

Environmental Design

Department of Urban and Regional Planning

School of Architecture and Planning
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Overview

We live in times in which our urban and built environments are undergoing unprecedented change. The bachelor of arts and minor in environmental design provide students with the skills to understand, analyze, and solve problems associated with such change, with a view toward community planning, urban development, and the design of sustainable environments. Environmental design applies knowledge of social and behavioral science to plan and design community environments that affect, and are affected by, human behavior. While concerned about humanity's use, misuse, and abuse of the natural environment, environmental design is also concerned with the planned environment which humans build - the "artificial" or designed physical environment - and its ability to meet community needs. More subtly, environmental design includes issues from our economic, physical, political, and social environments. The purpose of environmental design is to gain a better understanding of these community environments, and then apply that knowledge to plan and design improved surroundings. Environmental design addresses the arrangement, appearance, and functionality of towns and cities including the spaces used freely on a day-to-day basis by the general public. This encompasses streets and parks, together with public infrastructure, and privately owned places. In addition, environmental design is concerned with the way these places are experienced and used, as well as other aesthetic elements that contribute to the quality of community environments. Environmental design practitioners develop long- and short-term plans and designs to use land for the growth and revitalization of urban, suburban, and rural communities, while helping local officials make decisions concerning social, economic, physical, and environmental issues.

Environmental design practitioners promote the best use of a community's land and resources for residential, commercial, institutional, and recreational purposes.

The bachelor of arts and minor in environmental design offers a preprofessional course of study grounded in the multidisciplinary traditions of the liberal arts and distinguished by active intervention and experience in the urban and built environment through classroom activity, fieldwork, workshops, and internships.

The Department of Urban and Regional Planning offers a breadth of knowledge through its degree programs on understanding urban and built environments, and teaches skills in information analysis, computing, written communications, and graphic techniques. In addition, the department offers specialized courses in land use, community design, property development, local government policy, economic development, environmental affairs, real estate development, historic preservation, legal issues, and geographic information systems. The preprofessional environmental design program utilizes the dynamic bi-national Buffalo-Niagara region as a laboratory for planning, design, and development.

Founded in 1969, the Department of Urban and Regional Planning has evolved to offer a number of degree programs, including an undergraduate preprofessional bachelor of arts in environmental design (BA Env Dsn) and minor in environmental design, as well as an accredited professional master of urban planning (MUP) degree. In addition, the Department of Urban and Regional Planning offers a dual master of urban planning plus master of architecture (MArch + MUP) with the Department of Architecture, and a dual master of urban planning plus juris doctor (MUP + JD) with the Law School.

Next accreditation visit for all programs: 2012.

About our Degrees

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The bachelor of arts and minor in environmental design offers a preprofessional course of study grounded in the multidisciplinary traditions of the liberal arts and distinguished by active intervention and experience in the urban and built environment through classroom activity, fieldwork, workshops, and internships.

Acceptance Criteria - Environmental Design BA

Minimum GPA of 2.45 overall.

Minimum GPA of 2.5 in [PD 120](#) and [PD 212](#).

Minimum completion of 24 credit hours.

Successful completion of the Library Skills General Education Requirement

Competitive admission on a space available basis; preferred applicants should have a minimum UB GPA of 2.5 overall. Contact School of Architecture and Planning Academic Services for more information.

Acceptance Criteria - Environmental Design Minor

Minimum GPA of 2.0.

Minimum B- in [PD 120](#) or [PD 212](#).

Acceptance Information

Deadlines: May 31 for fall admission and October 15 for spring admission. The Environmental Design BA is completed within six semesters.

Applicants with an earned baccalaureate degree should contact School of Architecture and Planning Academic Services prior to applying to the pre-professional Environmental Design BA for alternative academic advisement and information on the accredited professional Master of Urban Planning (MUP) degree program.

As admission is competitive, applications for the Environmental Design BA received after May 31 for Fall admission consideration and October 15 for Spring admission consideration will be reviewed on a space-only available basis as guided by the School of Architecture and Planning's admission statement. Contact the School of Architecture and Planning Academic Services for advisement assistance.

