

# Social and Economic Development Concentration

---

## Brief Description

To affect change social workers must not only work with individuals and families but also with larger systems. Social workers should be at the forefront of addressing multi-faceted and complex social and economic problems confronting our communities. To address complex development problems of communities – rural and urban – social workers must seek and promote sustainable development predicated on robust institutions, and capable communities. Lasting social and economic development rests on capacity building at the individual, institutional, and societal levels. The Social and Economic Development Concentration trains social work graduates in integrated and sustained development of communities, regions and nations.

The Social and Economic Development (SED) Concentration is designed to prepare students for advanced social work practice in various development functions and roles in the US and other countries. Development refers to improvements in living conditions and economic opportunities in neighborhoods, communities, urban and rural areas, regions or nations, which are struggling to achieve and maintain basic life necessities such as employment, food, shelter, health care, and transportation. The Brown School curriculum considers development issues in the international arena, as well as in the United States.

The concentration focuses on knowledge and skills such as: 1) the extent, effects, and causes of poverty; 2) the assessment of institutions and organizations; 3) the engagement of diverse social, economic, political, and cultural groups and the development of communities; 4) the implementation and evaluation of a broad range of interventions at multiple levels, often simultaneously; and 5) strengthening the institutional capacity of communities to bring about sustained development.

Although the SED Concentration maintains the core structure of theory courses, policy courses, methods courses, evaluation courses, and practicum courses, the concentration does not support an administrative track option. Students are required to take two concentration-level theory courses. Students are required to take *S20-5011, Economics of Social Welfare* in order to understand the economics behind development work and policy decisions regarding the structure of societies. Then, they choose from one of two other concentration supported theory courses as listed below. Students are required to take two practice methods courses. Students may choose from *S60-5016, Community Development Practice*; *S60-5018, Organizing, Coalition Building and Lobbying*; *30-5703, Working with Groups on Problem Solving Tasks*, and *S60-5056, Development Practice in International Settings*. To meet the evaluation requirement for the concentration, students may choose from two courses: *S50-5050, Evaluation of Programs and Services* or *S40-5842, Social Policy Analysis and Evaluation*.

# **Social and Economic Development Concentration Course Requirements**

---

## **Social Policy**

S40-5861 Social and Economic Development Policy

## **Theory, Problems, and Issues**

*Students are required to take:*

S20-5011 Economics of Social Welfare

*And select one of the following:*

S20-5013 Poverty and Inequality in America

S20-5030 International Social Development

S20-5014 Social Justice: Exploring the Reality of America's Promise

## **Practice Methods**

*Students select two of the following:*

S30-5703 Working with Groups on Problem Solving Tasks

S60-5016 Community Development Practice: Basic Concepts and Methods

S60-5018 Organizing, Coalition Building and Lobbying

S60-5056 Development Practice in International Settings

## **Evaluation**

*Students select one of the following:*

S40-5842 Social Policy Analysis and Evaluation

S50-5050 Evaluation of Programs and Services

## **Practicum**

A minimum of five credits (600 hours) of concentration practicum is required. The practicum experience must be in an approved practicum site where the primary focus is on community/social/economic development. Organizations may be public or private, with a mission to serve poverty groups and/or groups that are at risk because of race, gender, geography, or other variables. Examples include community and neighborhood organizations; planning and development agencies; agencies for economic development; and government offices. These may be local, state, national or international agencies.

## **Faculty Coordinator:**

For further information on the Social and Economic Development Concentration, contact Carolyn Lesorogol, Ph.D., Brown 104, (314) 935-8232, [clesorogol@wustl.edu](mailto:clesorogol@wustl.edu).