the findings. A first report should be provided to indicate preliminary results while in country.

Counterpart Evaluations

Local counterparts may also be requested to provide an evaluation of the work carried out by the student (or group of students) to ensure that the field practicum experience is continually improved and updated. When possible, community members may also be requested to reflect on the work of the MDP students, and how their field practicum might have been improved. Apart from informing the adaptive redesign of individual field practicum projects, the evaluations will also serve as a valuable resource to the MDP Program.
Final important reflection to take into account

Students should recognize that they represent UF and the MDP Program while abroad, and the highest standards of professionalism, responsibility and cultural sensitivity should be pursued. Students should arrange their practicum timeline in a realistic way that ensures the successful completion of the project. A substantive break/vacation should only occur before or after the practicum, not during, in order to ensure the relationships developed and the work is not interrupted.
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the MDP degree, students must accomplish the following:

(a) Carry out an approved field practicum
(b) Develop and present a poster based on the field practicum at the MDP poster session
(c) Prepare a final practicum report
(d) Give a public presentation of the results of their field practicum, followed by a private defense with supervisory committee members

Each of these tasks is now described:

(a) Field practicum: Each student is required to carry out a field practicum following the FP guidelines document. Students will prepare for their field project and develop a comprehensive proposal in the Spring course Sustainable Development Practice Seminar. During the Fall semester of their first academic year, students should identify the site (country, organization) where they aspire to carry out their field practicum.

(b) Poster session: Students will prepare and present a poster at the MDP Student Poster Session toward the end of the Fall semester in their 2nd academic year. The poster will be a deliverable in the Fall course, Conservation and Development Practicum.

(c) Final practicum report: The first draft of this report will be developed during the Fall semester of the second academic year following the student’s field practicum. This will be the central exercise of the course Conservation and Development Practicum. It will be important that supervisory committee members of each student provide guidance during the preparation of these final reports. To ensure that expectations are clear, a document will be circulated to students and faculty with indications for the preparation of the final report, including issues of formatting and style. Although students will be required to have a strong draft of their final reports by the end of the Fall semester, additional revisions of the report in the final term (Spring semester) will likely be necessary. Students will be encouraged to make these final revisions early in the Spring semester.

(d) Presentation and Defense: Students are required to present and defend their field practicum project by the graduate school final exam deadline in their graduation term. Students must schedule a date and time in collaboration with their supervisory committee for the presentation and defense by the mid-point of the final term. Each presentation will be announced through the MDP Program listserv, and other avenues such as the TCD, CAS CLAS, and UFIC listservs. Core and affiliate faculty, and MDP Committee members will be encouraged to attend. After the presentation, which should not exceed 30 minutes, the public may engage in questions and discussion during a 10 to 15 minute period. After this public portion of the presentation, the student will meet with the supervisory committee to carry out the final defense, which includes the completion of the MDP Student Learning Outcomes Assessment form.

The MDP Program Office, in advance of the presentation and defense date, will compile a complete file with the student’s records (approved study plan, meeting reports, unofficial transcripts, statement of purpose, etc.), which will be available for review by the student’s committee during the private defense. An electronic version of the field practicum report must be submitted to the MDP Program Office by email, at least one week prior to the student’s presentation and defense date. Final reports, which undergo revisions after the presentation and defense, must be provided to the MDP Program Office with the
necessary revisions incorporated and approved by the supervisory committee by the communicated academic semester deadline.

**UF Graduate School Graduation Requirements**

Students are responsible for completing all graduate school requirements during their graduating term and should pay close attention to emails from the UF Graduate School to their UFL email account. The Graduate School provides a Final Term Graduate School Checklist to students during their final term. The MDP Program is beholden to all Graduate School policies including admissions, graduation, financial and other general regulations. A current Graduate School Catalog is found at the following link: [http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/](http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/). The 2014-15 Graduate School Academic Calendar is found here: [http://graduateschool.ufl.edu/files/calendar-2014-2015.pdf](http://graduateschool.ufl.edu/files/calendar-2014-2015.pdf)