Number of applicants (2011-2012): 70

Number of accepted majors (2011-2012): 42

Total number of majors currently enrolled (2011-2012): 98

Declared pre-environmental design majors are granted provisional admission as School of Architecture and Planning general studies majors.

Admissions Statement

The School of Architecture and Planning has an admission policy that actively encourages applicants from protected groups and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or veteran status. Admission is competitive, and; applicants are reviewed according to the admission criteria. Acceptance of students in the preprofessional, professional, and postprofessional programs is determined on the basis of the applicants' qualifications and experience. However, since the school's size is limited, the programs may exercise discretionary powers of selection. Courses and programs offered by the School of Architecture and Planning may include an instructional support services fee. Contact School of Architecture and Planning Advisement Academic Services or visit <http://wings.buffalo.edu/ap/> for additional information on undergraduate admission and advisement.

Advising Information

All students in the School of Architecture and Planning have access to faculty mentors upon admission to the School. In addition, School of Architecture and Planning Academic Services is available for assistance. Students are encouraged to consult regularly with their advisors and mentors in matters pertaining to academic options, course selection, postbaccalaureate studies, and career opportunities. Students meet with advisors and mentors as often as they choose to explore educational opportunities available within the School of Architecture and Planning and the University at Buffalo, and to plan a course of study that is consistent with their abilities, achievements, interests, and expectations. The ultimate goal of advisement is to empower students to use the tools and resources available to become active and responsible learners. Visit <http://advising.buffalo.edu> for additional information on undergraduate advisement.

Degree Requirements

Please see [Degrees and Policies](#).

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About our Courses

Suggested Introductory Courses

[PD 120](#) Introduction to Urban Environments
[PD 212](#) Urban and Environmental Planning
[PD 245](#) Urban Development Law and Policy
[PD 279](#) Exploring Buffalo Niagara

The typical class size for:

Freshman/sophomore introductory courses is: 120
Upper level/advanced courses is: 20-35

For course descriptions, please see [Courses](#).

About our Faculty

Senior faculty from the Department of Urban and Regional Planning teach many courses in the undergraduate preprofessional environmental design program. In addition, some courses are taught by professional urban planners, public administrators, environmental educators, and community developers. Visit our Web site at <http://www.ap.buffalo.edu/planning/people> to learn more about the department's faculty.

About our Facilities

[The Architecture and Planning Library](#), located in Abbot Hall, is one of ten libraries within the University at Buffalo. In addition to its book and journal collections, the Architecture and Planning Library collection includes student theses, maps and plans, a vertical file, a collection of CD-ROMs, census materials, and computer-aided design work.

[The Digital Media Laboratories](#) comprise two sets of facilities: a central collection of laboratories and computing classrooms, and a collection of distributed facilities located in the graduate and undergraduate architecture and planning studios. A wide variety of software packages is provided to support the specific needs of architecture and planning students. Input and output resources include a variety of specialized devices, including color scanners, a large-format scanner, a slide scanner, a film recorder, several digital cameras, CD-R/CS-RW writers, and large- and small-format digitizers. Hard-copy output is provided through laser printers, color printers, and a large-format color postscript plotter.

[The design studios and workshops](#), located within the School of Architecture and Planning, have more than 63,000 net square feet of studio and studio support space including four critique rooms, wet cells for plaster and paint work, a full-service plotting and printing facility, and a total of six educational technology classrooms, including a newly renovated, 115 seat, educational technology lecture hall. Digital technology is distributed throughout the studios, reflecting our belief that digital media should be seamlessly integrated with the making and representation of architecture and planning. Studio and workshop spaces are networked and outfitted with multiple high-end computers supporting a wide range of CAD, GIS, and graphic software programs.

[The Architecture and Planning Materials and Methods Shop](#), is available for schoolwide projects and independent work. This complete machine and assembly shop, one of the finest in any U.S. architecture and planning school, contains 7,000 square feet of high-bay space and is supplied with full woodworking capabilities, welding and milling equipment, lathes, sheet-metal machines, a vacuum-forming machine for molding plastic, and a variety of hand tools.

