

International Development Studies Minor

Description of the Program

As part of the University of Montana's commitment to both international issues and interdisciplinary study, a group of faculty from across campus who teach courses related to international development have met on a regular basis for the past three academic years. The outcome of our deliberations is this proposal to establish a new undergraduate minor in International Development Studies (IDS). The involved faculty approach IDS as an interdisciplinary field of study focusing on the interconnected processes of social, political, economic, cultural and environmental change taking place in poor countries or poorer regions of wealthy countries. The coursework in the minor emphasizes a global perspective on the process of change and development, critical analysis of the role of internal and external influences on the development process, and applications to local (including Montana) situations and challenges.

The IDS minor takes advantage of existing faculty expertise and courses to offer an interdisciplinary experience for those students interested in either international or domestic development work. The University of Montana is fortunate to possess faculty with specialized knowledge, expertise, and field experience in numerous disciplines within the College of Arts and Sciences (Anthropology, Communication Studies, Economics, Geography, Political Science, and Sociology), the College of Forestry and Conservation, the School of Education (Counselor Education Program), and the School of Pharmacy and Allied Health Science (Social Work). Students minoring in IDS will develop a set of skills appropriate for working in non-governmental organizations, international and bilateral government development organizations, the U.S. Peace Corps and other national/international equivalents, and/or community-development groups.

IDS would be a free-standing minor with a catalog home in the College of Arts and Sciences that organizes existing, regularly taught courses in such a way that students who complete 21 credits of core and content coursework will receive formal academic recognition that they have completed a holistic, integrated course of study in international development. University of Montana students currently completing these requirements receive no academic credential. Thus, the opportunity to minor in IDS will help our students be more competitive in this growing job market.

Documented Need for the Program

University of Montana has long maintained a commitment to international education as exemplified by the number and popularity of student-exchange and study-abroad programs, as well as a wide range of courses incorporating international subject matter. UM President George Dennison has strongly supported international education since arriving on campus in 1990 and has repeatedly expressed the desire both to increase international student enrollment and to provide for all UM students the opportunity to study abroad. Providing opportunities for undergraduates to pursue international development studies contributes to the general UM international education mission, enhances the geographic, cultural, and subject-matter opportunities that are available to students, and expands the career options available to those who graduate from UM.

The faculty planning group, which included interested and highly committed undergraduate and graduate students, identified a strong and growing interest among UM undergraduates in international development studies, as evidenced by the number of development-related courses and their increasing enrollments. A partial list of currently offered undergraduate courses that will comprise core and content courses in the proposed minor demonstrate potential student interest in the subject (Table 1).

Course Number	Description	Recent or Average Enrollment
Anth 329	Social Change	30
Comm 420	Advanced Organizational Communication (Globalization, Communication, and Culture)	24
Econ 100	Introduction to Political Economy	80
Econ 350	Economic Development	20
For 170	International Environmental Change	19 (new course)
For 381	International Social and Environmental Change	39
For 382	Field Study in Malaysia	14 (capped, with waiting list)
For 424	Social Forestry	48 (numbers increasing)
For 495	Special Topics: Ecology of Patagonia	12
Geog 103	World Regional Geography	120-180
Geog 213	Middle East	65
Geog 214	Central Asia- Cultures and Civilization	50
Geog 351	South America	20
Geog 495	Special Topics: Gender and International Development	26
PSc 120	Comparative Politics	180
PSc130	International Relations	220 (270 in Fall '03)
PSc 327	Politics of Mexico	34 (capped with waiting list)
PSc 463	Development Administration	26 (numbers increasing)
Soc 270	Rural and Environmental Change	36
Soc 370	Social Change and Global Development	41
SW 323	Women and Social Action in the Americas	25 (capped)

Additional student interest in international development studies is evident in the numerous independent-study courses provided by faculty participating in the proposed minor, as well as the waiting list for undergraduates interested in participating in field courses (e.g., FOR 382 to Belize and Malaysia, 6 courses; FOR 495: Special Topics: Ecology of Patagonia, 3 courses; and PSc 463 in Mexico). A Minor in International Development Studies would also assist students interested in serving as volunteer interns (e.g., Belize where ten students completed international development-related internships in conjunction with the UM-UCB University Development Linkage project).