Below is a summary of MDP Program and UF Graduate School graduation deadlines:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDP Program &amp; UF Graduate School Final Term Deadlines for Graduation Spring 2015</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>January 30th, 5:00pm</strong></td>
<td><strong>Degree application deadline for degree award, completed by students in ISIS.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exact deadline varies by year and is provided in the UF Graduate School academic calendar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>February 13th, 5:00pm</strong></td>
<td><strong>Final date to schedule presentation and defense with committee members and notify MDP Program Office.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exact deadline varies by year and is provided in the UF Graduate School academic calendar</td>
<td><em><em>Deadline to finalize all data (except Final Exam</em>) in GIMS for all degree applicants. Mid-point of final term</em>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>April 8th, 5:00pm</strong></td>
<td><strong>Final date to complete presentation and defense.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exact deadline varies by year and is provided in the UF Graduate School academic calendar.</td>
<td>**Deadline for final exam forms to be posted to GIMS by MDP Program Coordinator. <strong>Students will receive an email notification from the Graduate School to verify this in GIMS.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **April 22nd** | **Deadline to submit final approved report to MDP Office.**  
**This definitive final report must not require further revisions and must be approved by the supervisory committee** |
| Last day of class |  |
| **May 5th** | **Degree certifications finalized** |
| Degree certification |  |
| **Early May** | **Commencement Ceremony** |

* The UF Graduate School uses the term ‘final exam’ to represent the final culminating experience a graduate school student must undertake in his/her degree program to fulfill their degree requirements. In the case of the MDP, this is represented by successful completion of deliverables c and d described on the previous page.
ACADEMIC HONESTY, SOFTWARE USE, UF COUNSELING SERVICES, SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

In 1995 the UF student body enacted an honor code and voluntarily committed itself to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. When students enroll at the university, they commit themselves to the standard drafted and enacted by students. In adopting this honor code, the students of the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the university community. Students who enroll at the university commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the honor code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the honor code is bound by honor to take corrective action. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon community acceptance and enforcement of the honor code.

The Honor Pledge: We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

The university requires all members of its community to be honest in all endeavors. A fundamental principle is that the whole process of learning and pursuit of knowledge is diminished by cheating, plagiarism and other acts of academic dishonesty. In addition, every dishonest act in the academic environment affects other students adversely, from the skewing of the grading curve to giving unfair advantage for honors or for professional or graduate school admission. Therefore, the university will take severe action against dishonest students. Similarly, measures will be taken against faculty, staff and administrators who practice dishonest or demeaning behavior.

If you would like to read more about the honor code as well as student rights and responsibilities please visit http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studenthandbook/studentrights.php

Counseling and Wellness Center
The Counseling and Wellness Center (CWC) offers services to currently enrolled graduate students for personal and educational concerns.

Professional counselors offer short-term individual, couples, and group counseling. There is no charge for the Center’s confidential services. Topics of services for graduate students often include help with concerns related to academic success, time and stress management skills, anxiety and depression, personal and family relationships, adjustment to the culture, and other issues associated with transition. Counseling and Wellness Center clinicians also provide a range of consultation and outreach programs to the campus community. Phone or in-person consultation is available for students, parents, faculty, and staff regarding any issues related to student development. The CWC clinicians serve as program resources for a wide variety of student organizations and academic departments. The Center has an extensive training program for selected graduate students. The clinical staff teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in the Departments of Psychology and Counselor Education and guest lecture on a variety of psychological and wellness topics.

All CWC activities are conducted with sensitivity to the diversity of the students on a large, multicultural campus. For more information, phone (352) 392-1575, or visit http://www.counseling.ufl.edu. The CWC is located at 3190 Radio Road (down the street from Lakeside and SW Rec Center).

Disability Resource Center
The Disability Resource Center strives to provide quality services to students with physical, learning, sensory or psychological disabilities, to educate them about their legal rights and responsibilities so that
they can make informed decisions, and to foster a sense of empowerment so that they can engage in critical thinking and self-determination.

Whether visiting our webpages as a prospective student, a current student, a family member, or a faculty member supporting a student with a disability, the Disability Resource Center hopes that the information contained on our webpages provides insight about our dedication to provide the best services and support possible. Please contact our office at 352-392-8565, fax us at 352-392-8570, contact us via e-mail at accessuf@dsu.ufl.edu, or stop by our office at 0001 Building 0020 (Reid Hall) if you have any questions or concerns.
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

The program is administered jointly by the Center for African Studies (CAS) and the Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS). Both are internationally recognized centers of excellence in area studies and are federally funded Title VI centers. This institutional home is a great attribute of the UF MDP program, and contributes in a profound way to its attractiveness for students. The directors for the Center for Latin American Studies and African Studies serve on the steering committee for the program. The following committees make key decisions about the management of the program. For a list of members in the steering and curriculum committees please refer to Appendix J.

