



Students empowered to make a difference

Our rapidly changing world presents a myriad of challenges. Students seeking to address these challenges by working toward effecting social change and promoting social justice are often drawn to the Human Development and Social Relations (HDSR) Program at Earlham. This unique program integrates a liberal arts education with experiential learning, preparing students to pursue a wide variety of careers in the human services.

Earlham's HDSR Program fosters effective engagement with the institutions of society to address the needs of individuals, organizations and communities. In the best tradition of the liberal arts, this interdisciplinary major draws on the perspectives of several fields of study to provide an integrated understanding of the relationship of individuals and institutions in a continually changing world.

Through the HDSR Program, students should be able to:

- Recognize, respect and critically evaluate different points of view
- Integrate a wide variety of theoretical perspectives
- Analyze the cultural systems in which they participate
- Develop a respect for diverse value systems and a keen awareness of the role of ethics in their own lives
- Obtain meaningful employment and educational opportunities that aim to have a positive impact on the world

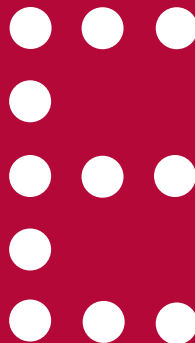
Déjà vu...HDSR all over again

The program provides graduates with a solid foundation in liberal arts and the social sciences, with emphasis on values, ethics and appreciation of the strengths of diversity. Overwhelmingly, on graduate surveys, HDSR graduates report that they would major in HDSR again.



Earlham Facts

- Founded in 1847 by the Society of Friends, Earlham is rooted in the ideals of Quakerism.
- 1,200 undergraduate students representing 45 states and 67 countries
- Male 45%, Female 55%
- 12:1 student-to-faculty ratio
- More than 70 percent of every graduating class participates in an off-campus study program.
- More than 75 percent of Earlham graduates pursue an advanced degree.



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Earlham welcomes all who come to seek for truth in a diverse community that accords respect to every individual. Each is asked to contribute to the understanding of all.

Human Development and Social Relations @Earlham College



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Four disciplines in one: A look at the program

Human Development and Social Relations (HDSR) is an interdisciplinary major that combines the perspectives of psychology, sociology, anthropology and philosophy. The program links practical experience with theoretical learning and intentional reflection on the role of values and ethics in professional life.

Taryn Kincaid '08 from Rochester, Indiana, studied peace and justice off-campus, gained first-hand experience in community organizing, explored the issues of culture and environmental conservation in Tanzania and has taken an active role in many organizations throughout the local community. The HDSR core courses have given Taryn the ability to integrate aspects of her experiential learning with theory presented in the classroom, and have truly personalized her educational experience.

Taryn reflects on her experience in HDSR: "HDSR is not just interdisciplinary, but integrative in that we utilize the knowledge from different fields and organize it to create completely new ways of thinking, analyzing and knowing. It has equipped me to rethink common social assumptions and transform society by imagining and creating it differently."

For more information about Earlham College's HDSR Department, visit www.earlham.edu/~hdsr.

HDSR students travel far and near

HDSR students choose both distant and local sites for opportunities to do field research working in both volunteer and paid positions. Some of the sites for recent Field Study work include: Dispute Resolution Foundation, Kingston, Jamaica; Organizing for Neighborhood Empowerment, Indianapolis, Indiana; Madison Urban Ministry, Madison, Wisconsin; Dillard's Department Store, Richmond, Indiana.



HDSR Graduates — Where are they now?

An HDSR major is excellent preparation for further study at the graduate and post graduate level, leading to a broad range of careers. HDSR graduates are now working in such fields as social work, medicine, law, education, business, non-profit management, public health, journalism, government and public policy, counseling and clinical psychology, ministry and library science.



HDSR Field Study — much more than an internship

Although the HDSR Field Study resembles an internship in many ways, there is a crucial difference: that is, the Field Study entails ethnographic fieldwork (participant observation) that allows the student to analyze and interpret the organization and its workings. Students select the specific setting in consultation with HDSR's Field Study Coordinator. The purpose of the Field Study is to allow the student to gain valuable work experience while using theoretical perspectives learned in the classroom as a means of gaining insight into the workings of the organization. The Field Study helps students become more conscious of the relationship of social roles, institutional dynamics and professional development.

Kim Marshall '83 MA in Spirituality '91, Holy Names College

As an independent consultant, Kim works nationally developing leadership mastery with individual leaders who are committed to leaving the world a better place than they found it. She is based in Sandpoint, Idaho.

Katherine E. Hutchinson '02 D.O. '07, Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine

Katie is currently completing her residency at Cuyahoga Falls General Hospital in Ohio.

Traci Hutson Sipniewski '02 MSW '03, University of Michigan

Traci works as a counselor at an alcohol and drug center in Dayton, Ohio, and says she uses many of the tools and theories from HDSR in her work.

Zach Warren '03 Coro Fellow in Public Affairs '04 Carnegie Mellon University, M.Div '07, Harvard Divinity School

Zach serves as a planning coordinator for the faculty of Arts and Sciences at Aga Khan University in Karachi, Pakistan. He is involved in planning all aspects of the first residential liberal arts university in Pakistan.

"The HDSR Program is based on the conviction that professionals need a firm understanding of individuals in the context of social systems — an understanding that cannot be attained through the study of any one discipline. As an anthropologist, I find that the interdisciplinary nature of HDSR opens up new perspectives and leads me beyond my own disciplinary point of view. That's why I'm so enthusiastic about teaching in HDSR."

— Deborah Davis Jackson, Ph.D., Director of HDSR,
Associate Professor in Sociology/Anthropology

The Field Study is designed to:

- Help students integrate cognitive and experiential learning
- Allow for the exploration of roles outside the context of Earlham classrooms
- Provide an opportunity for independent study while fostering a greater sense of self confidence
- Assist students in gaining valuable work experience

"I do humanitarian work in places like Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran. Sometimes historical, economic and cultural complexities make my work more of an art than a science. To be effective, social justice work requires critical thinking skills and the ability to understand systems, organizations and persons in context — skills that HDSR classes are specifically designed to help students develop. I wouldn't trade my HDSR education for anything. It has enriched my life and work in ways that I'm not sure I could have encountered anywhere else."

— Zach Warren '03, Planning Coordinator
Aga Khan University, Karachi