International development employment opportunities are likely to be available to UM students with an IDS minor through the Peace Corps and nongovernmental development and conservation organizations. Potential undergraduate student interest in an International Development Studies Minor is demonstrated by our exceptional record of placement in the Peace Corps. The Peace Corps annually contracts with UM (\$11,288) to assist in recruiting efforts, serves as a potential employer for students who complete the minor, and is extremely supportive of the proposed minor (letter attached). UM regularly ranks among the top US colleges and universities in terms of per capita student enrollment in the Peace Corps. Currently, UM holds the number 10 spot in the nation for mid-sized universities on the Peace Corps' "Top Producing Colleges and Universities" list. The undergraduate Peace Corps campus recruiter receives over 100 formal inquiries annually regarding potential service.

UM formally nominated 22, 23, and 20 students to the Peace Corps in 2003, 2002, and 2001, respectively. Several Peace Corps recruiters have been involved in IDS curriculum planning from the beginning and all agree that undergraduate students would benefit immensely from an integrated curriculum and the opportunity to minor in IDS. A minor in IDS can only enhance the competitiveness of our graduates and increase UM's placement rates as the Peace Corps expands to meet President Bush's objective of doubling the number of volunteers (to 14,000) by 2007.

Additional opportunities for students who complete the International Development Studies Minor include graduate studies at other universities; jobs with non-governmental conservation and development organizations; and employment with government agencies such as USAID and the Department of State (one UM student is currently completing graduate studies in conjunction with full-time State Department employment).

In short, a minor in IDS combined with a major in a related field will prepare University of Montana students for a variety of jobs for which there is high demand. Hundreds, if not thousands, of international jobs are posted in various recruiting portals on the World Wide Web. There are over 25 such portals, including the Aid Workers Network, AlertNet Jobs, Association of International Consultants, Cambridge Data Systems – International Development Assistance, Charity Jobs – International Development, DevNet Jobs, Foreign Policy Association Job Board, Global Health Network – International Jobs, International Development Jobs in Washington, D.C., Sustainable Development Job Bank. A recent perusal of just one of these portals – DevNet Jobs.org – reveals the wide variety and number of positions available in the field of international development. This site alone posts an average of 490 jobs and internships in international development per month, many of which are appropriate for students with a BA or MA degree who have had experience studying international development issues. Forty-two jobs have been filled through this site alone since 1 January 2004. In addition, USAID and other government organizations are looking for qualified graduates to fill the increasing number of positions that will open as a result of high retirement rates. In 1996, Professor Koehn was invited to attend a national roundtable co-sponsored by USAID on the urgent need to educate and inspire students for such career positions. The title of this roundtable was “The Greying of Development Expertise: What’s Needed and How Will the Next generation Be Trained?”

Program Course Requirements

The proposed curriculum for an interdisciplinary minor in International Development Studies requires a minimum of 21 credits. Of the 21 credits, 12 must be **core** courses and 9 must be **content** courses. Specialized independent study and internship credits can be counted as core or content as applicable. In most cases, however, students will be expected to complete four core courses from the list below. Core courses are faculty-certified to be 80 per cent to 100 per cent devoted to development skills and/or dimensions of international development and related social changes; content courses are faculty-certified to have at least one-third of the subject matter involving international development/change issues and/or development skills.

