Next Move Group
We Are Jobs

To learn of more about the following information or other content focused on improving the quality of life of economic developers, click here to join the Movement.

Educational Opportunities for Economic Developers

Discover the summary below of educational opportunities to advance yourself, your staff, and as a result, your community. It's never too late to get started!

Note – this is not a comprehensive list.

Certificate Programs

Certified Economic Developer Certification (International Economic Development Council)

- 1 year to 18 months in person learning
- Certificate earned after oral exam and written test
- Most popular, well known certification option. Good for working professionals

Advanced Economic Development Leadership Program

- Sponsored by Clemson University, University of New Mexico, Texas Christian University and University of Southern Mississippi
- In person learning

Economic Development Certificate at Tulane University

- Bachelor's Degree required (doesn't matter in what)
- 4 courses

Economic Development Course at Auburn University

- 2 weeks total learning (few months off in between)
- More in-depth and intensive than basic economic development programs

National Development Council Certification Program

- Excellent for economic development/finance professionals
- Tip from NextMove: A certificate like this resonates with hiring committees during executive searches and levels you up

Rental Housing Development Finance Professional

- Industry specific certification
- 4 courses, all online

Economic Development Institute at the University of Oklahoma

- Popular option for developers, and also for those without a Bachelor's degree.
- 117 courses, with 72 online and various days in person, completed in 6 months

- Tip from NextMove: A certificate like this resonates during executive searches and helps you stand out in cases where not having a degree could eliminate job prospects

Certificate Program at the University of Southern Mississippi

- 12 hours
- Great for working professionals to upgrade and extend current knowledge
- Requires Bachelor's degree. If you have an MBA, this provides emphasis on economic development.

Penn State University Graduate Certificate

- 15 weeks long, fully online
- Involves Department of Agricultural Economics, Sociology and Education
- Good for those in rural towns with agricultural economies

Community Development Institute at the University of Central Arkansas

- 3-year training program, 1 week in person per year
- Highly regarded program with networks including Chamber of Commerce leaders, economic development professionals and city managers

Bachelor's Degree Programs

B.A. in Economic Development at Eastern University

- 4-year program

Master's Degree Programs

Masters in Economic Development at the University of Central Arkansas

- 36 hours (completed online – can be done in 3 semesters and 1 summer session)
- Great for working professionals

Masters in Economic Development at the University of Southern Mississippi

- Mixed classes – some in person, some online
- Can be completed in 1 or 2 years – great options for working professionals
- Well rounded education beyond business or MBA degree – includes finance, business retention, expansion, marketing and data analytics

Master's in human Capital at the University of Southern Mississippi

- Focused on human resources and public administration/workforce side of development
- 30 hours, fully online
- Focus on Instructional Technology available (also 30 hours, fully online)

MBA, Concentration in Economic Development Murray State University

- New program created only in the last few years
- Fully online

MBA in Community Economic Development at Southern New Hampshire University

- Bachelor's degree required
- Fully online, 39 credits

PhD Programs

Doctor of Economic Development at New Mexico State University

- 60 hours of mixed learning both online and in person

PhD in Human Capital Development at the University of Southern Mississippi

- 3 to 5 days in person, some online instruction
- Instructional Technology focus available as well

To learn more, join The Movement!