

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM PROPOSAL

I. Title of Program and College Responsible for Administering the Certificate

Certificate in Comparative Development
College of Liberal Arts
Department of Urban Affairs and Geography

II. Objectives

Need

All nations are experiencing significant change brought on by economic globalization, the growth of democratic systems, and the evolving information age. Metropolitan areas are trying to respond to these forces through new trade and workforce programs, strategic public-private partnerships, and sometimes significant redesign of government. For example, the International Development Council has created special training courses for professionals that address economic globalization issues such as brownfields, technology led development, and business retention and expansion. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development strongly encouraged recipients of Community Planning and Development funds to adopt a performance measurement system. Performance measurement is a means of focusing government on outcomes rather than outputs. A final example is illustrated by the International City/County Management Association which created programs to link USA local administrators and political leaders with developing nations and former centrally controlled nations such as Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia.

This change calls for knowledge of political affairs, public administration, business, economics and intercultural communications. Currently, no academic program at Wright State brings these elements together in a global context.

The Certificate in Comparative Development

The Comparative Development Certificate provides core competencies in management and administrative principles, techniques for communicating vision and mission, and public sector strategies for organizing and implementing continuous improvement. Certificate courses engage students in studies that produce a basic knowledge of metropolitan development that is shaped by global events and local, national and international public and private institutions. Development is defined as metropolitan public sector policies, operations and programs that involve relations with other metropolitan areas worldwide. Relations may be government to government, or government to business. The certificate would be attractive to individuals working for the public sector, to individuals working with development organizations (private and public nonprofits), and to individuals who plan to work in the private sector positions involving relations with metropolitan governments.

The certificate coursework concerns basic principles of development, administration and evolving public-private partnerships and institutional change. Learning is enhanced by a combined research and internship course that requires students to apply their knowledge to current development projects in the region.

The certificate is designed to allow for students involved in international exchange programs to participate in courses taken abroad (please see Attachment 1). In turn, students from abroad may complete courses at Wright State University that apply towards a certificate at their home university.

Program Objectives

- Provide students interdisciplinary knowledge related to publicly guided development programs involving metropolitan areas worldwide;
- Develop analytical skills necessary for drafting strategies for metropolitan areas that respond to “sea” change driven by the information age and global economy; and
- Develop an understanding of communications across cultural and national boundaries.

Learning Objectives

- Learn how institutional structures such as government, citizenship, and business affect development practices;
- Compare and contrast political and social values and understand how differences in values impact administrative functions of planning, economic development, management and communications;
- Understand how economic globalization, technological change, demographic migration and immigration, expanding market economies, and increasing democracy are transforming urban regions;
- Analyze development practices of various metropolitan areas throughout the world to gain an understanding of best practices for improving governance;
- Learn how global economic change affects business management and public administration principles; and
- Become familiar with communication and management/administrative techniques for leading organizations and communities through economic and government change.

III. Program Description

The Certificate in Comparative Development is an interdisciplinary program focused on development related to economic globalization, technological change, new patterns of immigration and migration, and expanding market and democratic principles. Development concerns investments, programs, policies, innovations, and changes in public and private sectors. Students will gain an understanding of the intersection of the public and private sectors in a cross-national context.

The focus of the certificate is on the role of metropolitan regions as competitive global centers and the role of the public sector in developing quality living environments. The certificate provides core competencies in management and administrative principles, techniques for communicating vision and mission, and public sector strategies for organizing and implementing continuous improvement.

IV. Admissions Requirements

To be admitted in the certificate program students need to meet the following qualifications:

- Junior or senior standing;
- Completion of Area II, III and IV general education requirements;
- Concentration or major study area in public administration, political science, business or communication;
- Foreign language proficiency of 202 level or greater; and
- 3.0 grade point average.

V. Program Requirements

Students are required to complete 23 hours of coursework. Eleven hours are required courses and twelve hours are selected to meet student career goals. For students studying abroad, or for other special cases, course equivalencies may be considered.

Required Courses (11 credit hours)

URS 200 (4 hours) Growth and Change in Urban Society. Description: An interdisciplinary view of growth and change in urban societies around the globe. Case studies illustrate how urbanization, technology development and the administrative state intertwine and affect economic and population growth and change.

