Every student has the opportunity to use New Orleans as a learning lab to gain first-hand experiences

INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH
The Master of Science in Urban Studies (MSUS) degree program trains students in the interdisciplinary study of cities and processes of urbanization. With concentrations in Urban Anthropology, Cultural Resource Management, Geography, Urban Planning, and Historic Preservation, the program offers the only graduate degree of its kind in the Gulf South Region.

NEW ORLEANS
New Orleans—an urban hub with a social life and built environment that integrates its North America, Caribbean, European, and African roots—offers a dynamic place to live and study. Our graduates have conducted research on urban disaster planning and resilience, urban housing and redevelopment, race and public space, and on gender in festival and parade cultures.

OUR FACULTY
Our faculty brings diverse disciplinary expertise in Urban Planning, Anthropology and Geography to mentor students in developing graduate theses and portfolio projects informed by an interdisciplinary approach to understanding urban life. Our research projects include urban foodways, tourism, forced relocation, migration, the history of sidewalks, race and segregation, among others.

A graduate degree in Urban Studies is highly marketable and students have gone on to work in the New Orleans mayor’s office, historic preservation agencies, non-profit cultural organizations, and in the hospitality and tourism industry—just to name a few. Students have also been admitted to such prestigious doctoral programs as Tulane, Temple University, and City University of New York.

“The MSUS program at UNO provided a gateway into New Orleans. Perhaps most importantly, concentrating on ethnographic methods allowed me to build up concrete skills I’ve used to turn research into products - like books and exhibits - that people engage with to interact and participate in the public life of the city.”

Rachel Breunlin, Co-Director
Neighborhood Story Project

Our graduates pursue professional opportunities in governmental and non-governmental agencies, cultural organizations, and private industry and are prepared to continue their studies in a Ph.D. program.
INTERDISCIPLINARY
The MSUS program emphasizes an interdisciplinary course of study built around a core knowledge of urban literature and research methods. Following successful completion of the core courses, students develop their own curricula centering on a particular area or research interest that they will fully expand upon in their thesis or portfolio (non-thesis) project.

FLEXIBILITY
The flexibility of the MSUS program allows students to pursue career fields that are emerging and may not be covered in more structured and traditional masters programs.

Subfields in Anthropology, Geography, Urban Planning, Cultural Resource Management and Historic Preservation allow students the opportunity to develop unique programs of study that incorporate the insights of three departments and other UNO resources.

Urban Anthropology examines inequality and identity formation in relation to city life and to processes of urbanization. Students specialize in ethnographic research methods to document public cultures, and may advise policymakers.

Cultural Resource Management examines urban life through the management of arts and heritage. Graduates of this subfield may meet the Secretary of the Interior’s federal standards for a professional archaeologist.

Geography examines urban patterns, problems, and solutions through spatial analysis, including using geographic information systems and remote sensing.

Urban Planning trains students to develop plans for urban processes such as disasters and urban resilience, housing, and economic development.

Historic Preservation examines the social and material dynamics involved in the preservation of the built environment in cities.

GET STARTED
All applicants must have a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution, a 2.75 GPA or higher, and a strong GRE score. A background in urban studies is an advantage, but not essential.

Application Deadlines:
Fall: July 1; Spring November 1
If seeking scholarship: Feb 15

Eligible applicants may be asked for an interview before final acceptance is determined.

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