Master of Science in Urban Studies, Master of Urban and Regional Planning, Doctor of Philosophy in Urban Studies

The MSUS program is interdisciplinary and offers training in a broad range of urban phenomena for persons who desire to enter such fields as cultural resource management, historic preservation, law, journalism, education, law enforcement and business, as well as other urban professions, or to further their study of cities and regions at the doctoral level. The MURP program is fully accredited by the American Planning Association (APA) and consists of professional training in planning cities and regions with special emphasis on the social, economic, environmental, political and physical aspects of metropolitan areas. The objective of the program is to prepare students for planning careers in city, regional, state and federal agencies; private consulting firms; public service organizations; and other public or private institutions. The program of study leading to the Doctor of Philosophy in Urban Studies enables students of exceptional ability to undertake advanced study and original research in the fields of urban affairs, urban history and urban and regional planning. The doctoral program’s mission is to prepare students for careers in scholarly activity, applied research, and policy analysis.

Admission for MSUS AND MURP Programs

The Department of Planning and Urban Studies faculty has instituted admission requirements for entrance into the MSUS and MURP programs in addition to those of the Graduate School, which include above average academic competence as evidenced in undergraduate work and Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores. The Department of Planning and Urban Studies faculty will also take relevant experience into account, although it is not a specific requirement for application. Upon review of an applicant’s credentials, the Department of Planning and Urban Studies may grant full or conditional admission to the MSUS or MURP program. If admission is conditional, the student may have to complete additional courses of study in addition to those for the desired program.

Non-Degree Seeking Students

Persons who are interested in taking courses offered by the Department of Planning and Urban Studies, but not seeking a degree, are encouraged to enroll as a “special student” (undergraduate) or as a “non-degree seeking student” (graduate). Consult the appropriate catalog or contact the department office for assistance.

Master of Science in Urban Studies
Student Learning Outcomes

College of Liberal Arts
M.S. in Urban Studies

1. Students will develop knowledge about contemporary urbanization trends and major urban studies topics
2. Students will develop in-depth knowledge in a defined area of specialization
3. Students will master the ability to read and understand both primary and secondary sources in urban studies
4. Students will become knowledgeable about both qualitative and quantitative research methods and analytical techniques

Degree Requirements

The flexibility of the MSUS program has allowed students to pursue career fields that are emerging and may not be covered in more structured and traditional masters programs. There are strong subfields in Applied Urban Anthropology and Cultural Resource Management that are offered in conjunction with the UNO Department of Anthropology, a Geography subfield offered in conjunction with the Department of Geography, as well as Urban Planning and Historic Preservation subfields offered through the Planning and Urban Studies Department. Other connections include Cultural and Ecotourism linked with the Kabacoff School of Hotel, Restaurant, Tourism and Cultural/Arts planning with the Arts Administration Program of the UNO College of Liberal Arts. Links to those programs can be found on the UNO Website.

Overview

Thesis track

- 33-34 total credit hours
- 15 hours of core curriculum coursework
- 15-16 hours of specialization coursework
- 3 hours of thesis research
- Thesis

Non thesis track

- 36-37 total credit hours
- 15 hours of core curriculum coursework
- 21-22 hours of specialization coursework
- Comprehensive exam
Prerequisite Courses

An undergraduate economics course and an undergraduate statistics courses are the prerequisites for the MSUS program.

Core Courses

Urban Core:

Each student must take two urban studies seminars at the 6000 level or above offered by the Anthropology, Planning and Urban Studies, or Geography departments. Courses from other departments can be substituted with permission from the course instructor and the MSUS coordinator. The MSUS coordinator will notify students each semester which course or courses will fulfill this requirement.

Each student must take one urban history course at the 4000G level or above offered by the History Department.

Methods:

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<td>URBN 6005</td>
<td>Statistics for Urban Analysis</td>
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<td>OR</td>
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Substantive Areas

Students must choose five to seven courses from one of the following substantive areas. Students in the geography track must take an additional 1 credit hour course. Required courses for each substantive area are available from the MSUS coordinator.

