

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT & POLICY MAJOR
CLASS OF 2025



ACADEMIC DOSSIER

**OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION &
ACCREDITATION**



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SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT & POLICY

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Social Development and Policy (SDP) Program at the Habib University is the first program of its kind in Pakistan. The Program intends to nurture an inter-disciplinary and comprehensive understanding of the complex problems of development and social change. The SDP Program equips its students with a thorough theoretical understanding together with hands-on and practical training. In addition to this, recognizing the complexity of social, economic and developmental issues, the Program seeks to offer courses that address such issues from a variety of perspectives. The Program both integrates and builds upon traditional social sciences disciplines like anthropology, economics, political science and sociology.

The Habib University SDP program represents truly an innovative and dynamic approach to some of the most important issues faced by our society both locally within the communities of our cities and rural areas; domestically in Pakistan as a whole; and beyond that in the international and global community we all inhabit.

“Development” has become a principal idea of our times and an object of aspiration for individuals, communities, and governments alike. One of the key questions we grapple with in the program is “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 an inter-disciplinary and comprehensive understanding of development and social change — one that is firmly rooted in an ethic of care and grounded in a sense of place. A careful, place-based understanding is deeply connected to the love of knowledge. Moreover, this sensibility is fundamentally tied to Habib University’s philosophy of Yohsin, the practice of thoughtful self-cultivation.

To fulfill this vision, the undergraduate major in Social Development and Policy combines rigorous classroom training in the social sciences and humanities with reflective, experiential learning through a practicum and practice-based courses. 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 are exposed to seminal ideas in social and economic thought that will enable them to understand and critique the processes of economic growth, development, and social change. They explore how major development concerns such as poverty, gender 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.

The program integrates perspectives and skills drawn from a wide range of disciplines, including anthropology, history, economics, sociology, political science, religious studies, philosophy, literature, and Environmental Studies. In this way, the program equips students with inter-disciplinary thinking and analytical skills that will allow them to understand and tackle a range of problems and challenges in their professional and scholarly careers.

Offering critical insights into the core values of development and progress, the SDP major will train a new generation of social scientists who – like the best development practitioners – incorporate lived experience and vernacular sensibilities into policy design at the national and international levels.



PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students who graduate with a degree in Social Development & Policy will be able to:

1. Formulate appropriate research methods to pursue and produce meaningful social research.
2. Clearly and appropriately communicate disciplinary content across multiple media and to multiple audiences.
3. Synthesize multiple ways of knowing the lived environment and the experiences of the people who inhabit them.
4. Critically assess and/or design development, policy and other social interventions.
5. Recognize and appraise the formal and informal structures that organize and regulate societies.
6. Justify development practice and theory using a social justice perspective.
7. Reflect upon and critically assess one's own practice and the practices, theories and methods in a chosen field.



MAPPING OF PLOS TO UNIVERSITY LEARNING GOALS:

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES - MAPPING



		University Learning Goals (ULG)								
		Know			Act			Value		
		Knowledge	Interdisciplinary &	Context	Creativity &	Critical Inquiry	Communication &	Social Impact	Thought	Ethical & Cultural
		Breadth & Depth	Synthesis & Connections	Contextually Grounded	Imaginative & Interesting	Analysis & Critical Thought	Interaction & Teamwork	Service & Sustainability	Yohsin Values & Lifelong Learning	Personal & Professional Ethics
		ULG 01	ULG 02	ULG 03	ULG 04	ULG 05	ULG 06	ULG 07	ULG 08	ULG 09
PLO	Program Learning Outcomes	Demonstrate both a genuine breadth of knowledge through the Habib Liberal Core and a capable depth of knowledge through command and their chosen major	Synthesize knowledge, methods and viewpoints from different disciplines to both make meaningful connections among and transcend them	Demonstrate their knowledge in a firm understanding of the historical, social, political, economic, religious, regional and global contexts in which they are located	Imagine, develop, and produce creative, original ideas, interpretations and works	Analyse and formulate relevant critical questions, and answer those questions in a substantive way supported by quantitative and qualitative evidence	Listen actively to comprehend the meaning of others and successfully express cogent meaning through capable oral, written, and artistic modes of communication. Effectively interact and collaborate with others	Recognize the reciprocity of knowledge and service, and benefit their community, society and the environment through socially responsible and sustainable engagement	Cultivate lifelong curiosity by engaging in inquiry and reflection to acquire and apply new knowledge	Develop and nurture their own beliefs, values, and sense of responsibility to reach informed conclusions, while considering, appreciating, and respecting the perspectives of others
1	Formulate appropriate research methods to pursue and produce meaningful social research.	S	S	S	S	S	W		S	
2	Clearly and appropriately communicate disciplinary content across multiple media and to multiple audiences.	S			W		S			
3	Synthesize multiple ways of knowing the lived environment and the experiences of the people who inhabit them.	S	S	W		W		W	W	S
4	Critically assess and/or design development, policy and other social interventions.		S			S	W	S		
5	Recognize and appraise the formal and informal structures that organize and regulate societies.	W		S		W		W		
6	Justify development practice and theory using a social justice perspective.			S		W	S	S	W	W
7	Reflect upon and critically assess one's own practice and the practices, theories and methods in a chosen field.				W		W	W	S	S
		Legend Competencies								
		S: Strongly - Program Learning Outcome strongly maps to the University Learning Goal								
		W: Weakly - Program Learning Outcome strongly maps to the University Learning Goal								