**Steering Committee**
This is composed of faculty members from seven colleges across UF. The Steering Committee meets once each semester and acts as the overall advisory board to the MDP program. While important programmatic decisions will be discussed by the steering committee, the MDP director is responsible for definitive policy decisions.

**Curriculum Committee**
The Curriculum Committee designs, reviews and revises learning competencies and the structure of the curriculum. It ensures that individual coursework meets the program's learning outcomes. The committee is composed of faculty teaching in the program, the Associate Director of CAS and the Associate Director, Academic Programs and Student Affairs of CLAS. Two current MDP students also form part of this committee.

**Management Committee**
The Management Committee, composed of the MDP Director, MDP Graduate Coordinator, MDP Program Coordinator and core faculty members, administers the day-to-day advisement of the program. When important executive or budgetary decisions are being made, the directors of the Centers for African Studies and Latin American Studies will join the management committee. With the addition of the centers’ directors, the Advisory Committee becomes the Executive Committee.

**Admissions Committee**
The Admissions Committee is composed of the Director and core faculty, who review and rank applications and makes decisions on acceptance into the program. The program coordinator serves as an ex-officio member of the committee.

**Student Supervisory Committees**
Students are required to have at least two members in their supervisory committee. The MDP Graduate Coordinator advises students during the first semester and will help provide follow-up at critical junctures in each student’s program (for example, mid-program meetings). The student is responsible for forming a supervisory committee during their first semester. At least one member of the Supervisory Committee should be a person who is quite familiar with the MDP program. The second committee member, in many cases, represents the specialization area of interest of the student. The role of the Supervisory Committee is to advise students on coursework, specializations, the field practicum proposal and implementation and the final report. All supervisory committee members must evaluate the student’s final report, presentation and defense.

**Cross listing MDP Classes**
Classes created specifically for the MDP will be cross-listed in Latin American Studies and African Studies. MDP students in these classes will be divided equally between the African Studies section and the Latin American Studies section. Students with clear regional preferences should register in the section
that represents their regional interests while the remaining students will be registered in whichever section is under-represented in the class.

**Annual Evaluation for MDP Program Director and Coordinator**
Each year an evaluation of the MDP Director will be jointly prepared by the Directors of the Centers for African Studies and Latin American Studies. The MDP Director will conduct an end-of-year evaluation for the MDP Coordinator.

**Budget**
The MDP Director and Program Coordinator are responsible for tracking and oversight of the budget. The Center for African Studies and the Center for Latin American Studies process expenditures. Both centers provide the necessary information to prepare a budget for indirect costs related to running the MDP such as printing, the use of phone lines and other costs. To date, indirect costs have been covered in part by the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS). The MDP Director is appointed as PI of the MacArthur grant while indirect costs (IDC) from the MacArthur foundation have been divided between the Center for African Studies and the Center for Latin American Studies.

**Annual Reports to MacArthur Foundation**
The MacArthur UF MDP grant covers four years, August 1, 2009-July 31, 2013. A no-cost extension was approved August 2014, and extends the grant to April 15th, 2015. Annual reports are due to the MacArthur Foundation. The Program Director and the Program Coordinator prepare these reports, with consultation of the Advisory Committee.
PROGRAM EVALUATION

A critical aspect of building a strong and vibrant program involves systematic program evaluation to iteratively assess the appropriateness of learning competencies and skills, as well as to draw lessons and systematize best practices. Program evaluation will involve both participatory mechanisms and the dissemination of surveys. Regular core faculty meetings will provide the opportunity to strengthen linkages among teaching faculty who come from different disciplines and departments at UF. A growing pool of affiliate faculty enhances the quality of the program and makes evident the institutional support available to MDP students. Faculty meetings and surveys will be critical for curriculum development and improvement as well as in the promotion of the interdisciplinary approach.

In 2013, a pilot version of an instrument for self-evaluation was developed by a MDP Global Association task force and a first exercise applying this instrument was carried out, assessing the following categories:

- Student learning outcomes
- Program evaluation and review process
- Faculty support
- Field practicum
- Partnership arrangements with other organizations
- Student support services
- Support to graduates or alumni

Student meetings and surveys have been important for evaluating student perceptions of the applicability of learning competencies and class content in linking knowledge and skills learnt in the program to real development challenges. Following the field practicum, individual student meetings are convened to assess the summer field practicum experience and to assess the effectiveness of the program in preparing students for this formative experience. A participatory final meeting between the graduating cohort and the Advisory Committee provides an opportunity to critically evaluate the student’s academic and programmatic experience. An exit survey is circulated to capture feedback from graduating students of the program (Appendix H).

