

# SUSTAINABLE PEACEBUILDING, MSP

The School of Nursing offers an interdisciplinary professional graduate degree program leading to a Master of Sustainable Peacebuilding (MSP). The MSP is designed to prepare students for careers in peacebuilding—e.g. international development, community change, conflict resolution, resource stewardship. The MSP curriculum is designed to develop student expertise in systems thinking, social-ecological interactions, and the application of such concepts to peacebuilding and development fields. MSP students complete 40 credits of interactive coursework with practice-based learning opportunities. In the last semester, MSP students fulfill Graduate School master's degree requirements (<http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/masters-requirements/>) by completing a capstone (paper, presentation, & portfolio). MSP offers a two-year or three-year program of study.

Students completing the MSP will:

- Classify the various components of complex social-ecological systems and identify appropriate intervention strategies.
- Recognize patterns of human-environment interaction, including drivers of change resulting in conflict, development, and peacebuilding.
- Acquire critical knowledge across multiple disciplines relevant to development and peacebuilding and relate and translate knowledge among the disciplines.
- Facilitate effective group problem-solving processes, which includes communicating confidently and effectively to diverse audiences.
- Assess systemic outcomes of peacebuilding programs and policies and recommend adaptive modifications for improvement.

## Admission Requirements

### Application Deadlines

Application deadlines vary by program, please review the application deadline chart (<http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/program-deadlines/>) for specific programs. Other important dates and deadlines can be found by using the One Stop calendars (<https://uwm.edu/onestop/dates-and-deadlines/>).

### Admission

The Master of Sustainable Peacebuilding admits students to begin in fall semester only. Applicants must satisfy Graduate School requirements (<http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/admission/>) for admission as well as provide the following materials:

1. Two letters of recommendation from persons familiar with the applicant's academic or professional work, preferably one academic and one professional recommendation.
2. A writing sample that demonstrates the applicant's critical thinking, research, and writing skills as well as the applicant's ability to think across disciplines.
3. A current resume that clearly articulates the applicant's professional, international, and intercultural experiences as well as language exposure and proficiencies.

Please check the MSP Website (<http://www4.uwm.edu/lets/msp/>) for up-to-date information on eligibility, application requirements, and deadlines.

## Credits and Courses

40 credits are required for the MSP degree, distributed as follows:

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Core</b>		
MSP 760	The Politics and Policy of Sustainability	3
MSP 761	Complex Human-Environmental Interactions	3
MSP 770	Preparing for Sustainable Peacebuilding and Social Change	3
MSP 771	Holistic Peacebuilding Practice	3
MSP 785	Fundamentals of Project Management for Sustainable Peacebuilding	2
MSP 786	Reflective Practice in Sustainable Peacebuilding	3
<b>Core Seminars and Workshops</b>		
MSP 780	Transdisciplinary Research Methods and Information Literacy	3
MSP 781	Innovation, Evaluation, and Adaptive Management	3
MSP 790	Negotiation and Group Problem Solving Skills	3
MSP 791	Leadership and Program Management for Sustainable Peacebuilding	3
<b>Electives</b>		
Select 9 credits in consultation with advisor(s); each course should fit into one of the following content areas:		9
Public and Environmental Health		
Ecosystem Services and Resource Stewardship		
Political Economy		
Human Security and Development		
Language and Culture		
Religion and Belief Systems		
Governance and Policy		
<b>Independent Study</b>		
Students may register for the following with approval from the supervising faculty member and the student's faculty advisor:		
MSP 799	Independent Study	
<b>Fieldwork</b>		
Select one of the following for a fieldwork experiences: <sup>1</sup>		2
MSP 797	Study Abroad	
MSP 798	Internship in Sustainable Peacebuilding	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>40</b>

<sup>1</sup> Students will complete a fieldwork experience, locally in Milwaukee, elsewhere in the U.S., or abroad. The program is designed so that students will complete fieldwork during one summer semester. Students will engage in work that focuses on a pertinent issue in the broader context of peacebuilding, e.g. food security, water conflict, public health, etc. Students will select from current MSP projects, or develop their own projects.

## **Additional Requirements**

### **Advising**

As specified in the regulations of the Graduate School, a major professor will be assigned to every person enrolled in the program to advise and supervise his or her work. Students may request a specific faculty advisor who aligns with their research and professional interests, if desired; however, fulfillment of such requests are not guaranteed.

### **Master's Paper**

All students must prepare and orally defend a final master's paper following the second summer internship (due in July of graduation year). The master's paper—an "Integrative Synthesis"—will reflect upon a student's breadth of experiences during the MSP program, and clearly demonstrate a student's ability to formulate an argument, analyze data, systematically present results, and show familiarity with relevant scholarship. The paper will be a critical discussion of core MSP concepts as they relate to peacebuilding, based upon a student's coursework and, primarily, professional experiences. Each student, throughout the course of study, will keep a portfolio containing items such as coursework, internship evaluations, and additional elements to help guide the paper. To ensure students are progressing such that they will be successful in their final papers and presentations, the faculty advisor and MSP program coordinator will assess with each student his/her portfolio periodically during the course of study to address deficiencies and advise the student regarding appropriate adjustments.

### **Transfer Credits**

Individuals with prior graduate coursework may receive permission to count up to 9 credits of that work toward the Master of Sustainable Peacebuilding if the Advisory Committee accepts the courses as relevant to the program of study and if the courses meet Graduate School requirements for transfer. Sustainable Peacebuilding core breadth courses, seminars, and the summer field internships must be taken at UWM.

### **Time Limit**

All degree requirements must be completed within five years of initial enrollment.