REQUIRED COURSES:

The SDP Major offers a total of 9 program core courses for Class of 2025, that are listed below:

SDP 101: Development and Social Change

Credit Hours: 4

Prerequisites: None

Fulfils: SDP Core

This is an introductory course in social development and provides an overview of ideas, theories, and concepts as well as a discussion on critical development challenges. This includes issues of urbanization, food security, migration, intersectionality and gender, as well as wars disasters and conflict. The purpose of this course is to answer key questions about development and social change by introducing students to the history, theory, and the contemporary practice of development. The concept of 'development' will be defined within the broader field of social sciences. We will be shifting the analytic focus from instrumental outcomes of development policies to the meanings, implications, and consequences they have as expressions of societal beliefs and values.

SDP 201: Qualitative Research Methods

Credit Hours: 4

Prerequisites: SDP 101 – Development and Social Change

Fulfils: SDP Core

Combining theory and hands-on practice, this course will expose students to key approaches and methodologies of qualitative research methods in the social sciences. Students will understand when and how qualitative research methods are used and combined. They will learn and practice a variety of methods and tools including participant-observation, interviews, focus groups, and discourse analysis. Alongside, they will study and debate the ethical complexities of conducting scholarly research and implementing both research and development projects.

SDP 202: Quantitative Research Methods

Credit Hours: 4

Prerequisites: None

Fulfils: SDP Core, Quantitative Reasoning Form of Thought for University Core.

Quantitative Research Methods will introduce various techniques of quantitative analysis used within social sciences. This is a foundational course to teach basic mathematical and statistical techniques used in social science research. Students will cover several topics including functions, graphs, mathematical relationships, and statistics and probability, among others, to best equip students with analytical methods for use both in the classroom and the field with a specific focus on survey research. This course will also prepare students to take higher level quantitative research methods courses offered in the program.

SDP 103: Social Theory 1

Credit Hours: 4

Prerequisites: None

Fulfils: SDP Core

Social Theory provides students with the appropriate tools to make sense and understand social reality. The ultimate goal of Social Theory is to enable students to elaborate, propose, and carry out principled and reasoned interventions in different contexts, in this way firmly linking reflections on social theory with practice in policy planning and making. Questions central to this course are: 1) what do we mean by theory and why do we use it; 2) what do we mean by social reality, and what are its main features and characteristics; 3) what is the role of theory and theorization in appreciating social reality; 4) what are the context-dependent features of social theorizing, with specific attention to the historical milieu and geographical origin that



characterizes different social theories; 5)and what is the impact that theories themselves exert on social reality?

SDP 2xx: Social Theory 2

Credit Hours: 4

Prerequisites: SDP 103 – Social Theory 1

Fulfils: SDP Core

Social Theory provides students with the appropriate tools to make sense and understand social reality. The ultimate goal of Social Theory is to enable students to elaborate, propose and carry out principled and reasoned interventions in different contexts, in this way firmly linking reflections on social theory with practice in policy planning and making. Questions central to this course are: 1)what do we mean by theory and why do we use; 2)what do we mean by social reality, and what are its main features and characteristics; 3)what is the role of theory and theorization in appreciating social reality; 4)what are the context dependent features of social theorizing, with specific attention to the historical milieu and geographical origin that characterize different social theories; 5)and what is the impact that theories themselves exert on social reality?