[The Visual Resources Center](#) is a joint School of Architecture and Planning and University Libraries facility. It directly supports the curriculum with its growing collection of over 31,500 slides, 250 videotapes, and audiovisual equipment. It is linked to the university's other collections through the University Libraries' online computerized index service.

Publications

[Intersight](#) is a schoolwide, student-edited scholarly journal published biennially. The founders of the journal set out to create a participatory forum for distinguished colleagues, faculty, graduates, and students to express their views and ideas about architecture and urban planning. The mission of Intersight is to publish writing, research, and design work that reflects the intellectual life of the School of Architecture and Planning.

Community Outreach Programs. Environmental design students in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning have unrivalled access to agencies, municipalities, and local leaders for information, resources, and undergraduate internships. Workshop courses offered in the

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preprofessional environmental design program focus on real-world exercises in planning and design throughout the Buffalo-Niagara region. In the senior-year workshop, environmental design students work with a public, private, or nonprofit client to analyze and engage in the social, economic, political, and physical design issues associated with complex planning problems. Recent clients have included the City of Buffalo, New York; Social Bicycles (SoBi)/Buffalo CarShare; Tonawanda Township, New York; Amherst Township, New York; the UB Regional Institute, Pendelton Township, New York; the UB Center for Inclusive Design and Environmental Access; Heartland Forest Niagara; Buffalo's Massachusetts Avenue People United for Sustainable Housing neighborhood coalition; Buffalo's Broadway-Fillmore community development corporation; the Roycroft Revitalization Corporation; Buffalo's University Heights Community Initiative; Hilbert College; and the Burchfield-Penney Art Gallery located at Buffalo State College.

Acceptance Information

Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Design. Students are reviewed for admission consideration to the preprofessional bachelor of arts in environmental design by the Department of Urban and Regional Planning upon completing a minimum of 24 credit hours, attaining an overall minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.45, completing both [PD 120](#) and [PD 212](#) with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5, and successful completion of the Library Skills general education requirement, with competitive admission on a space available basis. As admission is competitive; preferred applicants should have an overall minimum UB GPA of 2.5.

Declared Pre-Environmental Design are granted provisional admission as School of Architecture and Planning general studies majors.

Students generally apply to the program in during their sophomore year. Transfer students from other colleges should complete the required introductory courses prior to applying to the major, or may apply to transfer these introductory courses if they have completed equivalent courses. Contact School of Architecture and Planning Academic Services for assistance.

Minor in Environmental Design. Students are admitted to the minor in environmental design by the Department of Urban and Regional Planning upon earning an overall minimum GPA of 2.0 and completing either [PD 120](#) or [PD 212](#) with a minimum grade of B- (GPA of 2.67 on a 4.0 scale) or higher.

Admission Procedures. Both current UB students and transfer students must complete an environmental design departmental application, available from the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, School of Architecture and Planning Academic Services, or online at <http://www.ap.buffalo.edu/forms/planning/>. Dates for admission application submission are May 31 for fall admission and November 1 for spring admission. Students with a baccalaureate degree should contact advising prior to applying. As admission is competitive, applications received after May 31 for Fall admission consideration and November 1 for Spring admission consideration will be reviewed on a space-only available basis as guided by the School of Architecture and Planning's admission statement. Contact the Department of Urban and Regional Planning or School of Architecture and Planning Academic Services for assistance.

Admissions Statement. The School of Architecture and Planning has an admission policy that actively encourages applicants from protected groups and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or veteran status. Admission is competitive, and; applicants are reviewed according to the admission criteria. Acceptance of students in the preprofessional, professional, and postprofessional programs is determined on the basis of the applicants' qualifications and experience. However, since the school's size is limited, the programs may exercise discretionary powers of selection. Courses and programs offered by the School of Architecture and Planning may include an instructional support services fee. Contact School of Architecture and Planning Academic Services or visit <http://wings.buffalo.edu/ap/> for additional information on admission and advisement.

