

Script

[Anna]

After you begin the SCAE program, you will choose whether to pursue an emphasis in Urban or International contexts. In this video, we will highlight the differences between the two. But before we begin, let's look at how your choice of emphasis will shape your journey to meeting graduation requirements.

As we mentioned in the "Overview" info session video, you must complete four context courses in the program—three within your area of emphasis and one in the other area. For example, if you choose urban contexts, you will take three urban courses, and one international course. SCAE 564 can be taken to fulfill either Urban or International contexts in your main area of emphasis. You may also choose to take additional courses from the second area of emphasis as electives if you wish.

[David]

Now that we have reviewed the program requirements for contexts courses, let's talk more about what students learn within the international contexts emphasis. Students investigate key themes and tensions in the field of comparative international education, including the impact of international organizations on education around the world, educational policy borrowing through globalization, educational reform in a global context, and the local dimension of educational issues in comparative perspective. Some course topics are broad and related to processes of globalization, while others are specific to educational environments at various levels, including K-16 and community educational settings. The critical perspective within the courses allows students to analyze the causes and effects of inequality and marginalization both within and among different countries on the world stage. As with all SCAE courses, international context courses emphasize local agency and resistance to injustices, and provide students with the opportunity to develop strategies for effecting social and educational justice. Through continual self-reflection and attention to real world applications, students explore ways that course material applies to their personal and professional realms.

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The Urban context courses provide students with the scholarly foundation to think deeply about how to improve educational opportunities and experiences for urban children and their communities. Urban contexts courses explore the historical dimensions of social and educational inequality and the impact of educational policies on the lives of people in various communities. Additionally, we discuss the ways that children and youth develop their own sense of who they are and what they want out of their education. Although some of our focus is on K-12 urban education, we also explore urban higher education, after-school programs, community-based programs, and community organizing related to social and educational justice. Central to our studies is a critical examination of the meaning of the word “urban.” We ask questions such as: Who or what is “urban”? To what extent is “urban” really a code word for the regional concentration of marginalized communities? How do urban spaces come to have different meanings for different people, and how do these different understandings inform debates about educational policy, pedagogy and everyday practice? Through our courses, we study the significance of class, gender, race, language and other dimensions of social difference with the goal of re-imagining education to be more socially just.

[David]

As you can see, both International and Urban courses explore social justice issues in a variety of educational settings, emphasizing agency and resistance. For more information about SCAE, please visit the program website.