Graduate Program in Professional Studies (GPPS)

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5300. Independent Study

Variable (1-3) credits. Prerequisite: Instructor consent.

Independent study in a topic related to the graduate program in Professional Studies as designated and approved by the instructor assigned to oversee and grade the project.

5301. Special Topics in Professional Studies

Variable (1-3) credits. Prerequisite: Instructor consent. May be repeated for a maximum of six credits with a change of content.

The instructor assigned will designate the special topics related to the graduate program in Professional Studies and oversee and grade students' work in the course.

5325. Issues in Economic Development

Three credits.

Economic, social, and demographic change in those countries comprising the less wealthy regions of the South. It examines development from linear (neoclassical), structuralist (political economy), and other perspectives, and emphasizes relationships between "advanced" and "developing" countries within the context of the global economy. In addition to theoretical grounding, the course provides practice in preparing development profiles of individual countries.

5347. Program Evaluation

Three credits.

Application of the methods of science to the assessment of social programs. Here a social program refers to organized, goal-directed activities designed to address a social problem. The goal of this course is to provide you, the student, with enough skill that you are able to design and implement evaluations of programs. The extent to which you are able to do this without assistance reflects largely your familiarity with scientific methods. Some of the more technical forms of impact studies may require additional study, or assistance from consultants.

5352. Systemic Analysis

Three credits. Prerequisite: Instructor consent.

Provides students with a foundational understanding of the complex and dynamic relations between issues and the systems that cause them. Systemic analysis trains students to understand in the operational dynamics of the social and structural dimensions of a society or group.

5357. Quantitative Analysis

Three credits.

Develop skills necessary to understand and utilize research based on quantitative methods while building fundamental skills in quantitative analysis. Includes basic univariate statistics, bivariate statistics and basic multivariate statistics including basic analysis of variance and basic multiple regression analysis. Stresses the use of Microsoft Excel for performing statistical analysis.

5361. Strategic Staffing and Talent Management

Three credits.

This course presents the theoretical frameworks and practical tactics for the acquisition, deployment, and retention of the talent necessary to achieve the strategic and tactical objectives of the business. Topics will include strategic staffing, human resource planning, recruitment, assessment, selection decision-making strategies, succession planning and retention strategies. The importance of linking staffing and talent management to business strategies, objectives, and competitive challenges will be emphasized.

5389. MPS Internship

Three credits. Prerequisite: Open only to students enrolled in the Master of Professional Studies degree program; instructor consent required.

The internship will provide professional experience in the student's field of study in a private or public organization. Students will select the organization and specific internship position with the approval of the major advisor. Students will be expected to perform professional duties for a minimum of 160 hours during the semester. Prior to the beginning of the internship, student will develop a set of professional objectives for the internship experience. Students will maintain a log of experiences and activities during the internship. At the conclusion of the internship, students will write a paper evaluating the experience gained in light of the stated objectives.

5395. MPS Residency Program

Zero credits. Prerequisite or corequisite: GPPS 5397; instructor consent required.

The Master of Professional Studies (MPS) program requires students to complete a professional residency. The residency is a milestone towards the completion of the MPS degree. Consistent with the criteria for the MPS Capstone Project, each residency will be subject to the approval of the student's advisory committee. Appropriate residencies are those designed to: (a) provide students with an opportunity to develop a sense of affiliation and identification with the program and the university; (b) provide students with an opportunity for scholarly dialogue related to their capstone project; or (c) provide students with an opportunity for professional socialization by developing relationships with peers, faculty, and practitioners in the field. Examples of appropriate residencies include but are not limited to sessions at the Storrs campus, attendance and participation in approved regional national or international professional conferences.

5397. MPS Capstone Project

Variable (3-6) credits. Prerequisite: Open only to students enrolled in the Master of Professional Studies degree program; instructor consent required. May be repeated for a maximum of six credits.

Towards the end of the M.P.S. program, students will select, with faculty approval, a topic for a major project that demonstrates the student's ability to define, analyze, synthesize, evaluate, and recommend actions or solutions to deal with a major issue, problem, or opportunity within the field of study. Capstone Projects may include job-related field projects, integrative analyses of professional literature, and comprehensive project proposals for adoption by third parties. In all cases, the Capstone Project is intended to demonstrate an extensive understanding of the topic area selected, the ability to develop and integrative and systemic analysis of a problem, and the ability to identify appropriate solutions and recommendations. A written report documenting all aspects of the project will be presented for faculty approval.