

Graduate Certificate in the Social Economy and Co-operatives

Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy
Centre for the Study of Co-operatives
University of Saskatchewan

Program Description

What roles do co-operatives and social economy organizations play in the modern economy?
What are the unique institutional, organizational, and governance characteristics that explain their successes and behaviours?

The Social Economy and Co-operatives Certificate is an advanced, interdisciplinary, graduate-level certificate for people from any educational or practice background who seek a deep understanding of how and why co-operatives and the social economy work.

The focus of the certificate is on policy and governance questions — what are the social, political, economic, and institutional contexts that serve as catalysts for the formation of organizations that use the co-operative model, and how should the governance of social economy and co-operative organizations be structured to best deal with the challenges of modern society?

The certificate consists of a structured set of courses that enable students to engage leading-edge research and to explore the social economy and co-operatives through seminar discussion and independent research. The certificate includes opportunity for practical experience and application of knowledge. Selected courses will be available by distance methods and/or intensive one-week in-person delivery. To promote interaction among students, the certificate follows a cohort model with September admission only, though after that students may proceed at their own pace. Students are able to complete the certificate in nine months of part-time study including two weeks of highly interactive, in-person coursework in Saskatoon in September and April.

The Blended Learning Model

The Certificate is delivered under two models: the traditional face-to-face model with nine months of residency and the blended model, which is a combination of online learning and short residency periods. Both can be completed within nine months. The blended model begins with a short, on-campus residency, during which time students will complete the required class. At the same time, students will develop and share a common framework for discussing issues related to social economy organizations and co-operatives, develop relationships with each other through team projects, and get to know the instructors. This in-person experience is essential for reaching deeper levels of understanding of issues and ideas that are not summarized in textbooks. The initial residency also includes instruction time on the online learning tools and platforms related to the online course, JSGS 885. This component ensures that students understand how to use the technology and that isolation is never a factor in their experience.

Courses

All students must complete the following course (3 credit units):

- [JSGS 846: Co-operatives in the New Economy: Institutions, Policy, and Sustainability](#)

All students must complete one of either (3 credit units):

- [JSGS 849: Social Economy and Public Policy](#)
- [JSGS 885: Co-operative Governance and Leadership in Action](#)

Students must complete one course (3 credit units) from the following:

- [JSGS 801: Governance and Administration](#)
- [JSGS 808: Ethical Leadership and Democracy in Public Service](#)
- [JSGS 849: Social Economy and Public Policy](#)
- [JSGS 885: Co-operative Governance and Leadership in Action](#)

Find more information about the Certificate here:

<http://www.schoolofpublicpolicy.sk.ca/programs/masters-certificates/social-economy-and-co-operatives.php>

Course Options for 2017–18

- [JSGS 846: Co-operatives in the New Economy](#)
Examine how policy has shaped the role played by co-ops in the economy.
- [JSGS 849: Social Economy and Public Policy](#)
Study how policy affects community capacity building and partnership development.
- [JSGS 885: Co-operative Governance and Leadership in Action](#)
Investigate a real-world problem in a social economy organization or a co-op.
- [JSGS 801: Governance and Administration](#)
Learn how to assess political and administrative decision making and policy outcomes.

Laddering Options

Students who wish to continue their studies towards completing the MPA may do so through the laddering process. Students may apply to transfer to the MPA stream while still in the Certificate program. Space may be limited, so the ability to transfer is not guaranteed. In these cases, only the MPA degree will be awarded upon completion of the program (i.e., students will not achieve both the MPA and the Certificate). Graduates of the Certificate program must formally apply to the MPA program.

Residency

During the course of your nine-month program, you will attend two, one-week on-campus residencies at the University of Saskatchewan. Here you'll get to interact face-to-face with your instructors and cohort. Before you travel to Saskatoon, you will have to complete readings, and once you arrive, you will have set class hours as well as homework and meetings outside of class hours, making this a concentrated and valuable time.

Who Should Apply?

Students from across Canada and around the globe are welcome to apply. Many are, or aspire to be, managers, and want to better understand their organizations. Others are interested in making a career change that will see them take leadership roles in social economy and/or co-operative organizations. Applicants are assessed on a case-by-case basis. For more information, please visit our [program admission page](#).

You can find the application here: <http://grad.usask.ca/programs/social-economy-cooperatives.php#Program>

If you have questions about the Certificate, please contact Darcy Overland at 306-966-8502 or email at darcy.overland@usask.ca