

Urban and Environmental Design

College of Design

The Master of Science in Urban & Environmental Design (MUED) at the UK College of Design is dedicated to helping students think critically about emerging urban and environmental design problems through real-world projects and future-oriented ideas. The one-year program introduces students to the complexity of urban and rural environments — from the varying spectrum of stakeholders to the bounds of existing infrastructures — and promotes an interdisciplinary approach to designing sustainable communities.

The curriculum is studio-based to develop an ethic of collaboration and critical thinking among students, faculty and community members. From these relationships, projects emerge that seek inventive ideas to specific design challenges. Students take a diversified sequence of courses that includes history and theory of urban and environmental design, visualization techniques, policy analysis, and socioeconomic research.

The MUED offers flexible degree options for a variety of student backgrounds and design experience levels. Students with no formal design background are encouraged to apply.

Application Requirements

- **Portfolio:** The Master of Science in Urban and Environmental Design (MUED) offers flexible degree options for a variety of student backgrounds and design experience levels. Students with no formal design background are encouraged to apply.
 - OPTION 1 is for students with both a prior design degree. This option can be completed in one year (Fall, Spring, and Summer). **A portfolio is required to apply.**
 - OPTION 2 is for students with no formal design background and requires a foundational studio sequence as a prerequisite for admission to the MUED program. **This option can be completed in two years and does not require a portfolio for admission.**
- GRE
- Three letters of recommendation
- Application Deadlines:
 - **Summer:** March 1
 - **Fall:** March 1

Curriculum

MUED Curriculum (Prior Design Degree)

Semester 1 Fall

- UED 601: Urban & Environmental Design Studio I 5 hours
- UED 611: Visualization 2 hours
- Elective 3 hours

Semester 2 Spring

- UED 602: Urban & Environmental Design Studio II 5 hours
- UED 651: History & Theory 3 hours
- HP 602: Historic Preservation Law 3 hours
- Elective 3 hours

Semester 3 Summer

- UED 701: Urban & Environmental Design Capstone Project/Thesis 5 hours
- UED 612: Research Design and Methods 1 hour

Total: 30 hours

MUED Curriculum (Non-Design Background)

Semester 1 Fall

- UED 551: Studio Primer 5 hours
- UED 611: Visualization 2 hours
- UED 501: Introduction to Urban & Environmental Design 3 hours

Semester 2 Spring

- UED 601: Urban & Environmental Design Studio I 5 hours
- HP 602: Historic Preservation Law 3 hours

Semester 3 Fall

- UED 602: Urban & Environmental Design Studio II 5 hours
- UED 651: History & Theory 3 hours
- Elective 3 hours

Semester 4 Spring

- UED 701: Urban & Environmental Design Capstone Project/Thesis 5 hours
- UED 612: Research Design and Methods 1 hour
- Elective 3 hours

Total: 38 hours

Course Descriptions

HP 602 HISTORIC PRESERVATION LAW. (3) The goal of this course is to assist non-lawyers in understanding laws, policies, and procedures and how they impact your professional practice as preservationists, planners, archaeologists, and in other conservation related fields. Preservation law encompasses a number of practice areas including, but not limited to land use and zoning, real property, local government, constitutional, administrative, and environmental law as well as the conservation of archaeological resources. Prereq: HP 601 or consent of instructor.

UED 501 INTRODUCTION TO URBAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN. (3) Introduces the concept of urban and environmental design through a series of case studies that seek to outline the contours of the field. Students will learn key principles and techniques used in urban and environmental design. Prereq: Admission to UED program, or consent of instructor.

UED 551 SPECIAL TOPICS IN URBAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN I. (3) Examines emergent themes in urban and environmental design and links these themes with historical precedents. Students will develop both visual and verbal arguments in relation to the course topic. Subtitle required. Prereq: Admission to UED program, or consent of instructor.

UED 601 URBAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN STUDIO I. (5) Investigates the relationship between form and function in urban environments. In this studio, students will develop proposals for phased interventions that respond to both empirical and theoretical problems in urban and environmental design. Close engagement with established community groups will help define the goals of the design studio project. Prereq: Admission to UED program, or consent of instructor.

UED 602 URBAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN STUDIO II. (5) Examines issues of mobility and access at different scales in urban environments. Working with established community groups, students will develop proposals for phased interventions in response to the specific studio prompt. Particular attention will be devoted to community outreach. Prereq: Successful completion of UED 601, or consent of instructor.

UED 611 VISUALIZATION AND REPRESENTATION. (2) Offers technical instruction on prevailing methods of visualization and representation in urban and environmental design. Students will use material from previous or existing courses to create new visual representations. Prereq: Admission to UED program, or consent of instructor.

UED 612 RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODS IN URBAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN. (1) Outlines the framework for research in urban and environmental design through a series of case studies that seek to illustrate methodological diversity. Students will develop a research proposal for completing their project or thesis. Prereq: Successful completion of UED 611, or consent of instructor

UED 651 HISTORY AND THEORY OF URBAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN. (3) Defines the field of urban and environmental design through a survey of notable histories and theories. This course offers diverse perspectives from allied fields such as architecture, landscape architecture, heritage conservation, planning, geography, and others. Prereq: Admission to UED program, or consent of instructor.

UED 701 URBAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN PROJECT. (5) Identifies an empirical problem in urban and environmental design that derives from independent student research. Working closely with a faculty advisor, specific requirements will be tailored to meet the project demands. Both visual and verbal arguments are expected, but visual content takes priority in the urban and environmental design project. Prereq: Successful completion of UED 602.