Core courses (offered at least annually unless otherwise specified):

Anth 329 (Social Change)

Comm 420 (Advanced Organizational Communication: Globalization, Communication, and Culture)

Econ 350 (Economic Development)

For 170 (International Environmental Change)

For 381 (International Social and Environmental Change) Offered intermittently

For 382 (Field Studies in International Social and Environmental Change) Offered intermittently

For 424 (Social Forestry)
Geog 495 (Special Topics: Gender & International Development)
PSc 463 (Development Administration)
Soc 270 (Intro to Rural & Environmental Change)
Soc 370 (Social Change & Global Development) Offered bi-annually
SW 323 (Women & Action in the Americas)
SW 495 (Social Work in Global Context)

Content Courses (offered at least annually unless otherwise specified):

Anthro 343 (Culture & Population)
Anthro 385 (Indigenous Peoples & Global Development)
Comm 420 (Communication & Nonprofit Organizations)
Econ 100 (Introduction to Political Economy)
For 495 (Ecology of Patagonia) offered intermittently
Geog 101 (Intro to Human Geography)
Geog 103 (World Regional Geography)
Geog 202 (South Asian Civilizations)
Geog 213/Asian Studies/Liberal Studies (SW Asia Culture & Civilizations)
 Offered bi-annually
Geog 214 (Central Asia- Cultures and Civilization/Silk Road)
Geog 277 (Geography of Africa)
Geog 305 (Cultural Geography)
PSc 120 (Introduction to Comparative Government & Politics)
PSc 130 (International relations)
PSc 325 (Politics of Latin America)
PSc 326 (Politics of Africa) Offered bi-annually
PSc 327 (Politics of Mexico)
PSc 343 (Politics of Social Movements)
PSc 430 (Inter-American Affairs)
PSc 431 (Politics of Global Migration) Offered bi-annually
Soc 212/Asian Studies (SE Asia Culture & Civilizations)
Soc 322 (Sociology of Poverty)
Soc 340 (The Community)
Soc 346 (Rural Sociology)
SW 324 Gender & the Politics of Welfare
Geog/EVST 423 The Human Role in Environmental Change
Econ/EVST 440 Environmental Economics

Additional Courses

All of the courses for the International Development Studies minor are currently offered by the University of Montana, Missoula. Faculty members may request that new offerings be considered for inclusion as either core or content courses.

Adequacy of Present Faculty and Current Resources

The proposed program does not anticipate the need for new faculty. Current involved faculty are teaching the courses in the program:

Richard Barrett, Professor, Economics

Jill Belsky, Professor, Society and Conservation
Jeff Bookwalter, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Economics
Janet Finn, Associate Professor, Social Work
Shiv Ganesh, Assistant Professor, Communication Studies
Jeff Gritzner, Professor, Geography
Paul Haber, Professor, Political Science
Sarah Halvorson, Assistant Professor, Geography
Peter Koehn, Professor, Political Science
Otto Koester, Central Asia and Caspian Basin Program
Kimber Haddix McKay, Assistant Professor, Anthropology
Rebecca Richards, Associate Professor, Sociology
Steve Siebert, Professor, Forest Management
Teresa Sobieszczyk, Assistant Professor, Sociology
Rita Sommers-Flanagan, Professor, Education
John Spores, Professor, Social Work

We do not anticipate the need for additional support personnel or other resources. Existing resources in the Mansfield Library are adequate.

Impact on Facilities

No additional library resources are required.

Accreditation Status

No specific accrediting agency reviews and approves development studies programs. Professional associations, such as the International Studies Association, the Association of Asian Studies, the African Studies Association, and the American Anthropological Association, hold annual meetings that involve scholars working on development issues and consider academic matters. The involved faculty are members or past members of most of these associations and keep informed of current thinking through such participation.

Assessment Plan

The free-standing interdisciplinary minor in International Development Studies will have its catalog home in the College of Arts and Sciences. The academic advisor will be Professor Peter Koehn (Political Science). The program will be administered by a committee of three faculty elected for staggered three-year terms. All faculty teaching core and/or content courses will be eligible to vote and to serve. Members of the initial Committee will be elected for one-, two-, and three-year terms to ensure continuity. No more than two faculty from a single college can serve at the same time.

