

USC SCHOOL	Marshall School of Business
ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT	Entrepreneurship Specialized Masters Programs
GRADUATE PROGRAM	M.S. Social Entrepreneurship
POST CODE	1543
TERM EFFECTIVE DATE	Fall 2026
HOW TO APPLY	Apply Here

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Master of Science in Social Entrepreneurship (MSSE) program begins in Fall each year and can be completed in one year or over 2+ years. The Pre-Fall course (BAEP 591) is an absolute requirement to begin the program. See “Notes from the Department” section of this document for further details.

This MSSE is the first of its kind at a U.S. business school and is among the very few graduate degrees available worldwide that directly addresses social entrepreneurship. The program curriculum includes an exploration of the field of social enterprise and practice in feasibility analysis, impact investing, cause-related marketing, environmental sustainability, and global social impact.

The MSSE will give students the business knowledge and skills to make sustainable social impact. Students graduating from the MSSE may launch a social enterprise or play a key leadership role in an existing one. These enterprises may be stand-alone ventures or embedded in existing organizations.

COMMON BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAM PATHWAYS

A list of common bachelor’s degrees that undergraduate students pursue in advance of pursuing a progressive degree option with this graduate program.

Dornsife: All majors	
Business Administration	

PREPARATORY UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

A list of courses at the undergraduate level that prepare students for the graduate program.

Dept. Prefix - Course #	Course Title	Required or Recommended	Units
	NONE		

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES USED TO REDUCE GRADUATE LEVEL UNITS

A list of undergraduate level courses that may be used to reduce the number of graduate level units required for the graduate program. If there are none, that is specified instead.

Dept. Prefix - Course #	Course Title	Units
	NONE	

CORE GRADUATE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (# units required)

A list of all required graduate courses for the graduate program. None of these courses may be used toward satisfying undergraduate degree requirements.

If special exceptions for any of these courses are made by the academic department, the course # is marked with an asterisk () and the exception is explained in the "Department Notes" section at the end of this course plan template.*

Dept. Prefix - Course #	Course Title – Term of required enrollment	Units
BAEP 591	Social Entrepreneurship (Pre-Fall – See "Notes from the Department" below)	3
BAEP 571*	Social Innovation Design (Fall 1 only)	3
BAEP 552	Venture Feasibility (Fall only)	3
GSBA 509	Marketing Management (Fall 1 only)	1.5
GSBA 510	Accounting Concepts and Financial Reporting (Fall 1 only)	1.5
GSBA 521a	Corporate Finance (Fall 1 only)	1.5
BAEP 567	Social Entrepreneurship: Design, Develop and Deliver (Spring 1 only)	3

PRE-APPROVED ELECTIVE COURSEWORK

Elective coursework is approved at the discretion of the academic department. Note the following details about the total number and units required of elective coursework.

4	TOTAL ELECTIVE COURSES REQUIRED FOR THE TRADITIONAL GRADUATE DEGREE
10.5	TOTAL ELECTIVE UNITS REQUIRED FOR THE TRADITIONAL GRADUATE DEGREE

TOTAL UNIT COUNTS AND REQUIRED GRADUATE UNITS

27	TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED FOR THE TRADITIONAL GRADUATE DEGREE
0	TOTAL GRADUATE UNITS THAT MAY BE WAIVED (IF ANY)
27	MINIMUM NUMBER OF GRADUATE UNITS THAT MUST BE AT THE 500 LEVEL OR ABOVE

NOTES FROM THE DEPARTMENT

This section highlights any unique considerations, exceptions, or requirements for the graduate program. If a program has specific restrictions (courses, majors, etc.), they are detailed below.

Course Substitutions

*BAEP 571 may be substituted if the student has taken BAEP 471 and earned a B+ or better. If approved, electives must be taken instead and added to the total unit count of 27 for completion of the degree.

MSSE Flow

The MSSE program may be completed in one year or over 2+ years. The program can be very flexible, but all core classes (with the exception of BAEP 552) must be completed in the 1st year of the program.

The program begins in Fall. The program begins with a mandatory, in-person Pre-Fall course in August (BAEP 591) before the start of the fall semester. This Pre-Fall course is part of fall registration and is counted toward fall semester units on the course plan. Following Pre-Fall, students will need to enroll in at least 7.5 units in the 1st fall and at least 3 units in the 1st spring. The remaining 13.5 units can be taken on flexible schedule, taking into account that the final core class (BAEP 552) is offered in Fall only.

Marshall Undergraduate Majors

Marshall UG majors may be able to use up to 6 units of 500-level graduate electives taken as part of the MSSE program toward their Marshall MUDE units. You will have the opportunity to discuss this in detail with the graduate program advisor if your application is recommended for admission.

Rahsan Akbulut

Name of Authorizing Master's Program Dean

1/12/2025

Date Approved

Vice Dean for Specialized Masters Programs | Marshall School of Business

Authorizing Dean's Title