

Bachelor of Arts

BA with an International Development Studies Major

Why major in IDS at CMU?

The International Development studies (IDS) at CMU encourages students to learn about global and local contexts of poverty and violence, and envision approaches to transformational development that bring justice and peace. Students will be prepared for citizenship in an increasingly interdependent global community, by seeking innovative approaches to change, while being grounded in their convictions.

The IDS program at CMU focuses on development processes at the global, national and community levels, giving particular emphasis to development at the community level and to the work of non-governmental organizations. This program provides an interdisciplinary approach to learning that studies the foundational values and worldviews of competing visions of development, including those of faith-based approaches.

Program Strengths

This major provides students with skills needed for long-term work with development agencies or further study and research. Students may build upon the program's core requirements with courses that both focus on practical skills, or on theoretical knowledge and research methods.

Interactive classes and support from professors help students explore their unique interests, and pursue their academic and professional goals. Experience-based learning through the CMU Practicum program provides students the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge in real-life settings while gaining valuable skills for development work.

Career Paths

- Community development
- Environmental work
- Project planner
- Consultant
- Journalist
- Project manager
- Nature conservancy coordinator
- Fundraiser
- Lobbyist
- Human resources manager
- Strategic planning consultant
- Grants administrator
- Project liaison officer
- Volunteer manager

Skills Developed

- Problem Solving
- Program planning/monitoring/evaluation
- Understanding of the dynamics of conflict
- Communicating complex ideas
- Decision making
- Strong oral and written communication
- Facilitating participatory approaches to development
- Ability to meet deadlines
- Time management
- Organization
- Appreciation of cultural diversity

International Development Studies Programs

CMU offers programs in IDS including

- Major in International Development Studies within the four-year Bachelor of Arts
- Major in International Development Studies within the three-year Bachelor of Arts
- Minor in International Development Studies within the Bachelor of Arts

CMU Courses in the IDS Program

- Introduction to International Development
- The Project Cycle
- Economics of Development
- Participatory Local Development
- Rural Development
- Crisis, Humanitarian Aid, and Development
- Economics of Social Change
- Conflict and Development Issues in Indigenous Communities
- Study of Voluntary Simplicity
- Environment, Society and Resilience
- Just and Sustainable Food Systems
- An Analysis of Development Aid Policy
- International Microfinance
- Senior Seminar in Social Change
- Mennonite Community and Development
- Religion and Development

Course descriptions can be found on the CMU website. Contact the admissions office with any questions.

In addition to specific IDS courses, students will take courses in the humanities, sciences, and Biblical and Theological Studies as part of their degree.

A work-integrated learning course is required in every degree at CMU. This practicum can be done as an intensive 12-week placement or a once-a-week placement over 20 weeks during the school year. The work placement can help students explore the field they are majoring in for career possibilities or it can provide a way to expand their experiences in a field they haven't thought about before.