Master of Urban Planning

The Master of Urban Planning (M.U.P.) is a graduate professional degree that prepares students for careers in urban planning. It is the normal academic qualification for various planning and planning-related positions. The M.U.P. degree is accredited by the Planning Accreditation Board. The program places strong emphasis on policy planning and analysis in the context of urban or urbanizing environments. The program is geared toward meeting the need for planning policy on urban issues at any level of government — federal, state, regional, and local — or outside the governmental arena.

3 major areas of knowledge are necessary for competence in policy planning:

1. History and theory, which provide the conceptual framework of social, economic, and political environments within which public policy is formed;
2. Quantitative methods, which provide the skills necessary to define and analyze problems through data manipulation; and
3. Specialty areas, which provide focused information and skills in, housing and development planning, sustainable land use planning, and transportation planning specializations.

Admission to Graduate Studies

An applicant seeking to pursue graduate study in the College may be admitted as either a degree-seeking or non-degree seeking student. Policies and procedures of Graduate Studies govern the process of Graduate admission. These may be found in the Graduate Studies (http://catalog.ku.edu/graduate-studies) section of the online catalog.

Please consult the Departments & Programs (http://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences) section of the online catalog for information regarding program-specific admissions criteria and requirements. Special admissions requirements pertain to Interdisciplinary Studies degrees, which may be found in the Graduate Studies section of the online catalog.

Baccalaureate Preparation

A good undergraduate education in almost any discipline is acceptable preparation. Undergraduate preparation in the social sciences, engineering, business, or architecture is closely related to the direction and content of the M.U.P. program at KU. Students pursuing the bachelor of architectural studies may apply for a joint M.U.P. degree during their junior year.

Admission

Persons whose previous records indicate ability to succeed with advanced work may be admitted to graduate studies through the Department of Urban Planning. Ordinarily, admission requires a bachelor’s degree and a grade-point average of approximately B from KU or another institution with substantially equivalent requirements for the bachelor’s degree. The student's academic background is reviewed before an applicant without a bachelor's degree is admitted as a degree-seeking student at KU. Admission decisions are based on the information supplied in the application materials.

A complete application consists of the following:

- A completed graduate application (http://www.graduate.ku.edu) submitted online (see Admission in the Graduate Studies (http://catalog.ku.edu/graduate-studies) section of the online catalog);
- A statement of the applicant’s career goals and substantive interests in urban planning and rationale for undertaking graduate study in urban planning at KU;
- 1 copy of official transcripts from all colleges or universities attended;
- 3 reference forms or letters of recommendation from persons qualified to comment on the applicant’s academic abilities and probable success in graduate study;
- If an applicant has an undergraduate GPA below 3.0, we recommend but do not require submitting GRE scores.;
- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or IELTS scores achieved not more than two years prior to the semester of first enrollment, if the student’s native language is not English; and
- Application fee submitted with online application.

Application deadlines are July 1 for fall and December 1 for spring admission. Candidates are urged to submit applications as early as possible. It may take several weeks to obtain all the materials required for an application file. International applicants must apply by June 1 for fall admission.

Note: International applications for spring admission will only be considered under exceptional circumstances.

Applications for financial aid generally are considered early in the spring. In some cases, there is a February 15 application deadline.

Submit your graduate application (http://graduate.ku.edu/application-process) and application fee online. Other requested application materials may be submitted online with the application or mailed to:

The University of Kansas
Masters of Urban Planning Program
Snow Hall
1460 Jayhawk Blvd., Room 219
Lawrence, KS 66045

M.U.P. Degree Requirements

All students must complete 48 credit hours, which normally involves 4 semesters of full-time study.* The required courses are

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<tr>
<th>General (6)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UBPL 736</td>
<td>Planning Institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UBPL 763</td>
<td>Professional Practice</td>
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<th>Techniques (9)</th>
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<tr>
<td>UBPL 705</td>
<td>Economic Analysis for Planners</td>
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<tr>
<td>UBPL 741</td>
<td>Quantitative Methods I</td>
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<tr>
<td>UBPL 742</td>
<td>Quantitative Methods II</td>
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<tr>
<th>Theory (6)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UBPL 815</td>
<td>History and Theory of Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UBPL 850</td>
<td>Urban and Regional Theory</td>
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Total Hours 21
Master of Urban Planning

*Students completing the 5-year B.A.-M.U.P. track within the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences must complete 30 credits following completion of the B.A. portion of the track.

