

MA in Global Inclusion and Social Development

...a degree program focusing on health and wellness, social opportunity, and economic development from a global perspective. Our students train to support groups of people who are often excluded from communities in the US and abroad.

The Program

The Global Inclusion and Social Development (GISD) MA focuses on wellness, education, and social and economic development from a global perspective. Our program focuses on the needs of populations who are excluded for reasons of gender, age, ethnicity, religion, disability, socio-economic conditions, or other aspects of identity.

GISD master's students will gain:

- Transdisciplinary understanding of the interrelationships among health, wellness, and social and economic development with a focus on excluded populations.
- Ability to think critically and creatively in order to respond to societal challenges worldwide.
- Skills in research methodology, research execution, and the translation and application of research to policy and practice, coupled with an ability to apply research to community-based training and capacity building through program development, implementation, and evaluation.
- Solution-based leadership that combines cross-cultural competency, adaptability, and flexibility to draw from diverse perspectives and adjust to varied contexts.
- Preparation for careers as researchers, policy makers, program analysts, and top-level staff in public and nonprofit sectors.

Concentrations

GISD offers a variety of concentration options to meet the many interests of our diverse student body. The concentration is a required component (15 credits) of our degree program. Our concentration tracks offer students the opportunity to gain increased specialization within a particular area of interest. Students may also choose to elect our individualized plan of study option and create their own specific track related to the field of global inclusion and social development. This is a unique way for students to further define what inclusion means for them, and develop a series of coursework around that vision.

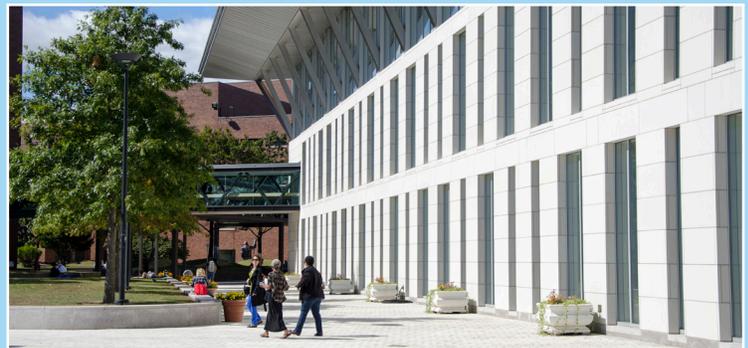
Concentrations include:

- Individualized Plan of Study
- Human Rights
- Nonprofit Management
- Disability Studies
- Gerontology
- Transnational, Cultural, and Community Studies

For more information on our concentrations, please visit www.umb.edu/sgisd

Coursework in these additional areas may be taken in other departments across the university and offer a further opportunity for transdisciplinary study.

Core courses for MA in Global Inclusion and Social Development		
Program of Study	Courses	Credits
REQUIRED CORE COURSES (12 CREDITS)		
GISD 601	Current and Historical Perspectives on Global Inclusion and Social Development	3
GISD 605	International Responses to Social Inclusion	3
GISD 606	Research and Evaluation in Diverse Settings: Methods and Implications	3
GISD 801 or 802	Innovations Seminar (801: International Innovation OR 802: Domestic Innovation)	3
ELECTIVE CORE COURSES (choose 3 of the following for a total of 9 credits)		
GISD 608	Ethics and Professionalism in Global Inclusion	3
GISD 609	Cultural Competency: Impacts on Innovations and Model Development	3
GISD 610	Strategies for Systemic Change	3
GISD 611	Managing Change: Supporting Communities and Embracing Cultures	3
GISD 615	Leadership in Global Inclusion	3
GISD 616	Population Needs and Global Practices	3
Core Course Credits: 21 Concentration Course Credits: 15 Total Degree Credits: 36		



ABOUT UMASS BOSTON

The University of Massachusetts Boston is deeply rooted in the city's history, yet poised to address the challenges of the future. Recognized for innovative research, metropolitan Boston's public university offers its diverse student population both an intimate learning environment and the rich experience of a great American city. UMass Boston's 10 colleges and graduate schools serve more than 16,000 students while engaging local and global constituents through academic programs, research centers, and public service. To learn more, visit www.umb.edu.

Core Course Descriptions

GISD 601, Current and Historical Perspectives on Global Inclusion & Social Development

Students will examine the concepts of social inclusion and social development, current approaches to these concepts, and policy and practice implications. Upon course completion, students will be able to apply these concepts to particular policy areas including disability, health, the labor market, and economic policy affecting particular communities, countries, or regions.

GISD 605, International Responses to Social Inclusion

This course will strengthen students' knowledge of international organizations' approaches and strategies in response to pressing societal issues and crisis, and their impact on cross-cultural communities, vulnerable populations, and social inclusion. A particular emphasis is placed on the role of the United Nations and nongovernmental organizations in promoting and implementing the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

GISD 606, Research and Evaluation in Diverse Settings: Methods and Implications

This introduction to quantitative and qualitative research methods and program evaluation emphasizes cultural diversity and its implications for design and methods choices, as well as stakeholder participation. The course introduces students to the scientific method, the research process, and the role of ethics in conducting human subjects research.

