

# ONLINE at SOUTHERN MISS

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## GET YOUR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PHD FROM SOUTHERN MISS!



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## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PH.D.

Graduate

Discover the world of International Development with an International Development PhD from Online at Southern Miss. Our online degree program provides students with exceptional instruction in research, analytics, and writing skills. The interaction between our faculty and students in person, as well as those thousands of miles away, makes enduring contributions to the field of International Development.

Most of our convenient and affordable courses offered with the IDV Doctoral Program include the content and academic milestones of a traditional on-campus doctoral program, but in a more flexible, online delivery format. The University of Southern Mississippi has a diverse student body whose membership is drawn from across the United States and around the world. Experience the world while obtaining your International Development PhD through Online at Southern Miss. This is your life, plus college.

## COURSES

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### REQUIRED (CORE) COURSES (54 HOURS):

Course	Credits
International Development Theory	3 hrs.
Research Design	3 hrs.
Statistical Methods in International Development Research	3 hrs.
Qualitative Methods	3 hrs.
Major Emphasis Area	12 hrs.
Minor Emphasis Area	9 hrs.
Electives	9 hrs.
Dissertation Research	12 hrs.

### INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT EMPHASIS AREAS

#### Economic Development

Course	Credits
Globalization	3 hrs.
International Political Economy	3 hrs.
International Development Statistics II	3 hrs.

International Development Finance	3 hrs.
Economics for International Development	3 hrs.
Comparative International Economic Development	3 hrs.
International Economics	3 hrs.
Political Economy of Middle East and North Africa	3 hrs.
Political Economy of the Global Oil Market	3 hrs.

### Political Development

Course	Credits
International Political Economy	3 hrs.
International Law and Organization	3 hrs.
Comparative International Political Development	3 hrs.
Institutions in Development	3 hrs.
Nation/State Building	3 hrs.
Political Economy of Global Climate Change	3 hrs.
Ethnic Conflict and Civil War	3 hrs.
Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare	3 hrs.

### Security Studies

<b>Course</b>	<b>Credits</b>
U.S. National Security Policy	3 hrs.
Ethnic Conflict and Civil War	3 hrs.
International Security	3 hrs.
Seminar in Homeland Security	3 hrs.
Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare	3 hrs.

### **Social/Cultural Development**

<b>Course</b>	<b>Credits</b>
Globalization	3 hrs.
Field Research in International Development	3 hrs.
International Development Finance (1-6 hrs.)	1 hrs.
Comparative International Cultural Development	3 hrs.
Institutions in Development	3 hrs.
Nation/State Building	3 hrs.
Political Economy of Global Climate Change	3 hrs.

## ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

### Research Tool(s)

Students satisfy research tool requirements by:

1. completion of required coursework
2. demonstration of international competency through one of the following: oral exam, and written exam
3. successful completion of professional competency experiences to include a) submission of a publishable peer-reviewed article or book chapter, b) presentation of a research paper at a national or international academic conference.

### Residency

Students must meet the residency requirements specified in this *Bulletin*.

**Continuous Enrollment Requirement:** Students must meet the requirement specified in the front section of this *Bulletin*.

### ADDITIONAL NOTE

Please note that the above information is meant to be a guide and is not official. For further information regarding courses for this degree, see the University Bulletin.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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### **+ How long does it take to complete the International Development Doctoral program?**

This is typically a 3-year program if a student is going full time (12 credit hours per semester) with 2 years of coursework and 1 year completing a dissertation. Most students are full-time working professionals and opt to take 6 credit hours per semester (part-time) and complete in 4-5 years.

### **+ What is the minimum number of hours I need to enroll in each semester?**

A student must be enrolled in a minimum of 3.0 credit hours each semester (excluding summer) in order to stay active in the program. Most classes are 3.0 credit hours a term.

**+ How are the synchronous courses structured?**

Synchronous courses are held on the computer using specialized software that allows the class and professor to interact with each other. They are generally held one time a week at either 5:00 pm CST or 7:00 pm CST for two hours per class. Classes generally held on Monday, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

**+ What is the complete cost of the program, and how do I find out about financial aid?**

The program costs include in state tuition, an IDV program fee, and cost associated with books, materials, supplies and travel and lodging associated with the in person sessions. For more **pricing** information, [click here](#). For **financial aid** information, [click here](#). For detailed **tuition** information, [click here](#).

**+ Are there assistantships available within the program?**

Yes, there are a limited number of graduate assistantships available in the program. They are awarded on a competitive basis. An assistantship includes a tuition waiver and a monetary stipend. If you are interested in applying for an assistantship you need to include a memo stating that fact in your application packet to the program. Students are eligible to apply for assistantship positions once the IDV core courses are complete and the Qualifying Exam is passed. Assistantships require 20 hours a week of time from the part of the student.

**+ Do you need to live in Mississippi to qualify for an assistantship?**

No, Students need not live in Mississippi in order to hold a graduate assistantship. Generally if the student lives out of state, they perform research for the program. Students are required to work 20 hours per week on their assistantship.

**+ What is the GPA required for acceptance into the program?**

A 3.5 on a 4.0 scale is required to be eligible for regular admission into the program. A student may be accepted into the program conditionally with a 3.25 GPA.

