

What courses are required for an IDSC major?

The IDSC major stresses creative, cross-disciplinary approaches to development. The major requires 14 units, including 5 core courses, 4 courses in an area of specialization to deepen your understanding of a particular theme or issue in international development, methods, and two skills courses, one internship or directed research project, and a culminating capstone seminar to be taken in the spring semester of your senior year.



Core Courses (5 units)

1. ID 125: Tales from the Far Side
2. Econ 128: Economic Development (or equivalent)
3. Politics of development (e.g., ID 136: Sub-Saharan Africa)
4. Resource management (e.g., ID 126: Living in the Material World)
5. Socio-cultural issues (e.g., ID 120: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology)

Area of Specialization (4 units)

IDSC majors take at least four courses in an area of specialization. Students may follow established specializations (e.g., global health, political economy, conflict and development, gender and development, culture and development, participatory development, rural/community-based development, resource management) or they may design their own area of specialization with the approval of their IDSC advisor.

Methods (1 unit)

ID 132 Research Methods

Skills courses (2 units)

IDSC majors will take two skills courses in computers, statistics, GIS, cartography, conflict negotiation, upper-level cultural anthropology, or a foreign language).

Internship or Field Research (1 unit) ID 298 or 299

Capstone (taken in the fall of your senior year): Senior Capstone Seminar (ID 290)

What if I am interested in a double major?

Many students decide to double major in IDSC and a related department. Some of the most popular double majors include: IDSC and Economics, IDSC and Geography, IDSC and Government (especially International Relations), IDSC and Psychology, IDSC and Sociology. One recent student had a double major in IDSC and Studio Art. A major in IDSC and a minor in one of the related departments or programs, such as Women's Studies, is another popular option. Note that up to two courses may count toward both majors.

Undergraduate Program in

International Development and Social Change



IDCE

International
Development,
Community,
and Environment



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Undergraduate Program in International Development and Social Change (IDSC)

The Department of International Development, Community, and Environment (IDCE) at Clark University houses the undergraduate program in International Development and Social Change (IDSC). In the IDSC program, you learn from people who are actively engaged in vital world issues, such as globalization, nationalism, access to health care in Senegal, land privatization in Guatemala, human rights and violence in Burma, black social movements in Colombia, and social justice and education in South Africa.

Clark University is one of the few universities in the nation to offer a liberal arts major in international development studies. The program, created over 35 years ago, begins by building a foundation to help you understand and think critically about the social, political, economic, and cultural dynamics shaping the world.

Beyond the classroom—in workshops, panels, and informal gatherings—IDSC majors learn from faculty, as well as from undergraduate and graduate students, with field experience from around the world. You have the opportunity to expand this knowledge with hands-on experience through internships and field research.

As an IDSC major, you are part of a diverse student body and will discover a program that offers intellectual excitement, insightful perspectives, and stimulating ideas. IDSC students explore strategic political action by developing an awareness of the complexities and contradictions of global power relations. They learn the history of social change around the world from professors who have been involved in that change in Asia, South America, and Africa.

At Clark, IDSC students become thinkers and doers who are prepared to tackle the challenges of development in the 21st century.

IDSC Honors Program

The Honors Program in IDSC provides qualified students with an opportunity to carry out independent research on an issue of special interest. To graduate with honors, you must conduct and successfully complete a two-semester independent Honors Thesis or a project on a topic of relevance in the field of international development and social change.

IDSC Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's Degree Program

If you are an IDSC major who has successfully completed an Honors Thesis, you may earn a combined bachelor's and master's degree provided that you meet departmental and University guidelines. The BA/MA in IDSC allows you to build your analytical skills and pursue a specific area in international development in depth.

The master's degree in IDSC emphasizes the connection between critical thinking and effective action. It is designed for scholars of international development and social change, as well as for present and future practitioners of grassroots, community-based development. Offering alternatives to centralized planning and implementation, the IDSC/MA program has been a pioneer in participatory development and a leading force in creating tools for social change for over 35 years.

What internships do IDSC students find?

An internship is required (ID 299), and students often do an internship during their study abroad programs. Other IDSC majors have found internships locally at such organizations as Lutheran Community Services, Grassroots International, AIDS Project Worcester, or the Main South Community Development Corporation.

