

Accelerated Master of Urban Planning/BA in Environmental Studies

Only current KU undergraduate students are eligible to apply to the Accelerated MA program. If you are not a current undergraduate student at KU, please review the admission requirements for regular MA. program.

The Accelerated Master's program in Environmental Studies and Urban Planning is designed for students who have a passion for sustaining both our natural and built environments. It allows well-qualified students to earn a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in five years, rather than the six years it would take to earn each degree separately. This program combines in-depth training in environmental studies and analysis with a professional degree in urban planning. Graduates are prepared for careers in environmental planning in the public, private and not-for profit sectors.

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Careful course selection and steady progression through the undergraduate career is necessary to ensure all requirements for both degrees may be completed within the 5-year time frame. All prospective students should discuss their interest with the undergraduate advisor for Environmental Studies and the Chair of Urban Planning as soon as possible. A meeting with the Chair of Urban Planning should take place no later than the student's Junior year (Year 3) to discuss possible admission to the accelerated master's track.

Prospective student are eligible to apply to the graduate program in Spring semester of their Junior year. The following requirements must be met by this time:

- Major and cumulative GPA of at least 3.25;
- On track to complete all requirements for a B.A. or B.G.S. degree in Environmental Studies from KU by the Spring semester of the Senior Year (Year 4)

Applicants must complete an Application for Graduate Study (<http://graduate.ku.edu/ku-graduate-application>) online. The following information should be gathered in advance and uploaded with the application:

- Statement of interest that succinctly summarizes the students' interests, education, their long-term career goals, and how the accelerated degree program will help them achieve those goals;
- A copy of the student's Advising Report
- The names of three persons qualified to comment on the applicant's academic abilities and probable success in graduate study. These individuals will be asked to provide a letter of recommendation. At least two should be faculty members who have had the student in class.

Upon review of the Application for Admission, Urban Planning will notify the student of his or her eligibility to begin coursework in the program.

Final acceptance to the Master of Urban Planning graduate program will be contingent upon the following:

- Successful completion of all requirements for the bachelor's degree;
- Grades of B or above in all Urban Planning graduate-level coursework taken in Year 4

Any student who does not meet this minimum grade requirement may continue in the program but must repeat any graduate course for which they did not earn a B or above. Students should still aim to complete all requirements by the end of Year 5. Students may also elect to earn only the bachelor's degree and re-apply to the graduate program at a later time.

This accelerated program uses a carefully planned combination of pre-requisite coursework, graduate-level courses taken for both undergraduate and graduate credit in Year 4, and graduate credit courses taken in Year 5. The student must be approved to begin coursework toward the master's prior to enrolling in any classes that are to count for both undergraduate and graduate credit. Please see the Sample Academic Plan for more information.

Requirements for the Bachelor's Degree

Code	Title	Hours
Environmental Studies Introduction to Science and Culture		
Majors must complete both of the following:		
EVRN 140	Global Environment I: The Discovery of Environmental Change	5
or EVRN 144	Global Environment I: Discovery of Environmental Change, Honors	
EVRN 142	Global Environment II: The Ecology of Human Civilization	5
or EVRN 145	Global Environment II: The Ecology of Human Civilization, Honors	
Research Methods. Satisfied by one of the following:		
ECON/EVRN 550	Environmental Economics	3
EVRN 410	Environmental Applications of Geographic Information Systems	
EVRN 510	Advanced Environmental Applications in Geospatial Techniques	
GEOL 351	Environmental Geology	
Statistics. Satisfied by one of the following:		
MATH 365	Elementary Statistics	3
GEOG 316	Methods of Analyzing Geographical Data	
BIOL 570	Introduction to Biostatistics	
Environmental Studies Core Knowledge and Skills		
Majors must complete each of the following:		
EVRN 320	Environmental Policy Analysis	3
EVRN 332	Environmental Law	3
EVRN 460	Field Ecology	3
EVRN 615	Capstone Project	3
Environmental Studies Required Electives/Options		
UBPL 736	Planning Institutions	3
UBPL 738	Environmental Planning Techniques	3
Complete two of the following courses:		
UBPL 710	Introduction to Housing Policy	6

UBPL 730	City and County Planning
UBPL 750	Introduction to Transportation Planning
UBPL 765	Introduction to Sustainable Land Use Planning

Students should seek guidance from their advisor and refer to the degree plan for the specific enrollment sequence.

Major Hours & Major GPA

While completing all required courses, majors must also meet each of the following hour and grade-point average minimum standards:

Major Hours

Satisfied by 40 hours of major courses.

Major Hours in Residence

Satisfied by a minimum of 15 hours of KU resident credit in the major.

Major Junior/Senior Hours

Satisfied by a minimum of 30 hours from junior/senior courses (300+) in the major.

Major Junior/Senior Graduation GPA

Satisfied by a minimum of a 2.0 KU GPA in junior/senior courses (300+) in the major. GPA calculations include all junior/senior courses in the field of study including F's and repeated courses. See the Semester/Cumulative GPA Calculator (<http://clas.ku.edu/undergrad/tools/gpa>).