Transfer Policy

Courses completed at other colleges and universities are not automatically accepted by the Department of Urban and Regional Planning as fulfilling undergraduate requirements. While select courses taken elsewhere may be accepted, determination is made by an evaluation of the student's transcripts, course content, contact hours, and grades earned. A minimum course grade of B- (GPA of 2.67 on a 4.0 scale) is required in each course for articulation to courses offered by the School of Architecture and Planning. Courses and programs offered by the School of Architecture and Planning may include an instructional support services fee. Actual placement in the undergraduate preprofessional environmental design program is made after this evaluation is completed. No more than 12 credits of transfer coursework may be applied toward environmental design major requirements, and no more than 6 credits of transfer coursework may be applied toward environmental design minor requirements. Student transcript evaluations are conducted by School of Architecture and Planning Academic Services. Visit <http://wings.buffalo.edu/ap/transferpolicy.html> for additional information on transfer policies and procedures.

Academic Requirements

Environmental design students are placed into mathematics, natural science, and English courses based upon the following criteria: SAT/ACT scores; Advanced Placement scores; or, completed college courses.

Students are reviewed on their progress in the preprofessional bachelor of arts in environmental design by the Department of Urban and

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Regional Planning on an annual basis. The academic review evaluates the student's eligibility to continue onto the next level in the undergraduate program. A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 in environmental design program courses and a minimum cumulative UB GPA of 2.0 is required for satisfactory academic standing within the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. In addition to all minimum GPA levels, all undergraduate students are expected to make satisfactory academic progress in environmental design workshops. All students must earn no less than a C- in an environmental design workshop or capstone course, and any student who receives a grade lower than C- must repeat the environmental design workshop or capstone course before registering for the next workshop or capstone course. Grades of lower than C- in any environmental design workshop or capstone course will not count toward the preprofessional bachelor of arts in environmental design degree requirements, and a grade of F in any environmental design workshop may result in dismissal from the Department of Urban and Regional Planning.

Statement on Continuous Workshop Enrollment. Students admitted to the preprofessional bachelor of arts in environmental design must complete the appropriate environmental design workshop (PD 350, PD 360, PD 450, PD 494, PD 498) each semester to maintain continuous enrollment in the academic program, unless a student is approved for a studio leave of absence by the Department of Urban and Regional Planning and by School of Architecture and Planning Advisement. Design workshop leaves of absence are often approved for students with medical, legal, military, or other extenuating circumstances as reviewed by School of Architecture and Planning. Students must be in good academic standing with the Department of Urban and Regional Planning and the University at Buffalo to be eligible for a design workshop leave of absence. Design workshops are open to admitted environmental design majors only.

A student who resigns design workshop with an "R" (resign) grade without prior approval for a design workshop leave of absence will be disqualified from the preprofessional bachelor of arts in environmental design. Disqualification shall mean that the student is prohibited from taking additional design workshops offered by the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. Disqualification will not occur if a student is on an approved studio leave of absence for medical, legal, military, or other extenuating circumstances.

A student who has been disqualified may apply for re-entry through the bachelor of arts in environmental design admission application, available online at <http://wings.buffalo.edu/ap/envdsnadmit.html>. The student ought to supply evidence of experience and academic coursework during the break in studio enrollment that will better prepare the student for additional design workshop studies. Contact the School of Architecture and Planning for additional admission and advisement information.

School of Architecture and Planning Academic Services also reviews undergraduate student requests for exceptions to registration: late registration, administrative registration, adding or withdrawing from courses after the University at Buffalo's prescribed deadlines available online at <http://registrar.buffalo.edu/calendars/>, and exceeding the University at Buffalo's 19-credit hour limit.

As a professional school, the School of Architecture and Planning does not participate in undergraduate joint majors, but undergraduate double majors or undergraduate minors are academic options available for environmental design students.

Extracurricular Activities

These include the Graduate Planning Student Association and the Environmental Design Student Association. For additional information, call 716-829-2133.

