

Minor Degree Option in Development and Sustainability

1. Introduction

The Development and Sustainability Program (DSP) was launched in August 2019 and has been the largest academic program in terms of student intake within the Department of Development and Sustainability (DDS). Moreover, the DSP students are required to take courses offered by the existing academic programs in the DDS (i.e., GDS, NRM, RRDP, and UEM; hereinafter referred to as “DSP-affiliated APs”) and receive academic and research supervision from the faculty members in the DSP-affiliated APs as well, thereby generating revenue streams for all the DSP-affiliated APs. This phenomenon signifies that the DSP has penetrated into the segment of the markets that were previously untapped. In other words, it revealed adequate demand for studying the general subject of development and sustainability as opposed to specializing in a highly specific discipline, which will cater to career prospects toward becoming general managers in development and sustainability professions.

Given the identified demand in the backdrop, the proposed Minor Degree in Development and Sustainability (DS), designed and offered by the DSP, is intended to access the demand among potential students who are interested in studying general DS to some extent but would choose to major in a different field for their main degree. Therefore, the Minor Degree in DS is expected to make AIT a more attractive option for such applicants than other graduate schools that do not offer a minor degree or secondary specialization in general DS subjects. This may potentially appeal to some external donors as well.

Needless to say, the marginal cost of offering this Minor Degree is negligible as it banks on the existing courses and faculty resources, which adds to the justification for this proposal.

2. Course requirements for the Minor Degree in DSP

For students to qualify for the Minor Degree in DSP, they would need to complete a set of 12 credits as stipulated in Table 1.

Table 1. The requirement for the Minor Degree in Development and Sustainability

Code	Course	Credits	Semester
ED84.01	Public Policy	2 (2-0)	Intersem
ED84.02	Development Economics	2 (2-0)	Fall
ED84.03	Social Impact Assessment	2 (2-0)	Spring
ED52.03	Introduction to Development and Sustainability	2 (2-0)	Fall
Subtotal		8 credits	
Take 2 credits out of the following courses			
ED52.9006	Quantitative Research Methods I	2 (1-2)	Fall
ED52.9007	Quantitative Research Methods II	2 (1.5-1.5)	Fall
ED52.9008	Qualitative Research Methods	2 (1-2)	Spring
Subtotal		2 credits	
Take 2 credits out of the following courses			

ED75.14	Gender and Development: Principles and Concept	2 (2-0)	Fall
ED76.9015	Resources Assessment and Mapping	2 (2-0)	Spring
ED77.21	Development Project Planning and Management	2 (2-0)	Spring
ED79.9013	Urban Resilience Assessment	2 (2-0)	Intersem
Subtotal		2 credits	
Grand total		12 credits	

By the definition and rationale stated in Section 1, this DS Minor Degree option is available only to students enrolled outside the DSP-affiliated programs because it would not add an entirely new specialization for students in the DSP-affiliated programs. More specifically, students enrolled in GDS, NRM, RRDP(DPMI), and UEM(UIS) are not eligible for the Minor Degree in DS. The DPMM (Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation, and Management) program, which belongs to both the DS (SERD) department and CIE (SET) department, is not a DSP-affiliated program. Therefore, students in the DPMM program are eligible for the Minor Degree in DS.

The proposed course requirement is intended to take effect from August 2021 intake, and will be periodically revisited for minor adjustments according to the ongoing reform and recruitment taking place at the DS department.