Specializations

The curriculum requires each student to specialize in one of the following substantive areas:

- Housing and development planning,
- Sustainable land use planning, and
- Transportation planning.

The student should declare a specialization by the third semester of the course of study. In each specialization, the student must complete one course each in theory and policy, methods, and implementation. The minimum number of credit hours for the major area depends on whether the student pursues the thesis or the non-thesis option. For the thesis option, the student takes at least 9 hours in the major area. For the non-thesis option, the student takes at least 12 hours in the major area.

The specialty courses are as follows:

### Housing and Development Planning

**Theory and Policy (3)**
- UBPL 710 Introduction to Housing Policy 3

**Methods (3)**
- UBPL 764 Real Estate Development I 3

**Implementation (3)**
- UBPL 716 Community and Neighborhood Revitalization 3

**Supplementary Courses (9)**
- UBPL 760 Historic Preservation Planning 3
- UBPL 768 Real Estate Development II 3
- UBPL 802 Special Topics: ______ 3

### Sustainable Land Use Planning

**Theory and Policy (3)**
- UBPL 765 Introduction to Sustainable Land Use Planning 3

**Methods (6)**
- UBPL 735 Site Planning and Design 3
- UBPL 738 Environmental Planning Techniques 3

**Implementation (3)**
- UBPL 773 Sustainable Land Use Planning Implementation 3

**Supplementary Courses (9)**
- UBPL 730 Plans and Planning Processes 3
- UBPL 762 Sustainability and the Future of the Built Environment 3
- UBPL 764 Real Estate Development I 3

### Transportation Planning

**Theory and Policy (3)**
- UBPL 750 Introduction to Transportation Planning 3

**Methods (3)**
- UBPL 756 Travel Demand Forecasting Methods 3

**Implementation (3)**
- UBPL 757 Transportation Planning Implementation 3

**Supplementary Courses (12)**
- UBPL 755 Planning Intercity Transportation Systems 3
- UBPL 758 Public Transit 3
- CE 781 Traffic Engineering Characteristics 3
- CE 881 Traffic Engineering Operations 3

### Free Electives

Besides the specialty courses, thesis students must take 3 additional credit hours, and non-thesis students must take 9 additional credit hours of elective courses; any elective credits taken outside of Urban Planning require approval of a faculty advisor.

### Thesis Option

The thesis provides an opportunity for the student to apply individual research skills in the context of her or his interest. The thesis is a continuation of the student’s course of study rather than a separate academic effort. The format, medium, and focus of the thesis vary with the problem addressed. 6 hours of academic credit are given for the thesis. A student desiring to prepare a thesis must develop, with the assistance of a faculty advisor, a thesis proposal to be submitted to the faculty thesis committee no later than the first day of classes of the semester before the semester in which the student plans to graduate. The committee’s approval is required before the student may pursue the thesis option. A final general examination on the thesis and course work is held.

### Non-thesis Option

The comprehensive examination may be taken as an alternative to the thesis. 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.

### M.U.P. Curriculum

A total of 48 semester hours is required. Students typically complete the degree within 2 years.

#### Year 1

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<th>Fall</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<tr>
<td>UBPL 741</td>
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<td>UBPL 705</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>UBPL 815</td>
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<td>UBPL 742</td>
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<tr>
<td>Specialization courses or electives</td>
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<td>UBPL 736</td>
<td>3</td>
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#### Year 2

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<td>UBPL 763</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>UBPL 850</td>
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Implementation seminar in specialization 3
Specialization courses or electives 9
Master of Urban Planning and Bachelor of Arts in Architectural Studies*

This program leads to the Bachelor of Arts in Architectural Studies and the Master of Urban Planning; it combines 6 years into 5 years of study. A total of 154 credit hours is required, composed of 124 hours in architectural studies and 30 additional graduate hours in urban planning.