Overall, systematic evaluation is critical for improving the curriculum as well as strengthening the relationship of the alumni to the program.
APPENDIX A: CORE AND AFFILIATE MDP FACULTY

MDP Core Faculty

Glenn Galloway, MDP Director, Latin American Studies; Tropical Forestry, multi-stakeholder cooperation, sustainable development (Latin America)

Carmen Diana Deere, Latin American Studies, Food and Resource Economics; Gender inequality in agricultural development, asset ownership, land policy and agrarian reform (Latin America)

Renata Serra, Center for African Studies; Development economics, micro-finance, health economies and social capital (Africa)

Marianne Schmink, Latin American Studies, Anthropology, Tropical Conservation and Development Program; Gender and Development (Latin America)

Jon Dain, Tropical Conservation and Development Program; Conflict and collaboration management, communication, mediation, facilitation (Latin America)

Richard Rheingans, Department of Environmental & Global Health, Center for African Studies; Water and Sanitation interventions, determinants of disparities in water quality and sanitation (Africa)

Grenville Barnes, School of Forest Resource and Conservation, Center for African Studies; Land tenure, geomatics, GIS, surveying and mapping, land administration (Africa, Latin America)

Brian Child, Department of Geography, Center for African Studies; Community-based conservation, parks management, environmental/resource economics, (Africa)

Ignacio Porzecanski, School of Natural Resources and Environment; Natural resource management (Latin America)
MDP Affiliate Faculty

