



# GLOBAL POVERTY & PRACTICE MINOR

# What is the Global Poverty & Practice MINOR?



The GPP Minor is the core academic program of the Blum Center for Developing Economies and serves to further the Center's mission of poverty action. Attracting undergraduate

students from all majors and disciplines, the program introduces students to the theoretical frameworks, methods, and practical skills necessary to engage with global poverty and inequality in imaginative and effective ways.

Given the complexity of global poverty issues and the vigorous debates around poverty alleviation strategies, we aspire to support new generations of innovators, activists, and scholars as they work through their own role and place within these persistent challenges and build the skills and sensibilities capable of addressing these issues.

The practice experience, which takes place either domestically or internationally, is central to this learning process. We invite you to learn more about the program, practice experiences, and alumni reflections by visiting our website: [blumcenter.berkeley.edu/gppminor](http://blumcenter.berkeley.edu/gppminor)

Ananya Roy, Ph.D.  
Professor, City and Regional Planning  
Distinguished Chair in Global Poverty and Practice  
Education Director, Blum Center

## Where are GPP Alumni now?

GPP alumni carry forth their commitment to poverty action in a variety of ways as scholars, professionals, activists, innovators, and more. Each year, these alumni share with us how the Minor has continued to shape their post-graduate life.



**Andrew Flood**  
*Class of 2012*

### Major: History

"The legal research and advocacy work that I did this past year as a Gardner Fellow interning for the Louisiana Capital Assistance Center had its foundations in my practice experience with Georgetown Law Criminal Justice Clinic. I can't imagine how I would have ended up in this field without that experience. The Minor gave me the opportunity and the tools to understand how my personal values could be translated into and reflected in my public service work."

### Pronita Saxena

*Class of 2009*



### Major: Economics

"The work I do now as the Chief Growth Officer for NextDrop in Hubli, India grew directly out of my practice experience in India for HMS and the senior thesis I wrote on how gender and household decision-making structures impacted water treatment behavior among households in Behrampada, a Mumbai slum. In general, I benefited so greatly from how the GPP Minor's interdisciplinary curriculum exposes students to creative leaders in a range of fields addressing development problems."



# Core Requirements

The GPP Minor requires five courses and a practice experience. The three courses listed below must be taken in sequence:

**1) GPP 115: Global Poverty: Challenges & Hopes in the New Millennium** (4 units, Fall)

Students participate in the key theoretical debates about global poverty and inequality. This course introduces students to different models of poverty alleviation, the social and political mobilizations that seek to transform the structures of inequality, and methods for evaluating these models and practices.

**2) GPP 105: The Ethics, Methods & Pragmatics of Global Practice** (4 units, Fall or Spring)

Students engage in discussions and complete assignments that support preparation for their practice experience.

**Practice Experience** (See Reverse)

**3) Capstone Reflection Course**

Students can complete the capstone requirement through either of the following:

**a) GPP 196: Reflection Course/**

**Group Seminar** (3 units, Fall or Spring)

Students reflect on their practice experience and explore how issues of global poverty and inequality will shape their future academic, personal, and career paths.

**b) Complete a Thesis**

A thesis should meaningfully integrate a scholarly, pragmatic, or personal reflection of the student's practice experience as part of a thesis course in his/her major field of study.



## Directed Electives

The two elective courses - one from each theme listed below - must relate to the practice experience:

**Global and Area Studies (1 course)**

This elective provides a foundation for students to understand the history and contemporary politics of poverty and inequality in a particular place or world region in preparation for the practice requirement of the Minor.

**Sectors and Methods (1 course)**

This elective challenges students to closely study and develop skills associated with a specific sector (e.g. education, public health, environmental justice) or method (e.g. government policy, social movements) of poverty action.

**Examples of elective courses that are supported by the Blum Center include:**

Applied Impact Evaluation (Business Administration 196)

Global Health (Public Health 112)

Law and Development (Legal Studies 158)

Water and Development (Energy & Resources Group 175)

Wealth and Poverty (Public Policy C103)

The complete list of approved elective courses is on the Global Poverty and Practice Minor website.