SDP 204: Public Policy I

Credit Hours: 4

Prerequisites: SDP 101 – Development and Social Change, SDP 201 – Qualitative Research Methods, SDP 202 – Quantitative Research Methods, and SDP 203 – Social Theory.

Fulfils: SDP Core

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a critical and rigorous introduction to the world of public policy. This involves understanding the institutional context of public policy-making, fundamentals of policy discourse, and key debates, surrounding policy writing, development, implementation, and evaluation. The course aims to deepen students' understanding of public policy processes that are constrained by complex interactions between political preferences, institutions, and limited resources.

This is a foundational course on public policy, serving as one of the mandatory core classes in the Social Development and Policy Program. While students were introduced to the importance of developing policies in Development and Social Change, this has served primarily to uncover social, cultural, economic, or political implications of policy instruments themselves. This course however is aimed at the link between policy and governance, notably on the processes of policy-making, on the roles of government agencies/departments and on the administrative aspects of policy design, implementation and audit/evaluation.

SDP 303: Public Policy II

Credit Hours: 4

Prerequisites: SDP 101 – Development and Social Change, and SDP 204 – Public Policy I.

Fulfils: SDP Core

The course Public Policy II (PP2) builds on the fundamental concepts acquired in the course Public Policy I (PP1). The central role of the course is to provide an in-depth understanding of policy-making by looking at policy-based public sector interventions across countries, with a particular focus on Pakistan, in terms of how they have been framed and what results have been achieved as a result of the evolving notions of citizenship and governance being incorporated into public policy.

The program of Social Development and Policy aims to ensure that students have a broad understanding of the policy fields that intersect with social, economic, and environmental aspects of development. Students were first introduced to the importance of development policies in the course Development and Social Change. In the course PP1, they were exposed to the various theoretical constructs that have evolved to understand the complicated and multi-dimensional political arena defining the political economy and public policy space. They related that understanding with real-life policy scenarios to further refine their



comprehension of the subject. Building on these courses, Public Policy II focuses on governance mechanisms employed by governments that are shaping public sector delivery. They will get an understanding of the instruments constructed in the policy formulation and decision-making processes such as Policy Briefs, Policy Papers, and Legislative Acts. The course also aims to provide an opportunity for students to learn specific fields of public policy with direct bearings on social development, locally and globally. Students who are interested in the field of policy studies are encouraged to take complementary courses in the stream of governance and policy-making in order to garner a greater depth of understanding of diverse fields of social policy.

SDP 3xx/4xx: International Political Economy Elective

Credit Hours: Minimum 3

Prerequisites: SDP 101 – Development and Social Change, SDP 201 – Qualitative Research Methods, and SDP 202 – Quantitative Research Methods.

Fulfils: SDP Core

Students majoring in SDP will have to fulfil this requirement as a mandatory elective, by completing one third-year elective course, which tackles the dynamics of International Political Economy. Various options will be offered yearly to allow students to complete this requirement.

SDP 302: Data Analytics

Credit Hours: 4

Prerequisites: SDP 202 – Quantitative Research Methods.

Fulfils: SDP Core

The prevalence of data including big data into every facet of our lives and the key role data has in decision-making by humans for themselves and the planet's future, has brought forth a dire need for statistical literacy and strong data analysis skills. This course builds upon the theory and applied skills learnt in the 200-level Quantitative Research Methods course. Using basic concepts of statistical estimation and hypothesis testing students will learn the fundamental ideas of data analysis methods. It takes students behind the scenes and exposes them to the machinery underlying regression methods and teaches them how to diagnose and correct for real world data issues. Using statistical software, students will have the opportunity to apply various techniques to correct for situations in which model assumptions fail, conduct program and policy evaluations, and perform data simulations.

Some of the topics include Non-linear Models, Cross-Sectional Data methods (Linear Probability Model, Logit, Probit for Limited Dependent Variables and Tobit for censored data), Panel Data techniques (fixed and random effects), and Instrumental Variables estimation including using Monte Carlo simulations, Diagnostics (such as multicollinearity, heteroscedasticity, model specification, etc.)