**+ What GRE/GMAT score is required for acceptance into the program?**

We do not have a minimum score for the GRE or GMAT. Instead the application review committee reviews the whole application portfolio for admission. We encourage students to submit the strongest application possible including GRE/GMAT scores, letters of recommendation, research statement, and all other materials.

**+ Can I enroll in courses if I have not been accepted into the program?**

No. We currently do not allow anyone who has not been accepted into the program enroll in International Development courses. If you are interested in getting a feel for the program, please feel free to join us for an In-Person Session in Long Beach, Mississippi. You may contact Annette Copeland for more information.

**+ Is it possible to have the In-Person Sessions waived?**

No, the In-Person Sessions are vital to each of the International Development courses and Ph.D. level program work. In-Person sessions allow for students and professors to meet on a face to face basis. Students and graduates of the program talk about how invaluable the In-Person sessions are/were to their development into a scholar. It would be a disservice to the student and the professors not to have this requirement.

**+ How many letters of recommendation are required to apply to the program?**

At least three letters of recommendation are required in order to apply to the program. We request that two of the three letters originate in academia, specifically from a professor who has had you in their class.

**+ I have been out of graduate school for a while. What do I do if I am unable to get letters of recommendation from my former professors?**

Professors do change universities and retire, but the department can often give you a forwarding address so that you may contact them. If you are unable to contact any of your former professors, contact your former department and request them to write a letter of recommendation based upon your transcripts.

**+ My Master's degree is not from one of the disciplines listed on the**

**International Development website. Can I still apply to the program?**

Yes, you may still apply to the program. It is important that you have research interests that can be justified in the International Development setting and that you have a strong research background. In short, the burden is on the applicant to show knowledge and past research experience on how this makes a good “fit” into the program.

**+ How many people have graduated from the program?**

The program is entering its sixteenth year of existence and we are proud to have over 40 graduates who have entered a variety of fields (data as of June 2015).

**+ Is the program accredited?**

The University of Southern Mississippi is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), the accreditation association for our region. Our program does not have accreditation since we are interdisciplinary in nature and no such agency exists to accredit such programs. Most social science programs do not have accrediting agencies associated with as business schools and nursing programs do.

**+ Where can I find more information about the program?**

You can find more information about the International Development program at <http://www.usm.edu/gulfcoast/international-development-doctoral-program>. You may also contact the International Development Program Coordinator, Annette Copeland at [Annette.Copeland@usm.edu](mailto:Annette.Copeland@usm.edu).

**+ What are the career options with a PhD in International Development?**

Most of our students are working professionals who opted to take the career route after their Bachelors and/or Masters degree(s). The path they did not follow was the path to a PhD. The International Development Doctoral program now offers that road open again to these people. Our graduates leverage their interdisciplinary social science degree in a number of ways including: promotion within their existing organization, an opportunity to change careers, a method to become a professor in a college or university, or to begin a consulting business.

**+ What happens if I need to take a semester off from school?**



The faculty of the International Development program understand that our students often have full time jobs and other responsibilities that may conflict with them being enrolled in the program. In order to fulfill the requirement of being continuously enrolled in the program, the department allows the student to enroll in three credit hours for the semester that they wish to sit out. Failure to enroll in at least 3.0 credit hours per required semester (spring and fall) results in being dropped from the program.

**+ When are admission deadlines?**

The deadline for fall semester admission is May 15th and the deadline for the spring semester admission is October 15th.

**+ What other online degrees are offered by Online at Southern Miss?**

Please visit our programs page here: <https://online.usm.edu/programs/>

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## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

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The International Development (IDV) Doctoral (Ph.D.) Program accepts applications for both fall and spring admission. The deadline for the fall semester is May 15 of that year and the deadline for the spring semester is the October 15 of the previous year. Decisions on acceptance and non-acceptance are based on the applicant's completed application file. All materials will be reviewed following the application deadline. Applicants will be notified once a decision has been made.

Note that the University's Graduate Bulletin requires candidates for admission into doctoral programs to present a graduate-level grade point average of not less than 3.25 on a 4.00 scale. We cannot admit students whose GPA falls below this requirement.

Admissions are competitive.

A completed application must include each of the following items.

1. Graduate School Application, including a \$60 application fee.
2. GRE or GMAT scores. We require the official scores from Educational Testing Service (ETS), [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org).

3. Three Letters of Recommendation, at least two from professors who know your work and the final one from a professor or professional who knows you.
4. Current resume/Curriculum Vitae.
5. Research Statement of 1500-2000 words explaining your research interests and how your interests fit within the program's research teams and faculty.
6. Research Paper or professional writing sample.
7. Undergraduate Transcript(s).
8. Masters Transcript(s).

All application materials are to be submitted online at the website for Graduate Admissions: <https://www.usm.edu/graduate-school/apply-graduate-school>

You will be asked to create an account where you will be able to log in at any time to update your application, upload documents and to check on the status of your application.

Students interested in financial aid should consult the following website: <http://www.usm.edu/financialaid/>

Students interested in applying for a graduate assistantship or if you have additional questions concerning the admissions process, please contact the IDV Recruiter/Program Coordinator:

Annette Copeland  
Program Coordinator  
International Development Doctoral Program  
College of Arts and Letters

The University of Southern Mississippi, Gulf Coast  
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Long Beach, MS 39560  
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AA/EOE/ADA

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