

# Accelerated Master of Urban Planning/BA in Environmental Studies

**Only current KU undergraduate students are eligible to apply to the Accelerated Master of Urban Planning/B.A. in Environmental Studies program. If you are not a current undergraduate student at KU, please review the admission requirements the Master of Urban Planning.**

The Accelerated Master of Urban Planning/B.A. in Environmental Studies 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.

## Admission to Graduate Studies

### Admission Requirements

- All applicants must meet the requirements outlined in the Admission to Graduate Study (<https://policy.ku.edu/graduate-studies/admission-to-graduate-study/>) policy.
- Bachelor's degree: A copy of official transcripts showing proof of a bachelor's degree (and any post-bachelor's coursework or degrees) from a regionally accredited institution, or a foreign university with equivalent bachelor's degree requirements is required.
- English proficiency: Proof of English proficiency (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/english-requirements/>) for non-native or non-native-like English speakers is required. There are two bands of English proficiency, including Admission and Full proficiency. For applicants to online programs, Full proficiency is required.

**Only current KU undergraduate students are eligible to apply to the Accelerated Master of Urban Planning/B.A. in Environmental Studies. If you are not a current undergraduate student at KU, please review the admission requirements for the Master of Urban Planning. Please note, any Environmental Studies major getting a B.G.S. or B.S. can take advantage of the Accelerated Master of Urban Planning/any College of Liberal Arts & Sciences major program (<https://catalog.ku.edu/public-affairs-administration/amup/>).**

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 School of Public Affairs & Administration Graduate Program Coordinator as soon as possible. A meeting with the Graduate Program Coordinator should take place no later than the student's junior year to discuss application and admission to the accelerated master's program.

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

- On track to complete all requirements for a B.A. degree in Environmental Studies from KU by the spring semester of the senior year

Students apply for admission into the Accelerated Master's program through submission of an application through the Graduate Admission application system (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/>). 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 and email addresses 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, the Urban Planning Program 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 (UBPL) graduate-level coursework

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 masters program uses a carefully planned combination of prerequisite 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.

## Requirements for the Bachelor's Degree

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Environmental Studies Introduction to Science and Culture</b>		
Majors must complete the 3 classes that make up the Environmental Studies Global Sequence.		
EVRN 140	Global Environment I: The Discovery of Environmental Change	3
or EVRN 144	Global Environment I: Discovery of Environmental Change, Honors	
EVRN 142	Global Environment II: The Ecology of Human Civilization	3
or EVRN 145	Global Environment II: The Ecology of Human Civilization, Honors	
EVRN 160	Environmental Solutions	1
EVRN 336	Ethics, Ideas and Nature	3

<b>Statistics. Satisfied by one of the following:</b>	<b>3-4</b>
MATH 365	Elementary Statistics
GEOG 316	Methods of Analyzing Geographical Data
BIOL 370	Introduction to Biostatistics

**Environmental Studies Core Knowledge and Skills**

Majors must complete a course in each of the following areas:

Environmental Social Science and Policy. Satisfied by one of the following: **3**

EVRN 320	Environmental Policy Analysis
EVRN 371	Environmental Geopolitics
EVRN 384	Environment, Power, and Justice
EVRN 385	Environmental Social Problems
EVRN 386	Sociology of Global Food
EVRN 528	Environmental Justice and Public Policy
EVRN 537	Water Resource Sustainability
EVRN 542	Ethnobotany
EVRN 543	Natural Hazards and Environmental Risks

Environmental Humanities and Arts. Satisfied by one of the following: **3**

EVRN 306	Global Environmental Literature
EVRN 330	Sculpture Intercepting the Waste Stream
EVRN 332	Environmental Law
EVRN 347	Environmental History of North America
EVRN 362	Art and Ecology: Inhabiting the Ecosphere
EVRN 375	Radical Environmentalism in the United States
EVRN 377	Resilient and Resistant Futures: Global Perspectives in Climate Change Literature
EVRN 563	U.S. Environmental Thought in the 20th Century
EVRN 630	Sculpture Intercepting the Waste Stream
EVRN 662	Art and Ecology: Inhabiting the Ecosphere