Students wishing to pursue this option must meet with the Chair of Urban Planning during the third year of study. Students must meet all the required courses for the bachelor degree and have a minimum 3.25 grade-point average. In the fourth year of undergraduate study, a student takes the same courses as a first-year graduate student and applies for graduate admission in the spring semester. The student may submit Graduate Record Examination scores during the junior year but must submit GRE test results in the senior year. If the student has completed all first-year planning courses and been accepted for admission by the end of the fourth year of study, the student officially enters the graduate program to pursue the second year of study toward the completion of the Master of Urban Planning degree.

More information about this joint degree program can be found here (https://urbanplanning.ku.edu/joint-degrees-0).

*This program is available to students who started it in Fall 2017 or before.

Master of Urban Planning and Master of Architecture

This joint degree combines in a 4-year program the normal 2-year M.U.P. degree, offered through the School of Public Affairs & Administration in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, and the 3-year M.Arch. degree, offered through the School of Architecture & Design. The program is intended for students interested in careers in urban design. A total of 133 credit hours is required, comprising 39 hours in urban planning and 94 hours in architecture.

Applicants must meet admission requirements of both programs. Students pursuing the M.Arch. may apply to the joint degree program during, but not after, the second year of study. Students pursuing the M.U.P. may apply to the joint degree program during, but not after, the first year of study.

More information about this joint degree program can be found here (https://urbanplanning.ku.edu/joint-degrees-0).

Master of Urban Planning and M.A. in American Studies

This joint degree combines in a 2½-year program the normal 2-year M.U.P. degree, offered through the School of Public Affairs & Administration in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, and the normal 1½-year M.A. degree in American studies, offered through the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The program is designed for students interested in careers in policy planning and research involving the arts, social planning, cultural activities and facilities, and historic preservation.

More information about this joint degree program can be found here (https://urbanplanning.ku.edu/joint-degrees-0).

Master of Urban Planning and M.A. in Geography

This joint degree combines in a 3-year program the 2-year M.U.P. degree, offered through the School of Public Affairs & Administration in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, and the normal 1½-year M.A. degree in geography, offered through the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The program is designed for students interested in careers in policy planning and research involving GIS cartography, environmental planning, and land use planning.

More information about this joint degree program can be found here (https://urbanplanning.ku.edu/joint-degrees-0).

Master of Urban Planning and Master of Public Administration

This joint degree combines in a 3-year program the normal 1½-year M.U.P. degree, offered through the School of Public Affairs & Administration in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, and the 3-year M.A.P. degree, offered through the School of Public Affairs & Administration. The program is intended for students interested in careers in urban policy planning and urban management.

More information about this joint degree program can be found here (https://urbanplanning.ku.edu/joint-degrees-0).

Master of Urban Planning and Juris Doctor

The joint Juris Doctor/Master of Urban Planning program is open to those who have earned baccalaureate degrees and whose undergraduate records indicate that they have the capacity to complete the law and urban planning programs. Applicants must meet the admission requirements of both programs. Applicants should apply and be admitted to each program separately before they enter the first year of the program. The Law School Admission Test is the required entrance examination for the J.D. program; the Graduate Record Examination is required for the M.U.P. program. A student who decides to enter the program while enrolled in the first year of the J.D. or M.U.P. curriculum must obtain approval from the School of Law and the Department of Urban Planning as soon as possible. No student may enter the joint degree program after completing more than 4 full semesters of the J.D. program or 3 full semesters of the M.U.P. program.

A total of 115 credit hours is required for the joint degree, comprising 39 hours in urban planning and 76 hours in law. The joint degree program can be completed in 4 years. To pursue the degrees separately would require 5 years. More information about this joint degree program can be found here (https://urbanplanning.ku.edu/joint-degrees-0).