GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT (MPS)

Graduate School

Program Website (https://cals.cornell.edu/education/degrees-programs/graduate-field-of-global-development/)

CIP: 45.0604 | **HEGIS:** 2299.00 | **NYSED:** 17155

Graduate Field

Global Development (https://catalog.cornell.edu/graduate-school/global-development/)

Program Description

The Master of Professional Studies (MPS) in Global Development (GDEV) is a one-year, interdisciplinary graduate-level degree program combining a flexible course-based curriculum with a capstone or problem-solving project. The program is designed to enhance practical and technical skills and to prepare students for careers in field-based development and development policy roles serving low-income and rural communities globally.

Though similar to a Master of Science (MS) degree in its academic rigor, the MPS degree differs from a traditional MS degree in its structure and focus. An MS prepares students for a research-based career, with students developing an original research thesis over the course of two or three years. In contrast, the MPS degree is a one-year, course-based program, designed to impact knowledge and skills in a given area of concentration. Instead of a thesis or research project, MPS students complete a capstone project which allows them to apply their knowledge and skills in a practical manner.

Students in the MPS in Global Development custom build courses of study in consultation with their faculty advisors. A strength of the program is its flexibility; students are able to tailor their coursework to fill gaps based on previous studies, field experiences, and desired career paths.

Program Information

- Instruction Mode: In Person
- Location: Ithaca, NY
- Minimum Credits for Degree: 30

Program Requirements

Coursework

- 30 credits in graduate-level courses at least 20 of which must be taken in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.
- Capstone project: 2 to 6 credits of the required 30 credits.
- Enrollment in a minimum of 12 credits each semester. It is advised that students enroll in 15 credits each semester to stay on track for this one-year program.
- Additional requirements:
  - A minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5
  - A minimum of 18 letter-graded credits
  - Completion of the degree within 1 year from admission date

Field-specific requirements

- Check with the field director for details.

University Graduation Requirements

Requirements for All Students

In order to receive a Cornell degree, a student must satisfy academic and non-academic requirements.

Academic Requirements

A student's college determines degree requirements such as residency, number of credits, distribution of credits, and grade averages. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the specific major, degree, distribution, college, and graduation requirements for completing their chosen program of study. See the individual requirements listed by each college or school or contact the college registrar's office (https://registrar.cornell.edu/service-resources/college-registrar-directory/) for more information.

Non-academic Requirements

Conduct Matters. Students must satisfy any outstanding sanctions, penalties or remedies imposed or agreed to under the Student Code of Conduct (Code) or Policy 6.4. Where a formal complaint under the Code or Policy 6.4 is pending, the University will withhold awarding a degree otherwise earned until the adjudication process set forth in those procedures is complete, including the satisfaction of any sanctions, penalties or remedies imposed.

Financial Obligations. Outstanding financial obligations will not impact the awarding of a degree otherwise earned or a student's ability to access their official transcript. However, the University may withhold issuing a diploma until any outstanding financial obligations owing to the University are satisfied.

Learning Outcomes

- Acquire knowledge to solve and assess critical real world problems
- Hone technical skills and capabilities through technical tools, subject matter, and laboratory and/or field studies to enhance problem solving abilities related to fields of interest
- Think across disciplines (socioeconomic and biophysical) using a system perspective
- Understand global and local perspectives and issues that impact society
- Acquire skills to monitor and evaluate projects
- Improve oral and written communication skills, including the ability to write project and funding proposals, and to effectively present project outputs using a variety of media