The list of MDP Affiliate Faculty is growing and evolving. The MDP Program seeks the inclusion of faculty who have a strong interest in issues of sustainable development and who aspire to contribute to the program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affiliate Department</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Specialization(s)</th>
<th>Geographic Expertise</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tropical Conservation and Development, Director</td>
<td><strong>Bette Loiselle</strong></td>
<td>Tropical ecology and conservation, seed dispersal mutualisms, ecological niche modeling and applications of Geographic Information Systems technology for biodiversity research and conservation</td>
<td>Ecuador, Costa Rica, Brazil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center for Latin American Studies</td>
<td><strong>Susan Paulson</strong></td>
<td>Social/Cultural Anthropology, Gender, Political Ecology</td>
<td>Latin America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center for African Studies, Director Geography</td>
<td><strong>Abraham Goldman</strong></td>
<td>Food and agriculture in Africa, resources and conservation, geography of world agriculture, human geography, environmental impact of pesticides, and foreign policy issues linking developed and developing countries</td>
<td>Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania &amp; Uganda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td><strong>Christine Overdevest</strong></td>
<td>Environmental and natural resource, and economic sociology</td>
<td>Latin America, US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Stephen Perz</strong></td>
<td>Demography, Environmental Sociology, Sociology of development</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthropology</td>
<td><strong>Augusto Oyuela-Caycedo</strong></td>
<td>Historical ecology, Archaeology</td>
<td>Colombia, Peru and Brazil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Alyson Young</strong></td>
<td>Cultural/Medical Anthropology</td>
<td>Tanzania, Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Sharon Abramowitz</strong></td>
<td>Humanitarian Assistance, Medical Anthropology, Health, Violence and Conflict, Gender-based violence</td>
<td>Guinea, Liberia, Cote d’Ivoire, Sierre Leone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Subject</td>
<td>Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>Eric Keys</td>
<td>Ecology, cultural and political</td>
<td>Mexico, Central America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Science</td>
<td>Katrina Schwartz</td>
<td>Environmental Politics</td>
<td>Latvia, US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kate Baldwin</td>
<td>Impact of non-governmental organizations on</td>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa, Zambia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>democratization, political accountability</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Leonardo A. Villalón</td>
<td>African politics, Islam and politics,</td>
<td>Senegal, Mali, Niger, Mauritania, Burkina Faso &amp; Chad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>democratization</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UF/IFAS International Programs, Director</td>
<td>Walter Bowen</td>
<td>Soil science</td>
<td>Bangladesh, Cambodia, Vietnam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agronomy</td>
<td>Rosalie Koenig</td>
<td>Agriculture, Farming and cropping system</td>
<td>Latin America, US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food and Resource Economics</td>
<td>Pilar Useche</td>
<td>Development Economics; Innovation &amp; Technology Adoption</td>
<td>Colombia, Central America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture Education and Communication</td>
<td>Marta Hartmann</td>
<td>Director, Gender, Environment, Agriculture and Participation (GEAP)</td>
<td>Latin America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sebastian Galindo</td>
<td>Collaborative project evaluation</td>
<td>Latin America, US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paul Monaghan</td>
<td>Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, Natural resource protection and landscape management</td>
<td>Latin America, Haiti, US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family, Youth &amp; Community Sciences</td>
<td>Muthusami Kumaran</td>
<td>Fundraising for Nonprofit Organizations, Risk Management in NPOs, Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community Development and Program Planning and Evaluation</td>
<td>India, South Korea &amp; The Bahamas, US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elizabeth Bolton</td>
<td>Community development and Nonprofit leadership</td>
<td>US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>David Diehl</td>
<td>Youth development and public policy, planning, and evaluation</td>
<td>Extension, Southeast US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Forest Resources and Conservation</td>
<td><strong>Robert Buscbacher</strong></td>
<td>Tropical Forestry; Amazon Conservation Leadership Initiative, Coordinator</td>
<td>Amazon-Andes region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Martha C. Monroe</strong></td>
<td>Environmental Education and Extension</td>
<td>US</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Taylor Stein</strong></td>
<td>Ecotourism</td>
<td>Costa Rica, Central America</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourism, Recreation &amp; Sport Management</td>
<td><strong>Brijesh Thapa</strong></td>
<td>Director, Friedheim Tourism Institute, park management, heritage tourism, ecotourism</td>
<td>Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design, Construction and Planning</td>
<td><strong>Christopher Silver</strong></td>
<td>Dean; International Planning</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>William Tilson</strong></td>
<td>Assistant Dean for International Studies &amp; Service Learning</td>
<td>Latin America, US</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban and Regional Planning</td>
<td><strong>Joseli Macedo</strong></td>
<td>Director, Center for International Design &amp; Planning</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (CEI), Director</td>
<td><strong>Jamie Kraft</strong></td>
<td>Entrepreneurship, experiential learning</td>
<td>US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEI &amp; Sociology</td>
<td><strong>Kristin E. Joos</strong></td>
<td>Social Entrepreneurship, Youth leadership</td>
<td>US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Florida International Center (UFIC), Dean</td>
<td><strong>Sandra Russo</strong></td>
<td>Director of Program Development, UFIC; Animal science, agronomy, development, gender, environment, tropical research, small ruminants, women’s studies, ecofeminism, agroforestry</td>
<td>Botswana, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levin School of Law</td>
<td><strong>Thomas T. Ankersen</strong></td>
<td>Director, Conservation Clinic, Center for Governmental Responsibility</td>
<td>Costa Rica, Central America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Health &amp; Health Professions</td>
<td><strong>Mary Peoples-Sheps</strong></td>
<td>Senior Associate Dean; Epidemiology, Maternal and Child Health</td>
<td>Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental and Public Health, Lecturer</td>
<td><strong>Sarah McKune</strong></td>
<td>Pastoralism, Livelihoods, Human and environmental interactions, Social and ecological resilience, Vulnerability/resilience, Climate change, Health outcomes associated with climate change, Maternal and child health, Food security, Health in the African Sahel HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>Sahel Region, Niger, Sudan, Guinea Bissau, Cote D’ivoire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UF International Center, Climate Change, Agriculture &amp; Food Security, Postdoc</td>
<td><strong>Maria C. “Tina” Gurucharri</strong></td>
<td>Low Impact Development, Nature and Culture Based Tourism, Urban Design</td>
<td>Costa Rica, Honduras, Belize, Guatemala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Landscape Architecture, Chair &amp; Associate Professor</td>
<td><strong>Jeffrey Ullman</strong></td>
<td>Water resource management, treatment, sustainability, data analysis/modeling, ecology, education and communication</td>
<td>North Africa, Middle East: Tunisia, Afghanistan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX B: STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES ASSESSMENTS: MDP DEGREE AND SDP CERTIFICATE

MDP Degree

The Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) and SLO Assessment Measures of the University of Florida, Master of Sustainable Development Practice Program were submitted to and approved by the UF Institutional Assessment System (May 2012). A form has been prepared that is used by each student’s supervisory committee during the final defense to assess whether each outcome has been achieved at a level commensurate with the degree. The assessment focuses on three types of outcomes: Knowledge, Skills and Professional Behavior, all vital for development practitioners. The outline and content of the form is provided here, followed by the Assessment Rubric that is used to carry out the assessment:

MDP Student Learning Outcomes Assessment – Evaluation by the Supervisory Committee

Student: __________________________ Date: __________________________

Degree: Master of Sustainable Development Practice

Milestone:
☐ Non-Thesis Master’s Project Defense

Knowledge Outcome:
Thorough understanding of complex interdisciplinary dimensions of sustainable development and the capacity to communicate in a clear manner the challenges associated with this endeavor.

