

Tropical Conservation & Development (TCD) Program

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Since the mid-1980s, the Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) Program has drawn on multiple disciplines, methods and skills to understand and address the challenges of tropical social-ecological systems.

TCD's mission is to bridge theory and practice to advance biodiversity conservation, sustainable resource use, and human well-being in the tropics. TCD's main goals are:

- To train graduate-level professionals, particularly those from developing countries, to bridge theory and practice and learn across disciplines
- To promote cross-national, integrative, comparative problem-centered research
- To strengthen and expand learning and action networks

Certificate and Concentration Information

TCD does not grant degrees. It offers an interdisciplinary certificate and concentration program focused on integrative approaches to conservation and development in Latin America and other tropical regions. The program is open to students enrolled in Master's and Ph.D. programs in participating academic units at the University of Florida:

- African Studies
- Agricultural & Biological Engineering
- Agricultural Education & Communication
- Agronomy
- Anthropology
- Architecture
- Biology
- Comparative Law
- Entomology and Nematology
- Environmental Engineering
- Environmental Horticulture
- Food and Resource Economics
- Forest Resources & Conservation
- Geography
- Geology
- Latin American Studies
- Natural History Museum
- Natural Resources & the Environment
- Plant Medicine
- Political Science
- Religion
- Sociology and Criminology & Law
- Soil and Water Science
- Tourism, Recreation & Sports Management
- Urban & Regional Planning
- Wildlife Ecology & Conservation
- Women's Studies & Gender Research

Upon completion of the certificate or concentration, students have a knowledge base that includes an understanding of tropical ecology, social science theory, and integrative approaches to conservation and development; complementing a strong disciplinary base gained in their home department.

The Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) Program coursework includes social science theory, principles of tropical ecology, patterns and trends of tropical resource use and conservation, and research design.

TCD core courses also allow students to gain essential practical skills. Emphasis is placed on communication and presentation techniques, proposal writing, facilitation and conflict management, participatory methods for research and project implementation, and project design, analysis and evaluation. See reverse page for more detailed information on the Certificate and Concentration Program.

**For the list of TCD faculty go to:
http://www.tcd.ufl.edu/affiliate_faculty.shtml*



UF students during field course

TCD Certificate Requirements

Master's in Latin American Studies (MALAS)

The TCD concentration comprises 15 credit hours of the 33 total hours required for completion of the Master of Arts in Latin American Studies (MALAS) degree. The 15 credits in the concentration must include three interdisciplinary core courses (LAS 6290, 6291 or 6292) and one course each in tropical ecology and social science.

MALAS students must also write a thesis on a topic that fits within the context of biodiversity conservation and/or rural development in the tropics. One member of the student's supervisory committee must be a TCD affiliate faculty member. The remaining 15 credits required for the MALAS degree must be selected from outside of the TCD concentration.



TCD faculty and students in Acre, Brazil

Other Affiliated Departments

Master's students are required to earn 12 credit hours and Ph.D. students are required to earn 15 credit hours for the TCD Certificate, as follows:

Interdisciplinary Core Courses (6-9 credits)

Master's students must take two of the interdisciplinary core courses: LAS 6290 and LAS 6291.

Ph.D. students must take LAS 6290 (or the equivalent) and LAS 6291 plus one additional core course. This additional course may be any of the following: LAS 6290, LAS 6291, LAS 6292, or LAS 6940.

- *LAS 6290 Tropical Conservation and Development (3 credits)* Social and biological perspectives on biodiversity conservation, sustainable resource use, and human well-being in the tropics. Theory, concepts and case studies, bridging global to local scales.
- *LAS 6291 Conservation and Development Skills (3 credits)* Development of practical skills deemed critical for conservation and development professionals, such as conflict management and negotiation, conservation planning and policy, green entrepreneurship, group facilitation and collaborative decision making, impacting policy, effective presentations and communication, workshop organization and delivery.
- *LAS 6292 Tropical Conservation and Development Research Methods (3 credits)* Introduction to research methods for studies focused on biodiversity conservation, sustainable resource use, and human well-being in the tropics. Specialized methods and field courses taught on an occasional basis.
- *LAS 6940 Tropical Conservation and Development Practicum (3 credits)* Design and organization of an independent service-oriented project beyond thesis research, on or off-campus, to practice leadership and collaboration skills by engaging others in workshops, outreach and other practical activities.

Disciplinary Courses (6 credits)

Both Master's and Ph.D. students must take:

- One tropical ecology course (3 credits)
- One social science course relevant to tropical conservation and development (3 credits)

For students in natural science departments, the social science course must be taken outside their major department. To fulfill the tropical ecology and social science requirements, students select from existing courses taught across campus that have been approved by the TCD Curriculum Committee.

**For the TCD list of approved courses go to:
<http://www.tcd.ufl.edu/curriculum.shtml>*



Amazon river, Para, Brazil

TCD Concentration Requirements

For the TCD concentration, Master's or Ph.D. students must complete the coursework required for the TCD certificate and focus on tropical conservation and development in their thesis or final project (in the case of non-thesis degree programs). Also, one member of the student's committee must be a TCD affiliate faculty member.

Students can sign up for the TCD certificate or concentration program by meeting with TCD's Academic Advisor.