Requirements for the Master's Degree

During the Senior Year (Year 4), the student must take the following Urban Planning graduate coursework, in addition to the Major Requirements noted above:

Code	Title	Hours
UBPL 741	Quantitative Methods I	3
UBPL 815	History and Theory of Planning	3
UBPL 742	Quantitative Methods II	3
UBPL 705	Economic Analysis for Planners	3

In Year 5, after the conferral of the undergraduate degree, the student will complete a total of 24 post-baccalaureate graduate credit hours, consisting of the following:

Code	Title	Hours
UBPL 763	Professional Practice	3
UBPL 850	Urban and Regional Theory	3
UBPL Elective or Specialization Courses		18

Students in the accelerated masters must successfully pass a comprehensive exam. The examination provides a learning experience that encourages the student to synthesize the knowledge gained through course work and tests the student's competence as a generalist/specialist planner. The examination consists of the student responding to a scenario or case study in which one is asked to synthesize knowledge gained in one's course work and apply it within a particular context. No academic credit is given for the examination.

Progression Requirements

Each student's progress will be monitored at various points during the program:

1. Upon pre-admission acceptance to the accelerated masters, the student will meet with the UBPL Chair to plan the final year of undergraduate courses, graduate UBPL courses to be taken for elective undergraduate credit, and to outline the schedule of courses.
1. In the final spring semester of undergraduate study (Year 4), the student will meet with the UBPL Chair to review the student's performance in UBPL courses. The student must earn a grade of "B" or better in these courses to be eligible for regular admission to the Master of Urban Planning degree.
1. Following completion and award of the undergraduate degree (end of Spring Semester Year 4), the admitted student will again meet with the UBPL Chair to review the course plan for the fifth year of study and update as needed. The student's performance in the graduate-level courses taken as an undergraduate will be evaluated. To continue in the track, students must earn a combined minimum GPA of 3.25 for these courses. At this time, the student will select a specialization area within the planning degree, and will meet with a faculty advisor who is overseeing that specialization to ensure the course plan is accurate.
1. For those students who do not meet the minimum GPA requirement of 3.25 in the first semester of Year 5 an alternative plan of study to address the student's deficiencies may be developed, at the department's sole discretion. Students may also be dismissed from the program.
1. If the baccalaureate degree is not completed at the end of Year 4, the student will not be permitted to enroll in courses for graduate credit toward the MUP degree until the baccalaureate degree has been conferred.

Students should complete all requirements for the master's degree within one year of receiving the bachelor's degree. If unforeseen circumstances prevent the timely completion of the master's degree, the student must consult with their graduate advisor to develop an alternative plan for completion.

Freshman

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
ENGL 101 (Goal 2.1, BA Writing I)	3 ENGL 102 (Goal 2.1b, BA Writing II)	3
MATH 101 (Goal 1.2)	3 MATH 365, GEOG 316, or BIOL 570 (Major Req) ¹	3-4
1st Semester Language (BA 2nd language)	5 2nd Semester Language (BA 2nd language)	5
EVRN 140 or 144 (Goal 3N, BA Lab Req., Major req.)	5 EVRN 142 or 145 (Goal 3, Major Req)	5
	16	16-17

Sophomore

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
EVRN 148	3 Goal 2.2	3
EVRN 103	3 Goal 4.1	3
3rd Semester Language (BA Second Language)	3 4th Semester Language (Major Req.)	3
UBPL 200 (Goal 1.1)	3 Goal 3H	3
EVRN 332 (Major Req.)	3 EVRN 320 (Major Req.)	3
	15	15

Junior

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
UBPL 538 (Major Req.)	3 Goal 5	3
Goal 4.2 Global Awareness	3 UBPL 300	3
Elective/Possible Minor Course	3 Elective/Possible Minor Course	3
Elective/Possible Minor Course	3 Elective/Possible Minor Course	3
Elective/Possible Minor Course	3 Elective/Possible Minor Course	3
	15	15

Senior

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
EVRN 460 (Major Req.)	3 EVRN 615 (Major Req.)	3
UBPL 741	3 UBPL 742	3
UBPL 785	3 UBPL 705	3
UBPL Grad Specialization Course/EVRN Undergrad Elective	3 UBPL 736	3
UBPL Grad Specialization Course/EVRN Undergrad Elective	3 UBPL 738	3
	15	15

Year 5

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
UBPL 763	3 UBPL 716, 757, or 773 (UBPL Implementation Seminar)	3
UBPL 850	3 UBPL Elective or Specialization Course	3
UBPL Elective or Specialization Course	3 UBPL Elective or Specialization Course	3
UBPL Elective or Specialization Course	3 UBPL Elective or Specialization Course	3
	12	12

Total Hours 146-147

¹ If MATH 365 is not selected, one of the electives in the plan must be switched to a BA Quantitative requirement.