



AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH THAT PREPARES YOU TO LEAD

Human rights for everyone is not just a dream. It's possible through relentless struggles and perseverance. A Master of Human Rights degree provides the tools and knowledge necessary to bring about the change you want to see in the world.

Xiaoyun Shen

In a world that needs visionaries, the Master of Human Rights (MHR) degree program prepares students to engage in domestic and global human rights challenges through research, policy analysis, and advocacy.

This interdisciplinary degree program is designed to support emerging leaders by providing a solid grounding in diverse substantive and methodological approaches to the study and practice of human rights. Students learn both theory and skills development from leading human rights scholars, thinkers, and activists, while gaining field experience through internships and capstone projects to apply strategic approaches to complex global and local issues.

The MHR program is jointly supported by the Humphrey School of Public Affairs and the College of Liberal Arts. By bringing together the highly regarded offerings of the graduate minor in human rights and expertise in fields ranging from NGO management to global public policy, the curriculum offers students perspectives and experiences that are distinct from other MHR programs traditionally offered by law schools.

DEGREE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Develops professional competencies in strategic human rights advocacy, communications, organizational management, and policy analysis

Allows for self-designed concentrations tailored to individual experience and career goals

Offers global perspectives from a diverse faculty and community of peers

Provides hands-on internship experience with a local, national, or international human rights organization

Engages in critical debates through connections such as Interdisciplinary Perspectives in International Development, International Fellows and Scholars, the Interdisciplinary Center for Global Change, frequent conferences, and workshops

Provides access to certificate programs and graduate minors in complementary fields such as nonprofit management, public affairs leadership, law, public health, sustainable agriculture systems, and international education





"I've spent much of my career committed to international humanitarianism, international human rights, and responsible engagement around the world. Our new Master of Human Rights degree program is designed to shape the leaders of tomorrow as they strive to advance the human rights and humanitarian needs of our global community."

Eric Schwartz, professor and Humphrey School dean

PATHWAYS TO YOUR CAREER

Students complete core requirements from a menu of choices, and work with their advisors to build a solid concentration.

With the wide range of offerings at the College of Liberal Arts, the Humphrey School, and the broader University of Minnesota, the possibilities are countless.

Following are a few examples:

- Nonprofit management with courses in the Humphrey School's highly rated program
- Human rights, crime, and justice with renowned socio-legal scholars in comparative criminology and transitional justice
- Global and local human rights advocacy with leading practitioners and scholars
- Social memory studies with professors who research legal, literary, and digital memorialization and its impacts
- Research methodologies, including empirical analysis to support evidence-based approaches
- Gender and women's studies approached through critical feminists as well as women's rights advocates
- Issues of race and racial discrimination, approached through a variety of methods, including economics

POSITIONS OUR GRADUATES HOLD

Career options span all levels of government, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector. Students who have completed the graduate minor in human rights have gained employment at places like:

- The Advocates for Human Rights
- The Center for Victims of Torture
- Domestic Abuse Project
- Human Rights Watch
- U.S. diplomatic corps
- United Nations mechanisms
- World Bank
- Health Partners
- Various academic institutions and foundations

REQUIRED CORE COURSES

At least three of the following courses:

- International Human Rights Law
- Human Rights Advocacy
- Human Rights Policy: Issues and Actors
- Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives on Human Rights

PLUS PROFESSIONAL SKILLS COREWORK IN:

- Methods
- Management
- Policy analysis, economics, and critical thinking

PLUS ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK:

- Cohort seminar
- Capstone project or professional paper
- Concentration
- Electives

ENGAGED FACULTY

Faculty in both the Humphrey School and the College of Liberal Arts are deeply engaged in academic and policy research, advocacy and outreach globally, nationally, and locally.

More information on Humphrey School and College of Liberal Arts faculty members affiliated with the MHR degree program can be found at hhh.umn.edu/masters-degrees/master-human-rights.

REQUIREMENTS

- **45 semester credits**, including 22 credits of required core courses, a course to fulfill the capstone/professional paper requirement, and first-year cohort seminar. The remaining credits are dedicated to an individually tailored concentration (12 credits) and electives.
- **A team-based capstone project** in which students act as consultants to a non-governmental or governmental organization; or an individual professional paper
- **400-hour internship** in a professional human rights-related setting. Typically, students will complete internships after the first year of the program.

PREREQUISITES

While no specific experience or previous academic pathway is required, students with previous human rights academic and professional experience, as well as a strong liberal education background, sound quantitative and analytical skills, multilingual capabilities, and multicultural competencies, will be best prepared for academic success in the MHR program.

Given the emerging focus in human rights on evidence-based practices, previous coursework in mathematics, statistics, and economics is recommended. Courses in introductory microeconomics, college algebra, and introductory statistics may be helpful.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

- Resume
- Personal statement
- College transcripts
- GRE scores
- Three letters of recommendation
- TOEFL/IELTS scores (required for most non-native English speakers)

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

HUMPHREY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

612.624.3800 | hhadmit@umn.edu

hhh.umn.edu



HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM, COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

612.626.7947 | mhr@umn.edu

hrp.cla.umn.edu