Field Ecology. Satisfied by: **3**

EVRN 460 Field Ecology

or EVRN 660 Summer Field Ecology

**Capstone satisfied by one of the following** **3-6**

EVRN 491	Capstone Internship (3 credit hours)
EVRN 615	Capstone Project (3 credit hours)
EVRN 624	Independent Study
& EVRN 625	and Honors Research in Environmental Studies (6 credit hours)

**Environmental Studies Required Electives/Options** **15**

Majors must select an option or design their own. Self-designed emphases must be approved in their entirety by an environmental studies advisor and the undergraduate studies director before implementation. Each option requires 5 courses at the 300+ level. Students completing the honors capstone sequence (EVRN 624 & EVRN 625) may count 3 hours of that sequence toward the elective requirement.

**Total Hours** **40-44**

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 40-44 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 (<https://sis.ku.edu/gpa-calculator/>).

## Requirements for the Master's Degree

While completing the following degree requirements, students are expected to understand and follow Office Graduate Studies policies (<https://policy.ku.edu/office/Graduate-Studies/>) relevant to their student status and academic standing.

Code	Title	Hours
<b>During the Senior Year (Year 4), the student must take the following Urban Planning graduate coursework, in addition to the Major Requirements noted above:</b>		<b>18</b>
UBPL 705	Urban Economic Theory and Analysis	
UBPL 720	Sustainable Land Use Policy and Planning <sup>1</sup>	
UBPL 736	Planning Law and Institutions	
UBPL 741	Foundations of Compassionate Critical Thinking	
UBPL 742	Applied Data and Spatial Analysis	
UBPL 785	History and Theory of Planning	

**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:**

<b>MUP Core Courses:</b>	<b>9</b>
UBPL 763	Politics and Planning
UBPL 777	Equity, Justice, and American Cities
UBPL 780	Climate Change and Hazards Planning

**MUP Topic Areas - To complete degree requirements, students must select a substantive topic area and complete the courses listed below for a total of 9 credit hours.**

**Housing & Development**

UBPL 710	Housing Policy and Planning (Housing & Development:)
UBPL 715	Community and Neighborhood Revitalization
UBPL 764	Real Estate Development

**Sustainable Land Use:**

UBPL 720	Sustainable Land Use Policy and Planning <sup>1</sup>
UBPL 725	Environmental Planning Techniques
UBPL 735	Site Planning and Design

**Transportation:**

UBPL 750	Transportation Policy and Planning
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UBPL 756	Data Driving Transportation
UBPL 758	Transportation for Livable Cities
Multidisciplinary Planning	
UBPL 730	City and County Planning (Multidisciplinary Planning:)
UBPL 750	Transportation Policy and Planning
UBPL 764	Real Estate Development
<b>MUP Electives - Any UBPL class outside the student's topic area can be taken as an elective. Graduate level classes taken outside of SPAA require Urban Planning Director approval.</b> <sup>1</sup>	
UBPL 701	Directed Readings
UBPL 707	Sustainability and the Future of Transportation
UBPL 746	GIS Applications for Design and Planning
UBPL 767	Creative Placemaking
UBPL 802	Special Topics in Urban Planning: _____
PUAD 703	Foundations of the Nonprofit Sector
PUAD 708	Collaboration in Public Administration
PUAD 824	Creating Good Public Policy
PUAD 825	Urban Policy and Administration
PUAD 828	Nonprofit Management and Policy
PUAD 834	Human Resource Management
PUAD 835	Managing Public Money
PUAD 836	Data Informed Decision-Making
PUAD 837	Advanced Public Budgeting and Finance
PUAD 839	Topics in Public Administration: _____
PUAD 841	Context, Ethics and Legal Environment of Public Administration
PUAD 845	Managing Public Organizations
PUAD 851	Infrastructure Management
PUAD 853	Policy Analysis
PUAD 854	Innovation and Organizational Change
PUAD 857	Performance Management and Governance
PUAD 858	Performance Audit
PUAD 861	Data Analytics
PUAD 862	Emergency Management in the United States: Theory and Practice
PUAD 863	Program Evaluation
PUAD 892	Reflections on Practice
PUAD 898	Leading to Create a Culture for High Performance
PUAD 930	Research Seminar in Public Administration and Democracy
PUAD 931	Research Seminar in Public Management
PUAD 932	Seminar in the Intellectual History of Public Administration
PUAD 934	Research Methods in Public Administration
PUAD 935	Advanced Quantitative Methods for Public Administration
PUAD 936	Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation
PUAD 937	Qualitative Methods in Public Administration
PUAD 939	Topics in Public Administration: _____
PUAD 943	Constitutional Foundations of Public Administration
PUAD 949	Law, Courts, and Public Policy