- Applied Urban Anthropology
- Urban Planning
- Geography
• Cultural Resource Management
• Historic Preservation

With the graduate coordinator’s written consent, a student may submit another substantive area which is subject to approval by the Urban Studies faculty.

**Master of Science in Urban Studies: Applied Urban Anthropology Concentration**

The MSUS applied urban anthropology degree will provide students with training in qualitative research methods and valuable fieldwork experiences. These may include cultural preservation management projects, historic archaeology, policy evaluation, folklore research projects and internships in local government and non-profit organizations. Graduates with the MSUS urban anthropology degree will be well prepared to work professionally as well as continue in doctoral study.

**Master of Science in Urban Studies: Geography Concentration**

The MSUS geography degree will provide students with an advanced understanding of the geographer’s craft, including an ability to pose and analyze geographical problems using geographical tools and techniques, and to defend conclusions based on geographical research. Graduates with the MSUS geography degree will be well prepared to enter the workforce at advanced levels as professional geographers, as well as for continuation in doctoral study.

Students should check with the department about any revisions approved for the program, but which may not be reflected in this catalog, or visit the department website at http://planning.uno.edu

**Master of Urban and Regional Planning**

The Master in Urban and Regional Planning program prepares graduates for a wide range of careers in the field of planning. Planners can choose to work for governmental agencies, private consulting firms or nonprofit organizations. Their chosen career can target such issues as creating safe, attractive and healthy neighborhoods; providing affordable housing; and building accessible, efficient and environmentally friendly transportation systems. Students have the opportunity to pursue internships for academic credit with selected agencies and private firms while they are in school. This "real world" experience helps students to become more competitive in the job market upon graduation.
All MURP students will be required to show proof of having completed at least an acceptable introductory-level statistics course and an introductory-level economics course before entering the program, or will be required to complete such a course during their first semester of attendance.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

**College of Liberal Arts**

**M.U.R.P. in Urban and Regional Planning**

1. Students will acquire knowledge about the history, theory, legal framework and professional practice of urban and regional planning
2. Students will acquire practical planning experience
3. Students will acquire in depth knowledge in at least one area of concentration
4. Students will gain analytical skills applicable to planning practice
5. Students will gain professional skills applicable to planning practice

**Overview**

- 45 - total hours needed to complete the degree (excluding deficiencies or prerequisites)
- 18 credit hours of required courses
- 9 credit hours of courses in an area of specialization
- Either MURP 6720 Practicum in Urban and Regional Planning or MURP 7000 Thesis Research (3 credit hours)
- 15 credit hours of approved electives

Students should check with the department about any revisions approved for the program which may not be reflected in this catalog.

**Master of Urban and Regional Planning: Areas of Specialization**

**Program Specializations**

Students have a choice of five areas of specialization within the program. Each specialization requires 9 credit hours of coursework. The five areas of specialization are Environmental/Hazards Planning, Historic Preservation, Housing and Community Economic Development, Land Use/Urban Design and Transportation Planning. Students may complete coursework in 2 areas of specialization.

**Joint JD/ MURP Program**
This program, unique in Louisiana, offers a combined planning degree and legal education through Loyola School of Law for those persons seeking a career in land use law and development. Applicants must apply separately and be admitted to the MURP program at UNO and to the Loyola School of Law. Normal degree requirements of each program are reduced by a common core of nine credit hours of approved elective courses that count toward both programs. The requirements for both degrees must be completed before either degree is awarded.

Financial Aid

Assistantships for nine months are available for a limited number of qualified applicants. The student will devote approximately half-time (20 hours per week) to research work. In addition, a number of assistantships are located off-campus in planning and planning related agencies.