URS 423 (4 hours) Issues in Urban Administration: Comparative Public Administration. Description: Explores issues and topics related to the administration of urban nonprofit organizations, community development agencies, and local governments. *Comparative Public Administration* is one of several courses listed as URS 423. *Comparative Public Administration* focuses on public sector involvement in metropolitan development in the USA and around the world. Students compare public administration in a cross section of industrial-democratic nations (e.g. USA, Germany and Sweden), new industrial-centrally controlled nations (e.g. China) and nations transforming both their economies and governance (Bulgaria and Romania). Special emphasis is placed on economic globalization.

URS 490 (3 hours) Special Topics: Comparative Development. Advanced study in selected topics in urban studies. Topics may include new developments in methodology or various subfields of the discipline. *Comparative Development* is the special topic of this course. Students complete a 100 hour internship with a

development organization in the region. In addition, students complete a research paper comparing development practices in the region (learned through the internship and classes) with development practices of a metropolitan area in another nation (learned through research and contacts provided by the University Center for International Education). The final requirement of the course is met when students present the results of their paper in a student symposium comprised of students in the certificate program, faculty, UCIE, and internship hosts.

Selected Courses (12 credit hours, but at least 4 credit hours must be an EC course)

COM 457 (4 credit hours) Intercultural Communication Study of communications in intercultural environments. Emphasis on research and theory to better understand the complexity of intercultural communication interactions.

EC 310 (4 credit hours) The Global Economy Explores how the global economic environment affects business decisions and how these decisions affect the economy of host and source countries. Analyzes the impact of international trade, foreign direct investment, and global monetary systems. Prerequisite: EC 204 and 205 or equivalent.

EC 330 (4 credit hours) Urban Economic Problems and Prospects Analysis of economic processes that influence urban economic conditions, population movements, economic problems facing metropolitan areas, and alternative problem-solving techniques.

EC 435 (4 credit hours) Comparative Capitalist Institutions Compares economic institutions of industrialized countries including newly industrialized countries (NICs). Addresses such issues as industrial relations, role of state, methods of corporate finance, and social safety nets. Prerequisite: EC 204 and 205 or permission of instructor.

EC 440 (4 credit hours) Regional Economic Growth and Change Regional economic analysis in a policy and planning context. Interdisciplinary approach to analyze the economics of location, inter-regional trade, regional development, urban regions, and growth strategies.

EC 444 (4 credit hours) Problems of Economic Development and Transition This course explores the problems of economic development in the third world and in economies in transition from socialism. Topics include hunger, unemployment, environmental degradation, privatization, gender and ethnicity. Prerequisite: EC 204 and 205 or permission of instructor.

IB 201 (4 credit hours) Introduction to International Business and Trade Survey of international business and trade functions and processes. The course is designed to familiarize individuals with the fundamental principles and practices of international trade management. Open only to non-business majors.

MGT 485 (4 credit hours) International Management Studies fundamental concepts of international management and examines cultural, institutional, behavioral, and management systems and their operation in the international sphere. Prerequisite: MGT 304.

PLS 360 (4 hours) Politics of Developing Nations Comparative analysis of various problems, particularly political, confronting developing nations in nation building and development.

VI. Program Quality

The certificate is designed to give students a broad view of global change in metropolitan areas (URS 200), and then to build on this knowledge in other core and elective courses. Student learning is applied through a modified internship (Department internships are 200 hours) and research project (URS 490). Students (completing the certificate), faculty and host agencies participate in a student symposium presenting the results of their internship/research. The range of electives (200, 300 and 400 level courses) allows students to enhance their major studies and gain specific knowledge of development in a global market place.

VII. Student Performance

Students are expected to earn a grade of “C” or better for all courses comprising the certificate.

VIII. Curriculum Coordination

The Certificate in Comparative Development has been reviewed by Political Science, Communication and Business/Economics (please see Attachment 2). All three units and Urban Affairs & Geography are partners in the Regional Educational Network between the European Union and the United States that created the impetus for this certificate. The University Center for International Education also encouraged and supports the certificate (please see Attachment 3). Finally, as per bylaws, Department faculty approved the certificate.

IX. Resource Coordination

No new courses have been added; therefore, no additional resources are required.

X. Program Staffing

The certificate does not require additional courses or staffing. Students use electives or add courses to complete the program. Staffing comprises those assigned to teach the courses listed in the certificate by their departments in any given year.

ATTACHMENT 1

ATTACHMENT 2

ATTACHMENT 3