Students participate in a project at the community or wider level in order to learn how activism works practically. You can experience first-hand the opportunities and challenges of effecting change, protecting human rights, and raising public awareness.

What kind of independent research do IDSC majors conduct?

Many IDSC majors present their research projects at Academic Spree Day each year. Some recent topics include: "Global to Local: The Transnational Effect of the AIDS Pandemic," "Animal Rights Coalition (ARK) or Starting a Campus Organization," and "A Gendered Perspective on the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission."

What about the Fifth-Year BA/MA Program in International Development?

Clark IDSC majors who have successfully completed an honors thesis on a topic in international development and social change may earn a combined bachelor's and master's degree, with the fifth year tuition free, provided that they meet departmental and University guidelines. The accelerated B.A./Master's degree in IDSC allows students to build on their undergraduate analytical skills and pursue a specific area in international development in depth.

What jobs and careers do IDSC majors pursue?

You may wonder what you can do with a BA in International Development and Social Change; it may seem a fascinating study, but does it actually lead to employment? What kinds of jobs do IDSC graduates have? Do IDSC graduates have to become development practitioners? Or do they do other things? Visit us online at the IDCE website to see what some IDCE graduates are doing. You will see that they are active in many different and important fields.

Who do I contact about the IDSC Program?

Professor Ken MacLean (kmaclean@clarku.edu), Coordinator of the IDSC Undergraduate Program, will be happy to answer any questions, as would any of the other IDSC core faculty. First-year students are encouraged to talk to current IDSC majors and attend the talks, brown bag discussions, and other events organized through IDCE at 10 Hawthorne Street. IDCE holds information sessions every semester for students considering a major or minor in IDSC and hosts a table at the Undergraduate Majors Fair each fall.





Which courses count toward my major or minor?

All courses with an ID prefix (including those cross-listed with other departments) count toward the IDSC major. See the full list of ID courses in the Clark Academic catalog, as well as the list of courses available during the pre-registration period each semester. It is from this list of courses (which is constantly being updated) that you choose thematic core courses as well as courses for your area of specialization. IDSC majors must earn at least a C- in core and required courses to count toward the major.

What courses in related departments do majors usually take?

IDSC majors have wide-ranging interests, and international development is by definition an interdisciplinary field. Therefore IDSC courses are often cross-listed with other departments and programs, such as geography, psychology, sociology, government, and women's studies. In addition, students are strongly encouraged to take language classes to fulfill their skill requirements. (Note: only language classes at the intermediate or higher levels count toward the major.)

What courses should I take before going on a Study Abroad program?

In addition to the courses listed in the recommended sequence for the IDSC major, you should preferably take methods before undertaking independent research or study abroad. Taking appropriate language courses before going abroad is also a good idea especially since language proficiency is a prerequisite for participation in some Study Abroad programs. Remember that for language courses to count for the skills requirement of the IDSC major, you have taken them at an intermediate level or higher.

Do the courses I take while studying abroad or at an institution other than Clark count toward my major or minor?

Many study abroad programs focus on themes related to IDSC. Students often undertake internships or independent research projects while away. The credits you earn while you are abroad or during your semester away from Clark may count toward your major. This is something to discuss with your major advisor before you go away for the semester or the year.

The IDSC/MA program helps you reach innovative solutions to development problems by building an understanding of the complex causes, influences, and implications of poverty, social injustice, and conflict. Through studies that link theory to practice, the IDSC/MA offers you an opportunity to specialize in topics like political economy, conflict and development, culture and development, resource management, community-based development, gender and development, and more.



Internships and Study Abroad

IDSC students have gained valuable experience in internships at such sites as: Save the Children, World Food Program, Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy, Catholic AIDS Action, Development GAP, American Refugee Committee International, CARE International, USAID, Mercy Corps, Oxfam America, Grassroots International, United Nations, Habitat for Humanity, Boston Housing Authority, UNICEF, and Global Development Initiative.

Visit the IDCE website to read about internship experiences of current and past IDSC students.

IDSC students have learned about development issues first-hand through Study Abroad Programs, such as those in Namibia and the Dominican Republic. Students have also studied abroad on related programs at the University of East Anglia in England with the School for Field Studies.