Doctor of Philosophy in Urban Studies

Student Learning Outcomes

College of Liberal Arts

Ph.D. in Urban Studies

1. Graduates will have sufficient knowledge of urban studies for academic careers with the ability to contribute to research and teaching
2. Students will have sufficient empirical knowledge and methods for careers in applied research and policy analysis
3. Students will develop sufficient research skills and knowledge in a subfield to make an original contribution to the body of knowledge
4. Students will understand both qualitative and quantitative research methods and analytical techniques

Admission

The Ph.D. in Urban Studies program provides graduates with a solid foundation to conduct applied research and policy analysis outside of academic settings and for teaching and research in colleges and universities. The program emphasizes mastery of the literature and theory in a particular area of scholarship and mastery of research skills necessary to make significant original contributions to that field. The Ph.D. in Urban Studies program assists the department in its professional public service mission by providing high quality applied research and policy analysis for state, metropolitan, and local agencies and organizations. The doctoral program in urban studies draws upon the strengths of the University, particularly the departments within the College of Liberal Arts.
All students enrolling in the program must have a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university. Preference is given to those who have completed a master’s degree before entering the program. Admission decisions are based primarily on undergraduate/graduate grade-point average (GPA), Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores, and letters of recommendation. Preferred levels of performance are a 3.0 or higher undergraduate GPA, a 3.0 or higher graduate GPA, scores of at least 150 for the verbal and quantitative section of the GRE and a minimum of 5.0 on the written portion of the GRE.

**Degree Requirements**

A student admitted to the program must complete a minimum of 72 hours beyond the bachelor’s degree. A postmaster’s student will be able to transfer to the Program a maximum of 24 credit hours of course work with a grade of B or higher. Thus, a student must complete at least 48 hours of course work with a grade of B or higher while enrolled in the doctoral program at UNO. Also, up to 9 credit hours earned after receiving a master’s degree may be transferred into the program. The courses proposed for transfer must be approved as part of the student’s program of study within the college. These hours will include a core curriculum, a major and a minor field of specialization, and a dissertation.

**Fields of specialization include**

1. urban affairs,
2. urban history, and
3. urban and regional planning.

**Overview**

72 credit hours beyond the baccalaureate degrees:

- Core Curriculum (18 credit hours)
- Research Methods (6 or more credit hours)
- Research Competence (6 credit hours)

**Major and Minor Fields of Study/Area of Specialization (42 credit hours)**

Within the major field, students select a group of courses that provide a foundation in the theory and methods of that field of knowledge and a set of additional courses that constitute an area of
specialization. Typically, foundation courses are completed as part of previous masters degree work and are transferred into the doctoral program. A student who does not have a masters degree in his or her major field should expect to take courses sufficient to demonstrate knowledge of the basic theory, concepts, and methods of that field.

Each student selects a group of courses that form an area of specialization within the major field of study. The urban studies PhD faculty supports research in urban planning and development, social policy, social and cultural change as well as heritage studies including cultural resource management, public history, historic preservation and public culture.

The student defines his or her area of specialization in consultation with a faculty advisor. The courses must be mutually reinforcing and coherent; assure expertise in some body of knowledge, methods, or problem area; and provide the student with adequate skills and knowledge to do dissertation research as well as policy research in the area of specialization: knowledge of the body of relevant theory (usually by taking courses in anthropology, sociology, history, urban planning or public administration); knowledge of relevant methodology (e.g., planning methods, statistics, qualitative methods); an ability to apply theory and methods to specific problems; and an ability appropriate research design and research methods.

Students may, at their own option, define a minor field of study. Within the minor field, a student must complete at least 15 credit hours (some of which may be transfer credits) in a set of courses approved in advance by the student’s advisor. Courses taken in the minor may constitute an independent body of knowledge, or they may support the area of specialization developed in the major.

Students should check with the department about any revisions approved for the program, but which may not be reflected in this catalog, or visit the department website at http://www.uno.edu/cola/Departments/PLUS.