URBAN DESIGN AREA OF SPECIALIZATION, MUP Program

MUP students may do either the Specialization or the Certificate Program

The Urban Design area of specialization provides students with the fundamental theories, methods, and substantive content of urban design as a base for professional knowledge and practice. The Specialization can help students who have prior training and experience in related design fields (architecture, landscape architecture, environmental design, etc.) to become urban designers themselves. Students who do not have prior design training and experience may still be able to pursue careers in urban design practice; they would also find the Specialization helpful in other career paths that involve communication and coordination with urban designers or engagement with urban design issues – for example, in urban design policy and regulation such as the writing and administration of design guidelines, design review processes, or urban design elements of comprehensive plans; or through urban design-related research in academic, government and professional settings. Particular current research interests of the faculty include the urban design aspects of public health, transportation and mobility, community and regional resilience, and international development, among other topics.

Required foundation course

URBDP 523  Introduction to Urban Design  Spring  Abramson

Restricted elective

For your Advanced Methods restricted elective, choose either:

URBDP 524  Site Planning  Autumn  Abramson
URBDP 573*  Digital Design Practicum  Winter  TBA
URBDP 576  Pedestrian Travel, Land Use, and Urban Form  Spring  Berney

Electives

One additional course in Urban Design Methods is required

URBDP 524  Site Planning  Autumn  Abramson
URBDP 573*  Digital Design Practicum  Winter  TBA
URBDP 576  Pedestrian Travel, Land Use, and Urban Form  Spring  Berney

Studio

In addition to the 507 Urban Planning Studio, students must take an advanced studio designated as urban design. (Note: this means that urban design specialization students take a total of two labs/studios.)

URBDP 508  Urban Design Studio  Autumn (every year)  Abramson/Berney/Chalana

Thesis or professional project

A thesis or professional project related to this area of specialization; the committee chair must be a member of the Urban Design specialization faculty.

*URBDP 573 Digital Design Practicum may fulfill the Urban Design specialization or certificate requirements only for students who took URBDP 503 Communication and Analysis as part of their MUP core requirements. Students who did not take URBDP 503 Communication and Analysis and instead took URBDP 573 Digital Design as part of their MUP core requirements will need to select another course from the above list to fulfill their Urban Design specialization or certificate requirements.

See next page for certificate information
URBAN DESIGN CERTIFICATE, MUP Program

MUP students may do either the Certificate Program or the Specialization

The Urban Design Certificate Program provides students with specialized, interdisciplinary training through the collaboration of faculty in three of the College’s professional programs: architecture, landscape architecture, and urban design and planning. The program’s goal is to provide students with the fundamental theories, methods, and substantive content of urban design as a base for professional knowledge and a generative source for the future. Training is based on the fundamental assumption that urban designers design: the process of design and the problem-solving contributions of designers are as important as understanding the qualitative and quantitative product of design—the urban environment.

For MUP students, the Certificate is distinguished from the Specialization by requiring a third studio and coursework taken in Architecture and possibly Landscape Architecture. The Certificate program therefore enhances a student’s likelihood of success as a practicing urban designer. It also provides enhanced training for other urban design-related career paths, as described for the Specialization.

Candidates for the Certificate must have a physical design background or obtain the equivalent during their residency in the program. The curriculum normally consists of 12–15 credits of work concurrent with the degree, consisting of urban design theory, urban design methods, urban design studios, and an urban design thesis or professional project. For detailed information, please refer to the prospectus of the Urban Design Certificate Program at http://be.uw.edu/academics/college-wide-certificates/urban-design/. Please contact Neile Graham at neile@uw.edu or the UD certificate website for the Statement of Interest form to sign up for the certificate program.

The certificate program puts out quarterly lists of courses and studios that count toward the certificate. Please be sure you are on the program email list to receive this, or check the program website.

Required foundation course (3 credits)

ARCH 561 Urban Design Theory Winter Huber

Restricted elective choices

For the MUP History/Theory/Ethics of Planning restricted elective, students should choose URBDP 564 or URBDP 565.
For the MUP Advanced Methods restricted elective, students should take URBDP 524 Site Planning; URBDP 573 Digital Design*; or URBDP 576 Pedestrian Travel, Land Use, and Urban Form. *Please see note regarding restrictions for URBDP 573 on the previous page.

Electives (3+ credits)

A minimum of one additional course in Urban Design Methods is required, such as the restricted elective choices listed above, URBDP 523 Intro to Urban Design, or other courses as announced by the certificate program.

Advanced studios (5-6 credits each)

In addition to the 507 Urban Planning Studio, students must take two advanced studios (as designated by the program each quarter) for a total of at least three labs/studios. URBDP 508 taught in Autumn quarters by Abramson/Berney/Chalana is the preferred second studio, especially for those students without a design background. The third studio should be outside UDP or otherwise interdisciplinary.

Thesis or professional project

A thesis or professional project related to this area of specialization; the committee chair must be a member of the Urban Design Program faculty

Total credits for the certificate (12-15 credits)

12–15 credits of Urban Design coursework must be completed to receive the certificate. If required courses listed here are waived due to prior coursework, additional urban design-related credits to reach this total will be required. Classes which are MUP core requirements or required restricted electives do not count toward these 12–15 credits, though certificate credits may count toward the total credits required for the degree.