Research Fellowship Opportunities

IDSC majors are particularly well prepared to apply for highly competitive research grants, such as Compton Mentor Fellowships, Boren Fellowships, and Fulbright Fellowships. For example, Janie Crocco (IDSC/BA/MA '08) was a 2007 recipient of a Compton Mentor Fellowship. For her winning project, she addressed sex-trafficking of Nigerian women to Italy through collaborative projects with NGOs based in Nigeria. Kendra Fehrer (IDSC/BA/MA '05) received a Boren Fellowship to evaluate the impact of the economic crisis on women in Argentina. As a Fulbright Fellow, Mikhaila Gonzales (IDSC/BA '05/MA '07) researched indigenous women and natural resource management in the Philippines.

Careers

IDSC alumni are using the skills gained at IDCE to promote sustainable development and community-based initiatives around the world.

Visit: www.clarku.edu/departments/idce/careers/default.html to learn more about what our alumni are doing today.

Core IDSC Faculty



Kiran Asher, Ph.D., Political economy, feminist and critical development theory, post-colonial studies, cultural politics, Latin America



David Bell, Ed.D., Coordinator of the IDSC BA/MA Program: Community empowerment, social transformation, teacher education and social change, educational policy reform, power relations and empowerment



Anita Häusermann Fábos, Ph.D., Coordinator of the IDSC Graduate Program: Ethnicity and race, gender, urban refugees, immigration and naturalisation policies, transnationalism and citizenship, transnational Islam, narratives of exile



Jude Fernando, Ph.D., Economic development and political economy, with emphasis on non-profit organizations, environment, gender, and child labor, particularly in South Asia



William Fisher, Ph.D., Director of IDCE: Anthropology, social movements and development, global civil society, NGOs, involuntary resettlement, ethnicity, political economy, South Asia



Ellen Foley, Ph.D., Anthropology of development, gender, Islam, knowledge systems, medical anthropology, West Africa



Liza Grandia, Ph.D. Political ecology, peasants and agrarian change, conservation and sustainable development, Mesoamerica, globalizations (corporate versus grassroots), indigenous knowledge and cultural survival



Ken MacLean, Ph.D.: Coordinator of the IDSC Undergraduate Program: Ethnographic studies of violence, governance and governmentality, (late and post-) socialism, legal regimes, anthropology and history, science and technology studies

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is the difference between IDSC and IDCE?

IDSC, or International Development and Social Change, is one of the four programs in IDCE, the Department of International Development, Community, and Environment. There are two undergraduate majors within IDCE: IDSC and the Environmental Science and Policy (ES&P) track of the Environmental Science (ES) major. The three other graduate programs in IDCE are Community Development and Planning (CDP), Environmental Science and Policy (ES&P), and Geographic Information Sciences for Development and Environment (GISDE).

What courses should I take if I am interested in exploring a major (or minor) in IDSC?

ID 125: Tales from the Far Side and ID 120: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology are excellent exploratory courses for the IDSC major. They both satisfy the Global Perspective of the PLS. ID 125 is also a required core course. ID 120 can serve as a core course for the IDSC major. Students can also take a number of other IDSC courses that help explore the major and satisfy the PLS perspectives.

What courses should first-year students take?

First-year students who know that they want to major in IDSC should take introductory courses such as ID 120: Cultural Anthropology, ID 125: Tales from the Far Side, or ID 122 Issues in Sustainability. You should also take Econ 010 as early in your undergraduate career as possible. Although Econ 010 does not count toward the major, it is a prerequisite for the IDSC required course, Econ 128.

What courses should first-year students avoid?

Generally first-year students are discouraged from taking 200-level courses. However, if you have a strong interest in a topic, and you have fulfilled the necessary prerequisites, then you should consult with the professor of the course.

What is required for an IDSC minor?

A minor in IDSC consists of six credits: a core course, a skills course, and at least four courses in an area of specialization of which no more than two credits can be from an internship or study abroad. Core Courses include ID 125: Tales from the Far Side and ID 120: Cultural Anthropology.

Four Courses in an Area of Specialization: IDSC minors take at least four courses in an area of specialization of which no more than two credits can be from an internship or directed research. Students may follow established specializations (e.g., Political Economy, Conflict and Development, Gender and Development, Global Health, Culture and Development, Participatory Development or Rural/Community-based Development, Resource Management) or design their own, with approval of the Coordinator of IDSC Undergraduate Program. A min. of two courses must be at the 200-level.