Urban and Environmental Planning, MUEP

Want to make an impact? The master's degree in urban and environmental planning prepares 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 equips you to solve complex issues in diverse communities.

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. The master's degree program emphasizes theories of planning, methods of analysis, effective public engagement, planning processes and creative implementation of planning tools, strategies and approaches. It 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 program is enriched by school faculty whose research and teaching are 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 program is also complemented by the participation of faculty from other disciplines within the university and collaboration with leading planning practitioners in the Phoenix area.

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 Program Options

Students can choose to create their own concurrent degree combination to match their interests by working with their academic advisor during or after their first semester of study. Some concurrent combinations are not possible due to high levels of overlap in curriculum; students should speak with their academic advisor for more details.

This degree is also offered as a concurrent program with an integrated major map with the following:

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

Accelerated Program Options

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:

- Geographic Information Science, BS
- Geography, BA
- Geography, BS
- Geography (Meteorology-Climatology), BS
- Urban Planning, BSP

Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. During their junior year, eligible students are 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 (14-15 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.

**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 cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (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. three letters of recommendation
6. proof of English proficiency

**Additional Application Information**
An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency.

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**

**Career Opportunities**

Professionals with expertise in planning theory and practice are in high demand across sectors and industries, including planning consulting firms, local governments and community organizations. Skills in environmental impact assessment, geographical data analysis and community resiliency planning are valuable to businesses and institutions relying on practical, research-based approaches to solve complex real-world problems.

Alumni of the Master of Urban and Environmental Planning program work as professional planners in a variety of public, private and nonprofit settings. Career examples include:

- city and regional planning aide
- geospatial information technologist
- social services director
- sustainability specialist
- transportation planner
- urban and regional planner