See the [UB Student Association](#).

Practical Experience and Special Academic Opportunities

Undergraduate Research and Practical Experience

Internships. Environmental design students have the opportunity to work in urban or regional agencies in such areas as housing development, local government, neighborhood planning, transportation, community development, environmental affairs, land use, and urban design. Environmental design internships may be available with the Center for Urban Studies, the Urban Design Project, the Regional Institute, and the Center for Inclusive Design and Environmental Access. Interested students should contact each research center for more information about available opportunities.

Study Abroad. Traveling can enhance students' awareness of the world, bringing them closer to understanding global diversity, and appreciating what is universal and unique to a culture.

Study abroad programs, such as Estonia; London, England; Havana, Cuba; Aruba, Dutch Antilles; Greater Toronto, Canada; India, and Brisbane, Australia,; will be offered on an ad-hoc basis by the Department of Urban and Regional Planning and the UB Office of Study Abroad based upon faculty and student interest. Visit <http://wings.buffalo.edu/studyabroad/> for more information.

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Research Centers. As a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities (AAU), the University at Buffalo considers advanced research integral and fundamental to its mission. Consequently, the School of Architecture and Planning faculty are actively involved in the creation of new knowledge through sponsored research, creative design work, and text-based scholarship. This research activity is intertwined with the departmental curricula, allowing students to take full advantage of the faculty's expertise. The Department of Urban and Regional Planning is affiliated with the following centers, providing students interested in the urban and built environment with an opportunity for applied research activities:

The Center for Urban Studies, South Campus. A research and service entity seeking solutions to the problems facing central cities and metropolitan regions. Founded in 1987, the Center conducts action-based research on community and economic development, focusing on the needs and issues of traditionally marginalized groups, including blacks, Latinos, Asians, Native Americans, women, and low-wage workers. Recent projects include a community health study of Buffalo's East Side, analysis of vacant lots and community economic development opportunities for Buffalo's Fruitbelt neighborhood, and a physical design analysis of the city's Old First Ward. The center employs graduate students to assist with projects, including The Cyberhood, an online resource to engage and educate viewers on issues of neighborhood and community development.

The Urban Design Project, South Campus. A university center devoted to research, teaching and scholarship in the pursuit of a critical practice of urban design. Founded in 1990, it focuses on issues of community development and urban revitalization while fostering the intellectual exploration of architecture and planning. From 1994 through 1999, the project led the five-year public visioning process for downtown Buffalo and all its council districts. The project also oversaw the master planning and conceptual design development for the facilities supporting the Bosque Eterno de los Ninos and the Instituto de Monteverde in Costa Rica. More recently, it has led the effort to develop the City of Buffalo's Downtown Strategic Plan. The work of the Urban Design Project has encompassed faculty consultations, student internships, studio projects, and supervised thesis investigations dealing with New York sites ranging from Niagara Falls to Buffalo to Jamestown and engaging such institutional partners as Buffalo Place, the City of Buffalo, the Waterfront Regeneration Trust, the City of Niagara Falls, and the Chautauqua County government, as well as several regional and national architectural and planning firms. Students participate in the UDP through urban design studios, community design service internships, and work opportunities related to major research and professional projects.

Center for Inclusive Design and Environmental Access, South Campus. The IDEA Center is dedicated to improving the design of environments and products by making them more usable, safe, and appealing to people with a wide range of abilities through their life spans. It is active in basic and applied research, design development, community service, and education. Current programs focus on home modifications, functional assessment, and universal design within the urban and constructed environment. Since 1999, the center has been the home of the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Universal Design and the Built Environment; awarded a grant by the National Institute for Disability and Rehabilitation Research, it is the only federally sponsored research and development center in this field. The IDEA Center receives additional funding from state and local governments and private sources; it runs an active educational program in the university, sponsors continuing education activities for professionals, completes basic and applied research, and offers technical services to the community.

