



MASTER OF URBAN DESIGN in SUSTAINABLE URBANISM

The Master of Urban Design [mUD] in Sustainable Urbanism is a post-baccalaureate Urban Design degree program within the College of Architecture and Design (CoAD). The mUD is a 32 Credit Hours Masters Degree which builds on existing courses, can be completed in three (3) semesters, welcomes students with diverse undergraduate degrees and backgrounds, and features a pedagogical and research emphasis that builds upon the University's commitment to its urban and suburban context. The mUD is designed to develop a body of knowledge, skills, and experience in Urban Design with a focus on sustainable urbanism - a balanced and holistic systems approach to design and policy initiatives that addresses the complex environmental, economic, and social forces that effect global City + Regional form.

Prospective Students

The mUD program will build on the existing CoAD urban design concentration and extend the evolving field of sustainability in architecture to the scale and context of cities and the urban and regional environment. As a curricular emphasis, this is consistent with developments in global urban trends, professional fields, directions in public policies and regulations, research funding, and on-campus program development focusing on urban design and sustainability.

The Lawrence Tech mUD will be unique in that we will admit students with diverse backgrounds – drawing from engineering, economics, business, sociology, anthropology, planning, et al—who will merge with students who come with formal design degrees and practice backgrounds. We believe that this approach to admission will energize the cohorts and greatly enrich the program.

The degree would expand program opportunities in urban design (within the graduate program, we currently offer M.Arch with an urban concentration and a certificate in urban design) with a new student base at both the local, regional, national and global levels to expand enrollment. The Lawrence Tech mUD program is unique, in that it is one of the few in North America that will welcome applications from non designers.

We will welcome applications from mature, talented, intellectually aggressive, and critical individuals holding professional degrees in architecture, urban planning, and/or landscape architecture as well as individuals holding undergraduate and advanced degrees in community development, anthropology, sociology, social work, law, environmental sciences, political science, economics or related fields, with deep interest in cities and urban and regional development.

Transfer Courses

Transfer courses will be accepted according to established university standards for graduate curricula and per transfer student procedure established by the College of Architecture and Design. Credit for courses taken in an accredited graduate program will be reviewed for their acceptability as substitutes for required courses in the Lawrence Tech. M.U.D. professional degree program.

Requirements for Admission

Admission requirements will be commensurate to standard requirements for Lawrence Tech admission to other graduate programs offered by the College of Architecture and Design. However, numbers will be limited to available space with admission to the available positions will be competitive.

Two years of professional experience is desirable but not required. Applicants should be prepared for an intensive academic environment emphasizing both individual and group work in studios, seminars, and lecture classes. Candidates should also be open to discussing themes of sustainability politics, culture, class, race, and gender as they relate to urban design, and to testing assumptions about these issues in light of the history, theory, and practice of urban design. (Because conversation and debate is central to the M.U.D. Program, candidates whose first language is not English should be prepared to focus on developing their English verbal and writing skills to extract full value from the program.)

Portfolio

All applicants to the mUD program must submit a portfolio of academic/professional work. The portfolio should show critical and creative aptitude of the applicant's understanding of cities and experience of working in the context of the urban environment. The intention of the portfolio is to represent the ability to be creative and critical, in any visual and/or written format. Material can include copies of work done in either academic, personal or professional setting, or any work in the visual arts in two-, three- or four-dimensional execution. Sketching, drawing, painting, photography, illustration, printmaking, sculpture, written reports, articles, op-eds, policy documentation, published or unpublished monographs is just a small example of what is possible to present. The focus of the portfolio is to present fundamental understanding of cities and their associated regions and working experience in urban issues. Writing about the social, natural or built environment of cities, in any format or focus is also acceptable as evidence of creative ability. All work should be organized into a portfolio presentation and include the name of the applicant. Some reference to the date and situation of each element within the portfolio would also be desirable.

Statement

In 500 words or less, speak about why you are interested in cities and regions and in the discipline of urban design. What does the term "Sustainable Urbanism": mean to you? You may be specific or philosophical about your past, experiences, interests or goals.

Curriculum vitae

Resume of academic and employment experience.

Transcript

A transcript of previous education.

Letters of Reference

Three letters of recommendation are required: one from a professional affiliated with Urban Design; one from a faculty member employed by a college or university that you attended; one personal reference.

as of November 2009