\* Students in most colleges are limited to overlapping one course between their major and minor. To overlap more than one course, check with a major advisor.

For additional information email: [gppminor@berkeley.edu](mailto:gppminor@berkeley.edu)

# Declaring the Minor

There are no prerequisites to declaring the GPP Minor. Students interested in pursuing the Minor must submit a declaration of intent form to the GPP Advising Office. The form can be found at [blumcenter.berkeley.edu/gppminor](http://blumcenter.berkeley.edu/gppminor).

Declaring the Minor allows students to:

- Gain Admission into GPP 105
- Access numerous resources that assist students in selecting a practice experience
- Receive information on events and opportunities relevant to addressing global poverty and inequality

**Declaration Deadline:**  
Fall: October 17, 2013  
Spring: March 5, 2014



Students interested in pursuing the GPP Minor are encouraged to meet with a GPP Peer Advisor to discuss their plans for fulfilling the requirements for the Minor. Drop-in Advising Hours take place during the following times in 100H Blum Hall:

MW 10am - 12pm; 1:30pm - 4pm  
TuTh 1:30pm - 4pm  
Fri: 10am - 12pm

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[gppminor@berkeley.edu](mailto:gppminor@berkeley.edu)

# Practice Experience

A student-arranged “Practice Experience” is the signature element of the GPP Minor, providing an opportunity for students to connect the theory and practice of poverty action. Students gain valuable learning experiences through working with non-governmental organizations, government agencies, social movements, and community projects that focus on various dimensions of poverty action – from community health and food security to economic justice and grassroots political power.

Students are not placed into pre-selected practice experience sites. Instead, the GPP staff and peer advisors provide substantial support to students in finding a meaningful experience that matches their skills and interests.

The Blum Center offers funding support for students’ practice experiences through a competitive fellowship. Read more details on the GPP Minor website.



## #GlobalPOV Project

View the latest series of #GlobalPOV videos at [blumcenter.berkeley.edu/globalpov](http://blumcenter.berkeley.edu/globalpov) to learn more about the questions and debates central to the GPP Minor.

The #GlobalPOV Project combines critical social theory, improvised art and digital media to explore innovative ways of thinking about poverty and inequality, and how to undertake poverty action. Check out the videos and join the conversation on twitter at **#GlobalPOV**.



# Students in the Field

GPP Minor students have completed practice experiences in a variety of poverty action sectors in over 50 countries around the world. Below are a few examples of what students have done for their experience.



## Lauren Steinbaum

**Major:** Civil and Environmental Engineering  
**Organization:** African Immigrants Social and Cultural Services  
**Location:** Shirati, Tanzania

“The practice experience was the most important part of my undergraduate education.”

Lauren assisted with designing and building a rainwater harvesting tank in an effort to provide a reliable source of clean water during dry seasons in the area. She also contributed to the planning and managing of a handwashing station project.



## Alejandro Jimenez

**Major:** Anthropology, Ethnic Studies  
**Organization:** Good Old Lower East Side (GOLES)  
**Location:** Manhattan, New York

“My practice experience took me directly to a community where the consequences of historic discrimination are seen every day.”

Alejandro assisted with a summer program to teach youth about their community and grassroots organizing. Additionally, he participated in meetings regarding land use, public space, and funding for public housing communities.



## Rica Garcia

**Major:** Society and Environment, Urban Studies  
**Organization:** Gawad Kalinga Community Development Foundation  
**Location:** Batangas, Philippines

“Do not come into the GPP Minor thinking that you will be able to save the world by yourself... More than serving, this is an opportunity to learn and challenge your own perceptions and beliefs.”

Rica researched ways to improve Gawad Kalinga's programs in provincial villages focused on housing, health care, education, the environment, jobs, and community organizing. Her research culminated in a report given to the organization to guide how it moves forward with carrying out its programs.

More student practice experiences online: [blumcenter.berkeley.edu/gppminor](http://blumcenter.berkeley.edu/gppminor)



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## Global Poverty & Practice Faculty & Staff:

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**Khalid Kadir** - Lecturer, International & Area Studies, Civil & Environmental Engineering

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