The International Development Studies Committee will be responsible for dealing with student advising and curriculum issues (e.g., approving core and content courses, scheduling, reviewing and adjudicating requests for credit exceptions) and for program assessment. Members of the committee will prepare an annual report on IDS activities, needs, and outcomes (number of minors by student major, course enrollments, scheduling, internship and job placements, etc.). Their report will be submitted to the deans of Arts & Sciences, Forestry, Education, and Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences and the Provost's office.

Relationship to on-campus programs and other institutions

Programs in Development Studies, or International Development Studies, are not widespread in the US. Although there are a number of strong programs in the UK and European Universities, at this time there are no similar programs in the state or region. There appear to be only ten programs within the US. Some of these are located within institutes; for instance, for international public policy (e.g., at Columbia University) or international and area studies (e.g., at UC Berkeley and Johns Hopkins); or within other centers, such as Harvard's Population and Development Studies Program. Ohio University has a Development Studies program associated with its Communication Department. Other universities, including UCLA, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Cornell, McGill, and American University offer the program as a freestanding major or PhD. Princeton has a Development Studies "Research Program".

In short, although other universities offering formal programs in development studies exist in the United States, all are located at some distance from University of Montana, mainly on the coasts (with the exceptions of Ohio University and University of Wisconsin).

Description of Proposal Development Process

Interested faculty members have been meeting since early 2001. We created a proposal that was reviewed by the chairs of each involved department and the dean of each involved college. No outside consultants were employed.



The University of
Montana

Department of Communication Studies
The University of Montana
Missoula, Montana 59812-6048

(406) 243-4293
FAX: (406) 243-6136

DATE: March 18, 2003
TO: ASCRC
FROM: Alan Sillars, Chair, Communication Studies
RE: Proposed interdisciplinary minor

As Chair of Communication Studies, I support the proposal to create a new interdisciplinary minor in International Development Studies. The proposal is quite in keeping with UM's emphasis on international education and interdisciplinary programs. The new minor should help coordinate the many independent initiatives that now exist on campus and encourage students to develop an ethically-grounded response to the impacts of globalization. This looks to be a useful and timely program with minimal cost to the University.

Two classes currently taught within Communication Studies are proposed as part of the minor: COMM 420: Globalization, Communication and Culture and COMM 420: Communication and Nonprofit Organizations (COMM 420 is a general title with specific topics that alternate). I do not anticipate difficulty accommodating the modest increase in demand for these courses that is likely to result from the minor. The instructor for these courses, Professor Shiv Ganesh, is enthusiastic about the proposed minor.

MEMORANDUM



The University of
Montana

DATE: March 12, 2004

TO: Peter Koehn, Professor
Department of Political Science

FROM: Daniel P. Doyle, Chair
Department of Sociology

RE: International Development Studies minor

I am writing on behalf of the Department of Sociology to voice our strong support for the establishment of an undergraduate minor in International Development Studies. It is the consensus of the Sociology Faculty that such a minor is needed and would complement existing programs in Sociology and elsewhere on campus. This minor also fits in well with the Programmatic Priority of "Educating for a Global Community" found in the University of Montana's planning report, [Creating our Academic Future: Academic Plan 2003](#). We believe that this minor is one that would be of interest to Sociology students.



Department of Anthropology
Social Science Building
The University of Montana
Missoula, Montana 59812-5112

Phone: (406) 243-2693
Fax: (406) 243-4918

Jeff Bookwalter
Department of Economics
Peter Koehn
Department of Political Science
University of Montana
Missoula, MT 59812

April 21, 2004

Dear Jeff and Peter,

I am writing to let you know that I strongly support the International Development Studies minor proposal that you and your committee have assembled. Our department is firmly committed to international education, particularly with an applied orientation, and we have a number of faculty members who offer courses that will add substantively to the minor. Kimber Haddix McKay and Steve Greymorning in particular are involved in research and teaching relating directly to international development, and my own work and teaching in health and epidemiology supports the minor as well.

