

MASTER OF ARTS IN INTERNATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

The field of International Psychology has demonstrated its role within the broader field of psychology since its inception as a scientific discipline in the latter part of the 19th century. The goal of the International Psychology field is to facilitate communication and more importantly, collaboration between professionals working in the psychology and psychology-related fields worldwide, by means of research, scholarship, advocacy, focused pedagogy, and networking. Based on these goals the Master of Arts in International Psychology program was developed. This program brings a unique perspective to global challenges and encourages the promotion of new solutions to the consequences of globalization. The curriculum of this new Masters program includes theoretical psychological concepts from Western and non-Western worldviews to further understand global practices and explore behaviors across cultures and diverse groups. While much of psychological science is still grounded in Western ideas, this program will also promote and integrate in learning outcomes a deep respect for cultural considerations and will teach students the ability to critically evaluate Western and non-Western psychological concepts. Together, the foundation of psychological theories, cultural considerateness, and training in critical thinking, positions this program to integrate international practices with psychological principles to further address global concerns. Throughout the program, students will be encouraged to develop a personal paradigm shaped by universal ethical principles and social justice concepts, to build a fundamental sense of belonging and interconnectedness within the global community. Graduates will be prepared to respond to the needs of present and future demands in the field of International Psychology. This paper will present the background behind the development of this Masters program that is designed to prepare professionals to address global concerns, excel as international leaders, manage trauma and group conflict issues, or advocate for environmental practices that encourage sustainability and survivability.

Keywords: Curriculum Development, International Psychology, Masters Programs.