This course together with Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods will form an ideal platform for students who eventually want to go into research and development-oriented private or public institutions, or those who want to pursue graduate studies that demand strong research skills.



LIST OF ELECTIVES:

Below is the proposed list of elective courses offered by the SDP Major. These elective courses may be subject to change.

Fall 2021

ANT 101 - Intro to Cultural Anthropology
ANT 412 - Anthropology of Trade
ANT 425 - Queer Theory
DEV 224 - Development & Environmentalism
DEV 229 - Gender & Development Policy
ECON 101 - Principles of Microeconomics
ECON 221 - Macroeconomics Analysis
ECON 222 - Environmental and Natural Resources
ECON 226 - Economy of Modern Sindh
ECON 301 - Marxian Economics
ECON 313 - Political Economy of Development
POLI 102 - Introduction to Political Science
POLI 223 - Pakistan Institutions & Youth
SDP 411 - Advanced Topics in QRD

Spring 2022

ANT 101 - Intro to Cultural Anthropology
DEV 200 - Development and Conflict
DEV 322 - Intro to Program Planning
DEV 324 - Education Planning
DEV 325 - Cities and Development
DEV 327 - Post Development

ECON 121 - Principles of Macroeconomics
ECON 227 - Big Data and the Art of Critical Thinking
ECON 313 - Political Economy of Development
ECON 425 - Institutional Economics
ECON 435 - Social Capital
POLI 211 - The Modern Middle East
POLI 223 - Pakistan Institutions & Youth
SDP 223/CND 255 - Intro to QGIS with GIS
SOC 224 - Gender and Human Rights

Fall 2022

ANT 101 - Intro to Cultural Anthropology
ANT 412 - Anthropology of Trade
DEV 211 - Food Security
DEV 212 - Urban Sustainability
DEV 327 - Post Development
ECON 222 - Environmental and Natural Resources
ECON 313 - Political Economy of Development
ECON 435 - Social Capital
SDP 322 – Time Series Analysis
SDP 411 - Advanced Topics in QRD
SDP 412 – Applied Methods in QR
ECON 101 - Principles of Microeconomic



GRADUATING REQUIREMENTS:

Graduating Requirements - SDP Class of 2025 ver 9.10				
Minimum number of courses - 37, Minumum Credit Hours - 129				
Course Category	Course Code	Courses Title used to fulfill requirement	Credits Hours	Total Credit Hours
University Requirements				
University Core	CORE 101	Rhetoric and Communication	4	32-35 credits
	CORE 102	What is Modernity?	4	
	CORE 201	Pakistan and Modern South Asia	4	
	CORE 202	Hikma I	4	
	xxx	Creative Practice Form of Thought	Min 3	
	xxx	Philosophical Form of Thought	Min 3	
	CORE 200	Scientific Methods	3	
	CS 101/CORE 111	Programming Fundamentals/Logical Problem Solving	Min 3	
CORE 121	Jehan-e-Urdu	4		
Social Development and Policy				
Foundational Theory and Method	SDP 101	Development and Social Change	4	35-36 credits
	SDP 202	Quantitative Research Methods	4	
	SDP 201	Qualitative Research Methods	4	
	SDP 103	Social Theory 1	4	
	SDP 2xx	Social Theory 2	4	
	SDP 204	Public Policy 1	4	
	SDP 303	Public Policy 2	4	
	SDP 3xx/4xx	International Political Economy Elective	Min 3	
	SDP 302	Data Analytics	4	
Field Practicum	FP/SDP 302	Summer Practicum	4	4
SDP Lower-Level Electives	xxx	Any 4 SDP lower-level electives (Each min 3 credits)	Min 12	12-16 credits
SDP Upper-Level Electives	xxx	Any 2 SDP upper-level electives (Each min 3 credits)	Min 6	6-8 credits
Capstone/ Research Seminar	xxx	For Capstone: Research Seminar + Capstone report For Thesis: Research Seminar + Thesis Proposal	3+1	4
Upper-level Elective OR Thesis	SDP xxx or SDP 493	For Capstone: SDP Upper level Elective For Thesis: SDP 493 - Thesis	Min 3	3-4 credits
Arts Humanities and Social Sciences				
Regional Language	LANG 1xx	3 sequential courses in a regional language	4	12 credits
	LANG 2xx		4	
	LANG 3xx		4	
AHSS Breadth Elective	xxx	Any 2 AHSS electives other than SDP	Min 3	6-8 credits
	xxx		Min 3	
Free Electives (SAHSS or DSSE)				
Free Electives (AHSS or DSSE)	xxx	Minimum 5 University wide - free Electives	Min 15	15-20 credits