Has the student achieved this outcome at a level commensurate with the degree?

☐ Yes Basis: Evaluation by the Supervisory Committee of (1) the student’s Program of Study and (2) his or her performance during the non-thesis project

☐ No

☐ Partially

Comment _____________________________

Skills Outcome:
Competence in the tasks related to the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development initiatives, and the planning and utilization of participatory methodologies.

Has the student achieved this outcome at a level commensurate with the degree?

☐ Yes Basis: Evaluation by the Supervisory Committee of (1) the student’s Study Plan and (2) his or her performance during the realization of the field practicum and the non-thesis project defense using the rubric at

☐ No
Professional Behavior Outcome:
Interacting with professional peers, partners and participants in development initiatives with honesty, ethical behavior, cultural sensitivity, teamwork, and effective communication.

Has the student achieved this outcome at a level commensurate with the degree?

□ Yes  
□ No  
□ Partially

Basis: Consistent adherence during the degree program to the University of Florida's Honor Code, based on observation over the duration of the student’s degree program by the Supervisory Committee members of the student’s professional behavior during class activities, seminars, the field practicum and the non-thesis project defense.

Comment

Signatures of Supervisory Committee Members:

Committee Chair (Type or print name legibly) __________________________ (Sign) ______________ (Date)

Committee Member (Type or print name legibly) __________________________ (Sign) ______________ (Date)

Committee Member (Type or print name legibly) __________________________ (Sign) ______________ (Date)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Student Learning Outcome</strong></th>
<th><strong>Method of Assessment</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Knowledge Outcome</strong></td>
<td>MDP students complete a non-thesis project report demonstrating knowledge of sustainable development related to their particular focus and field practicum. MDP students give a formal oral public presentation and attend a private defense of their report. The final report and presentation are evaluated and approved by a committee composed of a committee chair and at least one other committee member who complete and sign the learning objectives assessment form as part of the defense.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Skills Outcome</strong></td>
<td>MDP students complete a field practicum proposal and receive approval of it from their committee chair prior to summer field work/research. MDP students complete a field practicum of a minimum of 10 weeks to carry out their approved practicum project, utilizing appropriate methodologies. MDP students present their research and participate in a poster session, sponsored by the MDP Program, and/or CAS/LAS, as well as completing a non-thesis project report.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Professional Behavior Outcome</strong></td>
<td>MDP students participate and display professional behavior, and teamwork skills in class activities, program-related workshops, seminars and development practitioner events, based on observation by their supervisory committee members. MDP students effectively communicate their report and field practicum research and findings in a formal and professional event open to UF faculty, staff, and students, evaluated by their supervisory committee members. MDP students complete their field practicum working successfully alongside local partners, in accordance with the terms of reference defined by the host institution/organization.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Certificate: Sustainable Development Practice (SDP)
Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Rubric

Student: __________________________ Date: ____________ UFID: __________________

SDP Certificate Checklist:

☐ Admitted into SDP Certificate Program
☐ Enrollment form submitted and approved
☐ Certificate course assignments completed
☐ Certificate verification form submitted and approved
☐ Final consultation successfully completed

Knowledge Outcome:
During consultation meetings, student discusses complex interdisciplinary dimensions of sustainable development

Has the student achieved this outcome at a level commensurate with the certificate?

☐ Exceeds
☐ Satisfactory
☐ Unsatisfactory

Comment ___________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

Skills Outcome:
During consultation meetings, student identifies tasks related to the planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of development initiatives

Has the student achieved this outcome at a level commensurate with the certificate?

☐ Exceeds
☐ Satisfactory
☐ Unsatisfactory

Comment ___________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
**Professional Behavior Outcome:**
During consultation meetings, student interacts ethically and professionally

Has the student achieved this outcome at a level commensurate with the certificate?