We look forward to participating as strong supporters of this proposed minor.

Sincerely,

Greg Campbell, Chairman



Department of Political Science
The University of Montana
Missoula, Montana 59812-5832
Phone: (406) 243-5202

March 10, 2004

To Whom It May Concern,

The faculty of the Department of Political Science met today to discuss the proposed minor in international development studies. There was general agreement that this represents an important area of study. At the close of the discussion, members voted unanimously to support the adoption of this minor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Jon Tompkins'.

Jon Tompkins, Chair



The University of
Montana

Department of Geography
Social Science Building
The University of Montana
Missoula, Montana 59812-5040

Phone: (406) 243-4302
FAX: (406) 243-4840
E-mail: geog@selway.umt.edu

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of ASCRC
FROM: Paul Wilson, Department of Geography
DATE: March 24, 2004
RE: International Development Studies Minor

On behalf of the Department of Geography, I would like to express our support for the proposed interdisciplinary International Development Studies Minor that is currently underway on campus. We have corresponded with Dr. Peter Koehn in regards to geography's contribution to this initiative. We find this undertaking to be exciting and rich in promise for the university.



College of Forestry and Conservation/
Montana Forest & Conservation Experiment Station
The University of Montana
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Phone: (406) 243-5521
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MEMORANDUM

To: Lois Muir, Provost and VP for Academic Affairs

From: Perry Brown, Dean



Subject: Proposed Minor in International Development Studies

Date: March 22, 2004

I have had an opportunity to read through the proposal for an International Development Studies minor to be administered through the College of Arts and Sciences. This is a timely proposal and one that the College of Forestry and Conservation can support through both faculty participation and course offerings. With about 70% of the College's faculty having substantive international experience in research, development or education we are very interested in this program proposal. Both Professors Jill Belsky and Steve Siebert have signed on to this proposal as initial participants.

The opportunity to expand the opportunities for our undergraduate students to focus attention on international issues, particularly international development, is most useful. The stewardship of natural resources is a world-wide issue and UM and its graduates need to be at the forefront in developing solutions to the many problems in this arena. Our graduate programs dealing with international resource natural management under the direction of Professor Siebert are national leaders. By extending our expertise to the undergraduate students we can better prepare them to take leadership roles too.

Therefore, I encourage you to support this proposal on its path to implementation. I believe that The University of Montana and its students and faculty, and the citizens of Montana will benefit from our putting in place this international minor for students.

Copy: Peter Koehn, Steve Siebert, Jill Belsky





Women's Studies Program
Liberal Arts Building—Room 138A
The University of Montana
Missoula, Montana 59812-5790
(406) 243-2584

March 18, 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

Please consider the following comments as my strong support for the proposed International Development minor. This minor capitalizes on the strengths and resources of faculty and curriculum here at The University of Montana in some innovative and unique ways. Many UM students have significant interest in the understanding and application of their particular knowledge-bases and disciplines to the larger questions of global implications and interactions.

This minor has come into being openly, and with many meetings of interested faculty. Each step of the process has been collaborative and inclusive. I believe it will have wide support across schools and disciplines. For instance, I know there is a very strong interest among a number of people who wish to become educators in applying their teaching skills internationally. Further, it is very common for those students interested in Women's and Gender Studies to express similar motivation and interest.

I am grateful to the people who have spearheaded this effort, and believe it will be a wonderful addition to the ways students coordinate their learning here at UM. This minor is a good example of what can come from interdisciplinary efforts, and I am happy to voice my support.

Regards,



Rita Sommers-Flanagan Ph.D.