PUAD 998	Directed Reading on Public Administration
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>42</b>

<sup>1</sup> Note that UBPL 720 is completed as a part of MUP Year 4 and EVRN B.A./B.G.S. major requirements so the number of electives and MUP topic courses will depend on the student's chosen topic area. If a student selects the Sustainable Land Use topic area, it will consequently impact the number of elective credits required in the 5th year.

## M.U.P. Electives:

Any School of Public Affairs & Administration (SPAA) class can be taken as an elective. UBPL 767 and UBPL 730 are strongly suggested as electives because they are applied skills classes covering all of the topic areas. Graduate level classes taken outside of SPAA require Urban Planning Director approval

## Portfolio Exam

The Portfolio Exam offers the student a learning opportunity to integrate the knowledge acquired through coursework and demonstrate their competence as a planner. The portfolio entails compiling coursework and any relevant planning-related work completed during their studies. The portfolio should demonstrate the practices, knowledge, skills, and behaviors that support the student's success in the planning profession. Additionally, it requires students to reflect on their learning. For the work samples selected, students will reflect upon and write about why they chose the work sample giving a brief overview of the work and describing what they learned from it. This should include a discussion of the specific skills they gained referencing the Urban Planning Program Learning Objectives table. Ultimately, the portfolio and reflection should illustrate that they have the necessary foundation to pursue a career in planning.

The examination consists of the student completing the portfolio and written reflective narratives summarizing how the work samples demonstrate competency in planning practices, knowledge, skills, and behaviors. The Urban Planning faculty committee appoints a 2-member portfolio exam committee for each student's portfolio. The grading committee is selected from the full-time faculty in the Urban Planning Program. One grader teaches at least one of the core courses and is outside the student's chosen topic area, and the other grader teaches within the student's topic area. The portfolio exam committee assesses and grades the exam with Honors, Pass, or Unsatisfactory with options to retake. Up to two retake attempts are permitted. The department will determine an appropriate minimum interval between exam attempts.

## 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 Graduate Program Coordinator 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.
2. In the final spring semester of undergraduate study (Year 4), the student will meet with the Graduate Program Coordinator 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.
3. Following completion and award of the undergraduate degree (end of Spring Semester Year 4), the admitted student will again meet with the Graduate Program Coordinator to review the course plan for the

fifth year of study and update progress as needed. The student's performance in the graduate-level courses taken as an undergraduate will be evaluated. To continue in the program, students must earn a combined minimum GPA of 3.0 for these courses.

4. For those students who do not meet the minimum GPA requirement of 3.0 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.
5. 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 M.U.P. 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 the Graduate Program Coordinator and Urban Planning Director to develop an alternative plan for completion.