☐ Exceeds

☐ Satisfactory

☐ Unsatisfactory

Comment

______________________________________________________________


**Signature of MDP Graduate Coordinator:**

MDP Graduate Coordinator (Name)   (Sign)   (Date)
APPENDIX C: REQUEST FOR COURSE SUBSTITUTION

Guidelines

The MDP Curriculum was collaboratively designed by the Curriculum Committee and Core Faculty to facilitate the development of interdisciplinary competencies in the Social Sciences, Health Sciences, Natural Sciences and Management Skills for sustainable development practice. A student who wishes to satisfy a core course requirement with a course that has not been pre-approved for the MDP Program Curriculum must submit a course substitution request.

In addition to the completed request form, the following documents must be submitted:

- The most current version of the syllabus of the course they desire to take
- An updated study plan incorporating the intended substitution
- A concise narrative explaining your rationale for taking this course in lieu of the core course forming part of the MDP curriculum. The student must indicate how the course will enable them to strengthen the particular learning pillar in which the desired substitution would take place (i.e. Natural Sciences, Management Skills, etc.), and an indication of communication with the course professors: both from the course you are requesting to substitute and the MDP course.

Again, the proposed course must reside within the same pillar of learning as the course being substituted. Course substitution requests can take from 10 days to two weeks to review. Requests require consultation with the Management Committee, core faculty, and in many cases, the department offering the course. Students are notified of the decision by email.

Students should not assume the course substitution request will be approved. Students are strongly advised to submit course substitution requests well in advance of registration for the corresponding semester. Students are also encouraged to discuss their intended substitution request with Dr. Renata Serra, MDP Graduate Coordinator. Consultations with their supervisory committee chair are mandatory.

Please submit course substitution requests by email, preferably as a single pdf document, to:

Dr. Renata Serra
rserra@ufl.edu
421 Grinter Hall
352-846-0473
Course Substitution Request Form

Name: _______________________________  UFID: _______________________________

UF email: _______________________________  MDP Cohort: _______________________

Anticipated graduation date (semester/year): ________________________________

Course substitution request information

MDP core course requirement:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefix &amp; Course #</th>
<th>Section #</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Proposed course substitute:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefix &amp; Course #</th>
<th>Section #</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Included (required):

☐ Course Syllabus

☐ Updated Study plan

☐ Concise narrative

Student Signature: _______________________________  Date: ______________

Office Use Only

MDP Graduate Coordinator Signature: _______________________________  Date: ______________

☐ APPROVED  ☐ DENIED (explanation provided)
APPENDIX D: REQUEST FOR A COURSE DEFERRAL

Guidelines

A student who wishes to defer a core course to a later semester in order to take a specialization course must submit a Course Deferment Request.

In addition to the completed request form, the following documents must be included in your request:

- The most current version of the syllabus of the specialization course
- A study plan that reflects the proposed changes (either original or updated)
- A concise narrative explaining the rationale for taking the specialization course now in lieu of the core course programmed for the semester. This should include an explanation of why the proposed specialization course is relevant to the student’s particular development focus and/or field practicum. It should also summarize communications sustained with the professors of the core and specialization courses.

Course deferral requests can take from 10 days to two weeks to review. Requests require consultation with the Management Committee and core faculty. Students are notified of the decision by email.

Students should not assume the course deferral will be approved. Students are strongly advised to submit course deferral requests well in advance of registration for the corresponding semester. Students are encouraged to discuss their intended deferral request with Dr. Renata Serra, MDP Graduate Coordinator. Consultations with their supervisory committee chair are mandatory.

Please submit course deferral requests by email, preferably as a single pdf document, to:

Dr. Renata Serra
rserra@ufl.edu
421 Grinter Hall
352-846-0473
Course Deferral Request Form

Name: ________________________________ UFID: ______________

UF email: ____________________________ MDP Cohort: __________________

Anticipated graduation date (semester/year): ____________________________

Course deferral request information

Proposed MDP core course to defer:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefix &amp; Course #</th>
<th>Section #</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Semester/Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Proposed specialization course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefix &amp; Course #</th>
<th>Section #</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Semester/Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Included *(required)*:

☐ Syllabus
☐ Updated Study plan
☐ Concise narrative

Student Signature: ________________________________ Date: ______________

Office Use Only

MDP Graduate Coordinator Signature: ________________________________ Date: ______________

☐ APPROVED ☐ DENIED (explanation provided)
APPENDIX E: CORE MDP COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