4-YEAR GRID:

SDP - 4-year Grid - Batch 2025 (ver 9.10)
Minimum Graduating Requirements - 37 courses (129 credit hours)

Sem I Fall 21	Sem II Sp 2022	Sem III Fall 2022	Sem IV Sp 2023	Sem V Fall 2023	Sem VI Sp 2024	Summer (Year 2/3)	Sem VII Fall 2024	Sem VIII Sp 2025		
CORE 101 Rhetoric and Communication (4 Cr)	CORE 102 What is Modernity (4 Cr)	CORE 201 PAMSA (4 Cr)	CORE 202 Hikma I (4 Cr)	Elective for Philosophical FoT (min 3 Cr)	Elective for Creative Practice FoT (min 3 Cr)	Summer - Practicum (4 Cr) (can be completed in Year 2 or 3)	Research Seminar-FYP (Capstone path/ Thesis proposal path) (min 3 + 1 Cr)	SDP Elective (Upper-level) or Thesis (IS) (min 3 Cr)		
Formal Reasoning (Pfun or LPS) (min 3 Cr)	CORE 121 Jehan-e-Urdu (4 Cr)	SDP 103 Social Theory 1 2 of 9 (4 Cr)	SDP 2xx Social Theory 2 4 of 9 (4 Cr)	SDP 201 Qualitative Research Methods 6 of 9 (4 Cr)	SDP 303 Public Policy 2 7 of 9 (4 Cr)		SDP 3XX/4xx International Political Economy Elective 9 of 9 (min 3 Cr)	Free Elective 1 of 5 (3 Cr)		
SDP 101 Development and Social Change 1 of 9 (4 Cr)	AHSS Breadth Elective 1 of 2*	SDP 204 Public Policy 1 3 of 9 (4 Cr)	*SDP 202 Quantitative Research Methods (fulfills QR FoT) 5 of 9 (4 Cr)	SDP Elective 1 of 2 (Upper-level) (min 3 Cr)	SDP 302 Data Analytics 8 of 9 (4 Cr)		Free Elective 2 of 5 (3 Cr)	SDP Elective 2 of 2 (Upper-level) (min 3 Cr)		
SDP Elective 1 of 4 (Lower-level) (min 3 Cr)*	SDP Elective 2 of 4 (Lower-level) (min 3 Cr)*	AHSS Breadth Elective 2 of 2*	Scientific Methods (3 Cr)	LANG 101 1 of 3 (4 Cr)	LANG 102 2 of 3 (4 Cr)		LANG 103 3 of 3 (4 Cr)			
Free Elective 3 of 5 (3 Cr)	Free Elective 4 of 5 (3 Cr)	Free Elective 5 of 5 (3 Cr)	SDP Elective 3 of 4 (Lower-level) (min 3 Cr)*	SDP Elective 4 of 4 (Lower-level) (min 3 Cr)*						
min Cr	17	17	18	18	17	15	4	14	9	129
Legends	Liberal Core* (9 courses)	Program Core (9 courses)	SDP lower-level elective (4 courses)*	SDP upper-level elective (2 courses)	Research Seminar (1 course)	SDP elective/ Thesis (IS) (1 course)	Feld Practicum (1 course)	Language (3 courses)	Free Elective (5 courses or 15 total credits)	AHSS Breadth Elective (2 courses or 6 total credits)*

*SDP 202 Quantitative Research Methods (fulfills QR FoT) - double counted in HLC, making a total of ten HLC courses

† Students may take 1 Cr and 2 Cr courses to fulfill but must take a minimum of 15 Cr in Free Elective and 6 Cr in AHSS electives through any combination of 1Cr, 2Cr, 3Cr, or 4Cr courses