The University at Buffalo Regional Institute, Downtown Campus. The institute initiates and supports efforts to strengthen Western New York and the Buffalo-Niagara region. A major public service program of UB, the institute contributes to and supports regional planning, government efficiency, economic development, service delivery, and other areas crucial to the region's vitality. The UB Regional Institute conducts research, assists municipal and county governments, and sustains ongoing projects including the State of the Region Project, the Western New York Regional Information Network, and the Regional Economic Development Database project.

Cyberbia. The Internet's oldest portal site for urban planners and others interested in cities and the built environment - contains a selective directory of Internet resources relevant to planning and urbanism. Cyberbia also includes information about mailing lists and newsgroups, and it hosts a very active bulletin board and image hosting gallery. Cyberbia was founded in 1994 by UB master of urban planning alumnus Dan Tasman.

Honors, Awards, and Scholarships

The Department of Urban and Regional Planning gives a series of annual [awards](#) and prizes to honor undergraduate environmental design student excellence. These include:

- The Dean's Award for Academic Performance to the continuing environmental design student with the highest grade point average.
- Award of Academic Excellence to the graduating environmental design senior with the highest grade point average
- Chair's Award for Excellence to the graduating senior who excelled in and contributed most to the bachelor of arts in environmental design program
- R. Buckminster Fuller Award (biannually) to the graduating senior who is continuing on for graduate studies within the UB School of Architecture and Planning and exemplifies attributes of creativity, inventiveness, and intellectual excellence
- Departmental Honors are awarded to graduating environmental design students who achieve a high level of academic excellence and ingenuity within the Department of Urban and Regional Planning.

Career Information and Further Study

Because local governments employ the majority of entry-level environmental design graduates, they may be referred to as assistant planners, associate planners, or community development specialists. Environmental design practitioners promote the best use of a community's land and resources for residential, commercial, institutional, and recreational purposes. Before preparing plans for community development, planners and designers report on the current use of land for residential, business, and community purposes. Their reports include information on the location

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and capacity of streets, highways, airports, schools, libraries, and cultural and recreational sites. They also provide data on the types of industries in the community, the characteristics of the population, land-use issues created by population movements, and employment and economic trends. Using this information, plans and designs are developed for the layout of land uses for buildings, public transportation, developing resources, and protecting ecologically sensitive regions. They may formulate plans relating to the construction of new school buildings, college campuses, public housing, or other kinds of infrastructure. Some are involved in environmental planning issues ranging from pollution control to wetland preservation and forest conservation. Others are involved in landscape planning through the development of urban park systems and greenways.

Skills gained in this program include:

- Researching, analyzing, and interpreting information during project work
- Verbal, written, and graphic communication skills, including the ability to give presentations
- The ability to conceptualize community and regional environments
- Project management
- The ability to define and address complex community and environmental problems
- An awareness of the multifaceted circumstances surrounding a design project, including cultural, environmental, physical, political, and social concerns
- Negotiation and conflict resolution
- Graphic design skills, including the ability to visually communicate ideas to others
- Creativity when addressing complex community, environmental, and regional issues
- Computing skills
- Writing and editing skills

Career Choices

- Architecture
- Community and economic development
- Educational administration
- Environmental affairs
- Historic preservation
- Landscape architecture
- Law and legal affairs
- Management
- Public policy and administration
- Real estate development
- Urban and regional planning

Work settings include:

- Architecture, urban planning, and engineering consulting firms
- Banking and financial institutions
- Development corporations (including community, economic, housing, and industrial)
- Environmental organizations
- Land use, property, and real estate development
- Government agencies (local, state, federal)
- Nonprofit organizations
- Transportation services
- Conservation and historic preservation societies

Alumni in Environmental Design have found employment in the following fields:

- City, town, or village planning
- Community development
- Construction management
- Economic development
- Educational administration and planning
- Environmental planning
- Geographic information systems
- Historic preservation
- Industrial development
- Landscape development
- Market research
- Property management

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- Real estate development
- Regional planning
- Urban development
- Urban design

What percentage of graduates goes on to find related employment?