Department of Social Work
Rankin Hall
The University of Montana
Missoula, Montana 59812-4392
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FAX: (406) 243-5275

March 10, 2004

Academic Standards and Curriculum
Review Committee
The University of Montana
Missoula, MT 59812

This letter is in support of the Level-Two proposal for a minor in International Development Studies, which is being designed and planned as a 21-credit interdisciplinary minor that will help students develop a global perspective on the process of political, economic, and environmental change and its relationship to social development. We are aware that the proposal stems from broad-based faculty and student interest, and we believe that it responds directly to the mission of the university. Additionally, it builds on the University of Montana's strong record of student placement in the Peace Corps.

A group of faculty whose academic interests address issues of international social development has been meeting for the past eighteen months to learn more about each other's academic work, explore avenues for bringing structure to the interdisciplinary intersections of our work, and develop a flexible, interdisciplinary learning experience for students that makes use of existing resources.

For example, Social Work 323 (Women and Social Action in the Americas) and SW 495 (Social Work in a Global Context) would be part of the core offerings. The Department of Social Work is in support of this model of interdisciplinary learning to prepare students adequately and effectively for international development work. Modeled after the successful interdisciplinary Women's Studies Minor, the International Development Studies Minor will strive to utilize existing resources in a creative and forward-thinking way.

Sincerely,

Cindy Garthwait
Chair, Department of Social Work

Dave Forbes
Dean, School of Pharmacy and
Allied Health Sciences

THOMAS MICHAEL POWER
Professor and Chair
Economics Department
The University of Montana
Missoula, Montana 59812
406 243 4586
tom.power@mso.umt.edu

MEMO

Date: March 19, 2004

To: Peter Koehn, International Development Studies Committee

From: T. M. Power, Economics

Re: Proposal for a Minor in International Development Studies

The Economics Department strongly supports the implementation of the proposed Minor in International Development Studies. As you know, almost half of the Economics faculty have been engaged in research and teaching in areas related to this proposed minor. Our faculty has long recognized the importance of economic development issues to both the rural areas of our own nation as well as to the poorer regions of the world. We have also recognized that economic development is not just (or even primarily) an "economic" issue. It requires an interdisciplinary approach that recognizes the importance of institutions, cultural values, location, and resources, broadly defined.

The proposed minor will enhance the value of the Economics degree by demonstrating that our majors who also pursue this minor have the breadth of background that allows them to more appropriately use the insights of economic analysis in the context of community and regional development. Given the increasing importance of development issues both here and abroad, this will make our students more competitive.

The University of Montana recognizes the importance of encouraging cross-disciplinary efforts in both curriculum and research. The International Development Studies committee and its proposed minor are an important step in implementing such linkages between different academic units on campus and among a diverse faculty. This can only strengthen the academic program at the University of Montana.

The Economics Department looks forward to working with your committee in implementing this minor.

From: Blackwelder, Wayne [WBlackwelder@peacecorps.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2003 11:21 AM
To: 'Stephen Siebert'
Cc: Micek, Timothy
Subject: RE: International development studies at UM

October 22, 2003

Steven Siebert
College of Forestry and Conservation
The University of Montana
Missoula, MT 59812

Dear Dr. Siebert:

I am thrilled to hear that the University of Montana is considering a new undergraduate minor in International Development Studies. As you know, the Peace Corps is growing in size with a mandate to double the number of volunteers in the field by 2007. As we expand, we look to the University of Montana as an important source of volunteers for our development projects around the world.

Ideally, students with a minor in International Development Studies would have knowledge of environmental, business, health or agriculture-related issues that affect developing countries. Of particular importance to the Peace Corps would be a set of skills that combined a minor in International Development Studies with a major in one of the fields listed above.

As always, we are excited about working closely with the University of Montana. Our relationship has been of great benefit to our agency and to those countries in which University of Montana alumni volunteer.

Sincerely,

Wayne Blackwelder
Regional Manager
Peace Corps
Seattle, WA
206.239.6601
