BSc (Honours)

Social Development and Policy
Development has become a principal idea of our times, and an object of aspiration for individuals, communities, and governments alike. How can we examine and engage with development as a multi-faceted process of social, economic, and political transformation, while attending to context and ethical practice? Responding to this key concern, the central vision of the Social Development and Policy (SDP) program at Habib University is to nurture a comprehensive understanding of development and social change—one that is firmly rooted in an ethic of care as well as a grounded sense of place. Social Development and Policy combines a rigorous classroom training in the social sciences and humanities with reflective, field-based practice. The first program of its kind in Pakistan, it aims to give students new ways to approach the challenges of development at home and abroad. Students will explore how major development concerns such as poverty, inequality, urbanization and human rights are shaped by historical forces and processes of political power, while also examining the role of states, development institutions, markets, and civil society in shaping human well-being.
Employing a multi-disciplinary approach to the study of social problems, the program integrates perspectives and skills drawn from a wide range of disciplines, including:

- Anthropology
- History
- Economics
- Sociology
- Political Sciences
- Religious Studies
- Philosophy
- Literature
- Environmental Studies

Offering critical insights into the core values of development and progress, the major will train a new generation of social scientists who can incorporate lived experience and local sensibilities into policy design at the national and international levels - as has been true of the best development practice.

For in-depth learning in their field, students in SDP must take 14 courses out of the required 35 in the SDP major. Out of these 14 courses, 6 are compulsory, covering key topics in theory and method, the field practice requirement, as well as the senior thesis requirement. The other 8 are elective courses, which a student may use to explore different dimensions of development and social transformation. 5 of these are free electives in SDP (at least 2 must be upper-division courses) while the other three are upper-level courses that must be taken in one of the thematic concentrations. The overall graduation requirements are outlined in the following table:

**DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

- Total Number of Courses: 35
- Total Credit Hours: 140
- Minimum Requirement: 2.5 CGPA

**Thematic Concentrations:**

- Poverty and Inequality
- Governance and Human Rights
- Urban and Community Studies
- Culture and Expression
- Ethics and Social Justice

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LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon graduation, students will have acquired the following knowledge, skills and values:

- **Theoretical knowledge** of scholarly approaches for understanding development, poverty, and inequality in a global context, as well as interdisciplinary analyses of global development institutions, poverty-alleviation projects, community initiatives, and grassroots movements

- **Grasp of core social science concepts and methodologies** that are relevant for analyzing the theory and practice of development

- **Specialized expertise** in one of the five thematic concentrations within the major

- **Field practice and language skills** that will ground students in local environments while also honing their aptitude for problem-solving, making them better scholars, analysts, practitioners, and communicators

- **Research, writing, and presentation skills** that will enable students to ask the relevant questions, examine issues from multiple perspectives, analyze data, interpret and craft arguments, and engage in public debates and policy-making

- **Core values** including the appreciation for diverse cultures, teamwork and socially responsible leadership

SAMPLE COURSES

SDP/CSD 103: Urban Experience

This introductory course in immersive learning will focus on the context in which they live, research individual and group-led observation, study the diversity of places and communities to develop a curious and comfortable about dialoguing through the necessity for new undergraduates to observe the built and lived landscape, in the rapidly changing urban and rural landscapes of Pakistan. It will involve field trips to designated areas of Karachi and its surrounding countryside, complemented by theoretical and methodological discussions pertaining to the dynamics of Karachi.

SDP 118: Reading Marx with Dickens

This course will focus on the historical epochs that shaped the writings of Karl Marx and the ideas of class consciousness, exploitation of working class, Dickens' novels quite movingly depict the subjective experiences of working individuals - particularly children. Students will read a selection of Marx's writing together with Hard Times, Great Expectations, and A Tale of Two Cities, exploring how these works reinforce each other in illuminating processes.
LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon graduation, students will have acquired the following knowledge, skills and values:

- Grasp of core social science concepts and methodologies
- Theoretical knowledge and values:
  - Core values
  - Research, writing, and presentation
  - Specialized expertise
- Adeptness in various problem-solving approaches for understanding development and poverty, and inequality in a global context, as well as interdisciplinary initiatives, and grassroots movements.
- Skills in analyzing the theory and practice of development, poverty-alleviation projects, community analyses of global development institutions, and social theory and literature can
- Adeptness in applying approaches for understanding development and poverty-alleviation projects, community analyses of global development institutions, and social theory and literature can

EDUCATION

EDUCATION

ACCESS TO FURTHER EDUCATION

Graduates of the program will be well-equipped to pursue advanced degrees in programs such as development studies, disaster management, anthropology, sociology, journalism, political science, environmental policy, public policy, media studies, international health, and education.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The Social Development and Policy program combines a broad understanding of the arts, humanities, and social sciences with a focused inquiry into the dynamics of development and social change. Graduates of the program will find the fields of international development, public policy, social science research, and community engagement as natural fits in terms of their career choices.

While they will be well-prepared to pursue sectors as diverse as urban planning, environment and energy, public health, journalism, education, and historical preservation, at its heart the Social Development and Policy major has a larger vision. It seeks to help students gain a historically grounded understanding of the world which they inhabit, and refine the ways in which they engage with it as professionals, citizens, community members, and human beings. As such, students graduating with the major will use their training to enrich any career path that they chose, be it in the government, corporate, or the non-profit sector.
## Social Development and Policy at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY OF COURSES</th>
<th>NO. OF COURSES</th>
<th>CREDITS</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Social Development and Policy Major Courses</td>
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<td>Foundational Theory and Method</td>
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<td>Field Practice</td>
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<td>Courses from Thematic Concentration</td>
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<td>Electives</td>
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<td>Courses from Communication Studies &amp; Design</td>
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<td>Hikma II</td>
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INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Working with various bi-lateral and multi-lateral development organizations and in the offices of foreign services

SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH
Designing and implementing in-depth research studies

PUBLIC POLICY
Becoming specialists for policy development, analysis, and reform

FREELANCE AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE OPPORTUNITIES
Working as a freelance researcher and consultant with development organizations and social enterprises

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
Designing and implementing a variety of Development Projects in Health, Education, Energy, Environment, and Sustainable Development

MONITORING AND EVALUATION
Designing and conducting Monitoring & Evaluation Studies

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Leading community-based initiatives in social awareness, advocacy, and development

JOURNALISM
Working as an analytical writer, policy analyst, and producer for news programmes and documentary films
The Social Development and Policy faculty and staff members welcome questions from prospective students and their families.

For complete course description and department requirements, see Habib’s online course catalog at www.habib.edu.pk