GISD 608, Ethics and Professionalism in Global Inclusion and Social Development

Students will examine ethical standards and codes that guide professional practice and conduct. They will learn the influence of ethics on organizational strategies, national priorities and policies, and relationships among international bodies. The course will teach students strategies and techniques to identify and help address ethical issues in practice, research, and evaluation in a variety of contexts and settings. Students can choose to take this course or Cultural Competency: Impacts on Innovations and Model Development.

GISD 609, Cultural Competency: Impacts on Innovations and Model Development

This course introduces students to the concepts of culture and cultural competency, and examines the impact of cultural differences on inclusion and exclusion. Students build knowledge and leadership skills in cross-cultural communication, conflict resolution, and organizational capacity building, and learn cultural competency models. Students can choose to take this course or Ethics and Professionalism in Global Inclusion and Social Development.

GISD 610, Strategies for Systemic Change

Students will learn organizational systems theory, including the nature of change and the change process. Through case studies, they will learn approaches to and strategies for engaging stakeholders in the change process, as well as planning, implementing, and evaluating systemic change. They will also consider the role of culture on systemic change efforts and implications for change agents and practitioners. Students can choose to take this course or Managing Change: Supporting Communities and Embracing Cultures.

GISD 611, Managing Change: Supporting Communities and Embracing Cultures

Students will learn to assess communities' needs and abilities for change and evaluate change efforts, emphasizing stakeholder involvement, considering cultural, racial, ethnic, and socio-economic make-up. Students can choose to take this course or Strategies for Systemic Change.

GISD 615, Leadership in Global Inclusion & Social Development

Students will examine the impact of personal values, beliefs, communication styles, and experiences on leadership. They will learn leadership theory, approaches to leadership development, and leader roles and responsibilities (including ethical and socially responsible leadership). They will learn to assess their leadership style through self-reflection, and develop lifelong professional development skills. Students can choose to take this course or Population Needs and Global Practices.

GISD 616, Population Needs and Global Practices

This course introduces students to the concept of population and related theories, and reviews major trends in world population changes. It also examines how to address population needs with respect to policy, strategy, and practice. Particular emphasis is placed on population changes and needs related to youth, aging, health and disability. Students can choose to take this course or Leadership in Global Inclusion and Social Development.

GISD 801, Innovations Seminar—International Innovation

This seminar series exposes students to international leaders seeking to improve inclusion as well as social and economic development opportunities for all—particularly for vulnerable and diverse populations—through innovations and model development in policy and practice. This will be achieved by inviting these leaders (in person or via teleconference) as guest speakers to the seminars as well as students working on proposals for international entities to help address challenges identified by the NGO. Seminars are aimed at engaging leaders in the fields of disability, health and wellness, education, community and workforce development, international cooperation and development, public policy, administration and other fields.

GISD 802, Innovations Seminar—Domestic Innovation

This course will expose students to local and national leaders seeking to improve inclusion as well as social and economic development opportunities for all—particularly for vulnerable and diverse populations—through innovations and model development in policy and practice. This will be achieved by inviting these leaders as guest speakers to the seminars and working in conjunction with local NGOs to identify areas of need and develop a plan for community-engaged activity. Each student will work with an NGO of their choice throughout the semester.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must submit an application, official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate records, GRE scores, TOEFL/IELTS scores (or international applicants), three letters of recommendation, a CV or resume, and a statement of purpose. Applicants must address their reasons for pursuing graduate study and their post-MA professional goals in their statement (up to 1,500 words).

Minimum requirements for the master's program include a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university or international equivalent, and a minimum grade-point average (GPA) of 3.0 (any courses). Official GRE verbal and quantitative scores are required.*

APPLICATIONS FOR SPRING SEMESTER ARE DUE BY NOV. 1.

APPLICATIONS FOR FALL SEMESTER ARE DUE BY APRIL 1.

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THESE DATES WILL BE REVIEWED FOR ADMISSION ON A SPACE AVAILABLE BASIS.

* Candidates who already possess a post-BA-level advanced degree at the time of admissions are not required to submit GRE scores with their application.

People with disabilities should contact us by email (sgisd@umb.edu) or phone (617-287-3070) for information on receiving specific testing accommodations, and for all other admission-related inquiries.

Graduation Requirements

The 36-credit MA in Global Inclusion and Social Development will be awarded to students who complete 21 credits of core requirements, 15 credits in a concentration area, and submit a final written and oral presentation capstone.

Program completion:

The MA in Global Inclusion and Social Development can be completed on a part-time or full-time basis.

Financial assistance

Students are encouraged to explore the various funding options listed at umb.edu/sgisdfunding. SGISD is a proud partner of the Paul D. Coverdell Fellowship program for qualifying Peace Corps applicants. For more information, contact sgisd@umb.edu.

Financial aid is also available in the form of student loans. Please contact the financial aid office at UMass Boston directly for more information on student loan programs.

www.umb.edu/globalinclusion

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