Graduate School

International Family and Community Studies

Doctor of Philosophy Certificate

The doctoral program in International Family and Community Studies educates professionals to generate, diffuse, and apply knowledge needed to strengthen communities' capacity for family support, meaningful participation, and strong relationships, including mutual assistance. The program prepares graduates as (1) scholars in interdisciplinary institutes or academic departments on child and family studies, social policy studies, international studies, or community development or (2) researchers, planners, or administrators in domestic or international governmental or nongovernmental agencies concerned with children, families, and/or communities.

The program is based in the Institute on Family and Neighborhood Life and relies on the Institute's ties with related university programs in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America. Students also have the opportunity to participate in the Institute's community development, policy consultation, and empirical research projects in South Carolina and other states and nations.

With its focus on family and community life, the program touches on the most fundamental aspects of people's everyday lives. Blending the humanities, the social sciences, and various professional disciplines, the program may be unique in its integration of normative analysis (i.e., philosophical, legal, and religious studies), empirical research, and community development. With a foundation in the study of human rights as applied to children and families around the world, the program builds a comparative understanding of U.S., foreign, and international law and policy on child and family issues and of the significance of democracy for the well-being of individuals, families, and communities. Students acquire an appreciation of the role of civil society (e.g., voluntary associations and nonprofit organizations) and primary community institutions (e.g., schools) in promoting and maintaining democracy. Such studies provide the foundations for an understanding of the principles and practices of community development and transformation, humanitarian assistance, and responsive human services. The important role and features of effective informal mutual assistance mechanisms in community life and their meaning for children and families are also explored.

To provide a richer understanding of human development and family life and to build skills for work in diverse cultures, international study is emphasized. Students are required to become proficient in studies of three world regions and in communication in a language other than their own. Building on the Institute's relationships with universities in developing and transitional countries, students spend at least one academic year in residence at an affiliated center outside North America, where they engage in supervised research and/or public service.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must hold a bachelor's or a master's degree from an accredited degree program. In addition to strong academic performance, experience in volunteer and/or professional public service is desirable. Students must submit GRE and/or Miller's Analogy Test scores, three letters of recommendation from professionals familiar with the applicant's academic work and/or community service, and a 500-word essay on the applicant's career aspirations and goals and their relation to this graduate program. Students for whom English is not the first language are also required to submit TOEFL scores. Both U.S. and international students are welcome, as are both new graduates and experienced professionals.

Program Requirements

The degree requires 90 credit hours of postbaccalaureate work. A minimum of 36 hours is required of postmaster's degree students. The initial course of study requires four years for postbaccalaureate students.

The program requires ED F 870, PCS 810, 811, 812, 820, 821, 822, 830, 831, 832, 833, 835; plus twelve credits selected from ANTH 603, PCS 840, PSYCH 810, 811, or SOC 825.

In addition, nine credits in area studies of three world regions and nine credits of language studies are required. (Nine of these credits may be at the undergraduate level.) Eighteen credits of dissertation research (ED 991) are required. Students entering postbaccalaureate must also complete six hours of FCS 990.

Certificate

With the approval of the Institute Director or Associate Director, domestic or international students with a bachelor's degree are admitted to the certificate program.

With advice from an Institute faculty member, students select one of four tracks and develop a plan of study based on courses selected from the following: FCS 810, 811, 812, 820, 821, 822, 830, 831, 832, 833, 835, 840, 890, 892, 893.

Policy Studies

Doctor of Philosophy Certificate

Clemson University offers graduate studies leading to a PhD degree and a Certificate in Policy Studies. Graduate work in policy studies enables a student to attain a high degree of specialized competence in policy analysis and to secure a mastery of policy research, emphasizing quantitative and economic skills. Government, industry, public policy “think tanks,” and other policy research organizations, nonprofit organizations, and universities offer challenging opportunities in policy analysis, issue development, education, and related areas for persons with advanced training.

The program emphasizes quantitative, economic, and political organization as well as other social science skills in the analysis and development of policy. Fundamental and rigorous quantitative and analytical skills for effective policy analysis are developed through core courses in political economy for public policy, ethics, statistical methods for policy research, demographic projections and spatial analysis, policy analysis, and political science, among others.

The program is designed to equip students with a set of explicit public policy research and analytical skills to augment their preparation in a traditional master's program. The certificate program involves 12 credit hours of coursework.

The faculty in Policy Studies encourages applications for the PhD program from recipients of a master's degree who wish to acquire policy research and analytical skills in economic development, agriculture, natural resource allocation, rural development, environmental issues, land use, infrastructure, public finance, growth management, and science and technology. Master's-level students with similar interests are encouraged to enhance their graduate studies with a Certificate in Policy Studies.

The faculty encourages applications from students who have backgrounds that will facilitate an interdisciplinary course of study. In many cases, students may be admitted to full graduate status in the PhD program without prerequisites other than those required of all graduate students.
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Master of Public Administration

The Master of Public Administration degree program requires 39–45 credit hours, depending on the student’s background. Students lacking proficiency in American government are required to address the deficiency by taking a prerequisite in this area. Students who do not have substantial administrative experience are required to complete an internship encompassing 480 hours in a public or nonprofit agency engaged in administrative work. All MPA students must complete seven core courses (P ADM 702, 821, 822, 827, 829, 862, PO SC 841). In addition, one level of government course (P ADM 867, 868, or PO SC 860) and five electives must be completed. Finally, all students must demonstrate a proficient knowledge of the field of public administration by passing a comprehensive examination. Students may request to take P ADM 880 in lieu of the comprehensive examination.

Certificate in Public Management

Admission Requirements

Admission will be based on an assessment of the applicant’s educational needs and career objectives. Applicants must hold a bachelor’s degree and should have earned an overall 3.0 grade-point ratio in all undergraduate studies. Each applicant must also furnish a letter of recommendation, an application (available from the MPA program office), transcripts, statement of career objectives, and a résumé.

Students from any department or discipline may elect to complete the certificate program. Students who are already enrolled in a graduate degree program must obtain written approval from their graduate programs/advisors and the MPA Director. No prerequisites are required of these students.

In addition to the conditions above, international applicants are required to demonstrate that they satisfy the University’s minimum English language proficiency requirements or equivalent.

Students currently pursuing MPA coursework in a nondegree status may apply for the Graduate Certificate in Public Management. The hours earned in a non-degree status may be applied to the certificate program requirements (within four years of completion of the courses).

Course Requirements

Courses are determined by the student’s educational needs and career objectives and must be reviewed and approved by the MPA director. Other graduate courses may be substituted in the elective sequence with the approval of the MPA director. Program participants must maintain an overall minimum grade-point ratio of 3.0 in the certificate program. Certificate courses must be completed within a span of four years.

A graduate certificate will be awarded upon completion of 12 credit hours of study, as outlined below, and submission of a Certificate Portfolio which will consist of a compilation of the cumulative coursework accomplished in the program.

The following coursework is required:

Core Sequence—one course selected from P ADM 821, 822, 827, 829, 862

Elective Sequence—three courses selected from P ADM 867, 868, PO SC 877, 878 (topics differ by section)

Credit earned for a certificate may be applied toward the Master of Public Administration degree with the advice and approval of the MPA Director.