1st Semester

Global Classroom Development Theory and Practice (3 credits)
This course aims to provide students with a general introduction to development for a “generalist” development practitioner, and serves as the foundation course for the Master of Sustainable Development Practice (MDP) curriculum. Each week students will have the opportunity to learn from expert practitioners from around the world. Course topics will be grounded in a practical, multi-disciplinary approach that will focus on the inter-relationship among the following core fields of study, drawing on experiences in Latin America and Africa:

- Context of development: Theories, History, Culture
- Health Sciences - Primary Health, Nutrition, Water and Sanitation
- Natural Sciences - Agriculture, Climate Change, Technology, Energy, Engineering, Biodiversity & Ecosystem Functioning,
- Social Sciences - Economics, Business, Education, Ethics, Gender,
- Governance and Management – Governance, Project Management, Foreign Aid, MDGs

Health and Development I (3 credits)
This course will cover fundamental public health and anthropologic principles, methods, and study designs. Case studies will be used to demonstrate how development practitioners can incorporate the use of these methods to investigate patterns of disease, the role of culture, risk factors, broad causes, and the need for integrated interventions to reduce risk of disease and death. The case studies will also illustrate major global health challenges, such as malaria, HIV/AIDS, and maternal morbidity and mortality.

Communication and Leadership Skills (3 credits)
Create spaces where participants can strengthen core communication and leadership skills for supporting collaborative approaches to Development and Conservation practice

Tropical Crop Production (3 credits)
The purpose of this course is to prepare students with specific competencies needed for a fundamental understanding of tropical cropping systems. The course is designed to provide the student with basic knowledge of the tropical environment, ecology, cropping system limitations, and management practices. Students will learn about social and food security issues in tropical regions. Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to analyze tropical cropping systems and aid in the design agricultural development projects that address crop production across a broad range of tropical areas.

2nd Semester

Foundations of Economic Analysis for Sustainable Development (3 credits)
This course aims to provide students with key analytical tools from economics and apply them to enhance understanding of issues related to sustainable development, with particular attention to Sub-Saharan African and Latin American regions. The emphasis of this course is on applications to sustainable development contexts and associated policy implications, not on economic theory per se. Each weekly session is structured around a specific set of questions, and economic concepts and techniques will be introduced as needed. Case studies will be used to emphasize connection to real development issues.
Health and Development II (3 credits)
This course is designed to examine how the scientific and cultural influences on health (which were examined in the first health and development course) can be addressed through sound management, political sensitivity, and leadership.

Natural Resource Management and Innovation Systems (3 credits)
This course focuses on how society perceives and reacts to environmental conservation issues, the dynamics of the principles of conservation ecology, and trends in community and economic development. It emphasizes the influence of context, including the relationship between humankind and nature, the social aspects of environmental perceptions, and the roles of institutions in the emerging concept and practice of sustainable natural resource management.

Design and methods in Sustainable Development Practice (formerly, Sustainable Development Practice Seminar (3 credits))
The course, Sustainable Development Practice Seminar, is offered for students taking part in the Master of Sustainable Development Practice (MDP) Program and for other students who plan to carry out practical fieldwork related to sustainable development in the future. The primary goal of this course is to prepare students for their summer field practicum, for which they will have developed a quality proposal that has been approved by both their respective supervisory committees and the host organization with which they will work. The course will be developed utilizing a combination of teaching techniques and approaches, and whenever possible, student participation will be encouraged. Broad faculty support will provide strong conceptual and methodological underpinnings to the course.

3rd Semester

Conservation and Development Practicum (3 credits)
This course will help MDP students build skills and competence in applied, professional work in sustainable development through a guided analysis of the summer practicum projects. Students will gain hands on experience in the analysis of information utilizing diverse methodological approaches and in the interpretation of results, linking findings across disciplines and scales.

Development Administration (3 credits)
Development Administration a recognized sub-field supported by a considerable body of scientific literature, and this course will make periodic references to this important literature, related primarily to public administration. However, more attention will be given to specific tools, processes and concepts linked to the praxis of Development Administration that MDP graduates should be familiar with before embarking on their careers. Important concepts and tools related to Development Administration will be discussed, as will common problems and errors that affect the success and impact of development initiatives.

4th Semester

Course Options: Management Skills Pillar (3 credits)
Students will select one course from a list of course options, which represent different topics related to management, including organizational management practices, leadership, analytics skills, and entrepreneurship, among others.