### Freshman

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
ENGL 101 (Core 34: English (SGE)) <sup>010</sup>	3 ENGL 102 (Core 34: English (SGE)) <sup>010</sup>	3
MATH 101 (Core 34: Math and Statistics (SGE)) <sup>030</sup>	3 MATH 365, GEOG 316, or BIOL 370 (Major Req) <sup>1</sup>	3-4
1st Semester Language (BA 2nd language)	5 2nd Semester Language (BA 2nd language)	5
EVRN 140 or 144 (Core 34: Natural and Physical Sciences (SGE), BA Lab Req., Major req.) <sup>040</sup>	3 EVRN 142 or 145 (Major Req )	3
EVRN 160	1 Second area of Study / Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours	3
<b>15</b>		<b>17-18</b>

### Sophomore

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
UBPL 200	3 EVRN Elective 300+ (Major req.) <sup>2</sup>	3
Environmental Social Science and Policy (Major req.) <sup>2</sup>	3 Environmental Humanities & Arts (Major Requirement) <sup>2</sup>	3
3rd Semester Language (BA Second Language)	3 Core 34: Arts and Humanities (SGE) <sup>060</sup>	3
Core 34: Communications (SGE) <sup>020</sup>	3 Core 34: Social and Behavior Science (SGE) <sup>050</sup>	3
Core 34: US Culture (SGE) <sup>070</sup>	3 4th Semester Language, or 1st semester of Another Language (BA Second Language)	3
<b>15</b>		<b>15</b>

### Junior

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
UBPL 410 or 450	3 UBPL 300	3
Core 34: Global Culture (SGE) <sup>070</sup>	3 UBPL 425 (major req)	3

Core 34: Social and Behavior Science (SGE) <sup>050</sup>	3 Core 34: Arts and Humanities (SGE) <sup>060</sup>	3
Elective/Possible Minor Course	3 Elective/Possible Minor Course	3
Elective/Possible Minor Course	3 Elective/Possible Minor Course	3
<b>15</b>		<b>15</b>

### Senior

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
EVRN 460 (Major Req.)	3 EVRN 615 (Major Req.)	3
UBPL 720	3 UBPL 705	3
UBPL 741	3 UBPL 736	3
UBPL 785	3 UBPL 742	3
EVRN Undergrad Elective	3 EVRN Undergrad Elective	3
<b>15</b>		<b>15</b>

### Year 5

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
UBPL 777	3 UBPL 763	3
3 topic area courses or electives	9 UBPL 780	3
	2 topic area courses or electives	6
<b>12</b>		<b>12</b>

### Total Hours 146-147

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

<sup>2</sup> For courses that satisfy this requirement, see the Degree Requirements tab.

At the completion of this program, students will be able to:

- analyze environmental systems using interdisciplinary approaches and methods.
- demonstrate disciplinary and/or thematic depth of training.
- use environmental knowledge in being an active, engaged citizen/professional.
- communicate effectively orally and in writing for diverse audiences, including scientists, policy makers, and fellow citizens.
- Understand the evolution and current practice of planning in communities, cities, regions, and nations; how planning has advanced and hindered the attainment of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion; past and present conceptions of the future, including the relationship between planning and the future. (Planning History)
- Understand the expectations about planning outcomes in different local and national contexts; conceptual models about what planning is and how it works; the role of planning in responding to the global climate crisis. (Planning Theory)
- Understand the behaviors and structures available to bring about sound planning outcomes; mechanisms and practices for ensuring equitable and inclusive decision-making; legal and institutional contexts within which planning occurs in the U.S. and/or internationally. (Planning Law & Institutions)
- Understand the political, economic, social, and environmental explanations of and insights on historical, present, and future

development; relationships between the built and natural environments and individual and community health and well-being; planning responses to mitigate climate change, reduce risks, and recover from climate-exacerbated impacts; interactions – flows of people, materials, ideas, and cultures – across world regions. (Urban & Regional Development)

- Understand the planning process and community and stakeholder engagement; plan creation and implementation; methods of design and intervention to understand and influence the future. (Planning Process & Engagement)
- Develop research and critical analysis skills for preparing and conducting research; quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection, analysis, and forecasting; methods of geo-spatial analysis, mapping and data visualization; data analytics and urban technology. (Analytical Skills & Tools)
- Work in teams and with professionals in allied fields; professional leadership in the planning context; written, oral, and graphic communication. (Professional, Communication, & Leadership Skills)