Want to make an impact? The master's degree in urban and environmental planning will prepare you to enter the workforce, impact your community and become a leader in the planning profession. Through small classes and real-world projects, this two-year professional degree program prepares you to solve complex issues facing diverse places.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MUEP Urban and Environmental Planning

The MUEP program prepares students to help solve complex social, economic and environmental issues and create healthier, safer and more vibrant communities. Alumni of the Master of Urban and Environmental Planning program work as professional planners in a variety of public, private and nonprofit settings. The program emphasizes theories of planning, methods of analysis, effective public engagement, planning processes and creative implementation of planning tools, strategies and approaches. The master's degree program is accredited by the Planning Accreditation Board. Students who join the program are eligible for certification by the American Institute of Certified Planners after two years of professional practice.

The Master of Urban and Environmental Planning program offers a unique opportunity to integrate urban and environmental aspects of planning in a rapidly developing metropolitan area. Small classes, one-on-one advising and a common core of courses that translate knowledge into practice provide students opportunities to build technical skills and grow their professional network. As a part of the School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning, the master's degree program is enriched by school faculty whose research and teaching is grounded in geography, GIS, and meteorology and climatology. Students have access to a wide selection of electives within the school, electives that explore issues such as population and migration, environmental and landscape dynamics, and urban climate systems. The master's degree program is also complemented by the participation of faculty from other disciplines within the university, leading planning practitioners in the Phoenix area, and the NEURUS international research exchange program.

Faculty research and teaching interests focus especially on the following broad interdisciplinary themes:

- city building and urban structure
- environmental and resiliency planning
- housing, neighborhoods and community development
• spatial analytics and smart cities
• transportation planning and policy

At a Glance

• **College/School:** The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
• **Location:** Tempe campus

Concurrent Degrees

This degree is also offered as concurrent degree program with:

- Public Administration - Downtown Phoenix, MPA
- Public Policy, MPP
- Sustainability Solutions, MSUS

Accelerated Degrees

This program allows students to obtain both a bachelor's and master's degree in as little as five years. It is offered as an accelerated bachelor's and master's degree with:

- Urban Planning, BSP

Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. During their junior year, eligible students will be advised by their academic departments to apply.

Degree Requirements

47 credit hours and a thesis, or
47 credit hours including the required applied project course (PUP 593), or
47 credit hours including the required capstone course (PUP 580)

**Required Core (24 credit hours)**

- PUP 501 Planning, History and Theory (3)
- PUP 520 Planning Practice, Ethics and Processes (3)
- PUP 531 Planning and Development Control Law (3)
PUP 542 Environmental Planning (3)
PUP 544 Urban Land Use Planning (3)
PUP 571 Planning Methods I (3)
PUP 579 Planning Methods II (3)
PUP 642 Urban and Regional Economic Analysis (3)

**Electives (17-18 credit hours)**

**Other Requirement (3 credit hours)**
PUP 576 GIS Workshop for Planners (3)

**Culminating Experience (5-6 credit hours)**
PUP 580 Practicum: Planning Workshop (5) or
PUP 593 Applied Project (5) or
PUP 599 Thesis (6)

**Additional Curriculum Information**
Students must complete the required core courses and select an area of specialization. Students must also select a capstone studio, a professional project or a thesis option. Successful completion of an approved statistics course, if not achieved by the student as an undergraduate, will be required as a deficiency.

Students take 17 credit hours of electives for the thesis option and take 18 credit hours of electives for nonthesis.

Students take PUP 576 or another methods course approved by the department.

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**Admission Requirements**

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree, in any field, from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts  
3. personal statement  
4. resume  
5. GRE scores  
6. three letters of recommendation  
7. proof of English proficiency

**Additional Application Information**

An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency.

The personal statement should be no longer than 600 words and must address the applicant's academic and professional background and, if appropriate, preparation for the selected area of specialty which may include written samples or a portfolio, though these are not required.

Letters of recommendation must be from three people who can attest to the applicant's academic and professional achievements.

**Application Deadlines**

Fall

**Global Opportunities**

PLuS Alliance  
Global Experience  
Global Degree

**Career Opportunities**

**Contact Information**

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