33% directly after graduation

Salary Information

Salaries range greatly from one occupation, position, and work setting to another. According to the U.S. Department of Labor in December 2009, the median annual wages for federal, state, or local government, entry-level environmental designer practitioners with a bachelor's degree and no experience could start at \$25,670 to \$38,780 per year, depending on their college academic records. Beginning salaries were slightly higher in selected areas of the country where the prevailing local pay level was higher. The median annual earnings for individuals with a master's in urban planning was \$59,810 in May 2008.

Postbaccalaureate Opportunities

Both the preprofessional bachelor of arts and minor in environmental design, offered by the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, aim to provide students with the versatility to succeed in a variety of fields. Graduates of the preprofessional undergraduate environmental design program have sound preparation for entry-level employment in urban planning and design, environmental affairs, real estate or related fields; in town, city, county, or state government; nonprofit organizations; development corporations (including community, economic, industrial, and neighborhood); construction planning; historic preservation societies, and housing or transportation agencies.

Environmental design graduates are also prepared for graduate study in the professions or the social sciences, in fields such as urban and regional planning, architecture and landscape architecture, environmental planning and management, geography and geographic information systems, historic preservation, law, real estate development, educational administration, student affairs administration, and public policy administration.

Information gathered from graduates indicate one-third of environmental design alumni continue their postbaccalaureate studies at the University at Buffalo.

Postbaccalaureate educational options at UB include the opportunity for application to the accredited professional Master of Urban Planning or the accredited professional Master of Architecture. Additional postbaccalaureate programs include a dual Master of Architecture plus Master of Urban Planning (MArch + MUP) offered with the Department of Architecture, and a dual Master of Urban Planning plus Jurist Doctor offered (MUP + JD) with the Law School. Contact the School of Architecture and Planning for graduate information.

What percentage of graduates goes on to graduate school?

60%

Additional Resources

- [American Institute of Certified Planners](#), 1776 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20036
- [American Planning Association](#), 1776 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20036
- [American Society of Landscape Architects](#), 4401 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20002
- [Community Associations Institute](#), 225 Reinekers Ln., Suite 300, Alexandria, VA 22314
- [Environmental Design Research Association](#), P.O. Box 7146, Edmond, OK 73083
- [Institute of Real Estate Management](#), 430 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611
- [National Association of Realtors](#), 500 New Jersey Ave., Washington, DC 20001-2020
- [National Board of Certification for Community Association Managers](#), P.O.Box 25037, Alexandria, VA 22313
- [Urban Land Institute](#), 1025 Thomas Jefferson Street NW, Suite 500 West, Washington, DC 20007
- National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, Suite 342, 444 N. Capitol St. NW, Washington, DC 20001
- Society of College and University Planners, 1330 Eisenhower Place, Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Degree Options

Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Design. The bachelor of arts in environmental design is a preprofessional, 48-credit-hour curriculum offered by the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, divided into four parts: an introductory sequence, core workshops, department electives (including internship opportunities), and senior-year capstone research courses. Courses from other UB departments, selected with the aid of a faculty mentor, complement major coursework. The environmental design major is completed within six semesters.

Minor in Environmental Design. The minor in environmental design provides students from diverse backgrounds a broad foundation in the principles of urban planning and design as well as the form and function of the built environment. This minor requires a minimum of six courses,

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totaling a minimum of 18 credits, from the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. In addition, the minor in environmental design may enhance and provide additional knowledge for students intending to pursue an accredited professional master of urban planning (MUP) graduate degree upon completion of their baccalaureate studies. The program comprises two required lower-division courses and a minimum of four upper-division courses selected in consultation with a faculty mentor. The environmental design minor is typically completed within four to six semesters.

Degrees Offered

Undergraduate: BA, Minor

Graduate: MUP

Combined Graduate: MArch+ MUP, MUP+ JD

Links to Further Information About this Program

- [Undergraduate Catalog](#)
- [Undergraduate Admissions](#)
- [Graduate Admissions](#)
- [Department of Urban and Regional Planning](#)
- [School of Architecture and Planning](#)

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Acceptance Criteria

Minimum GPA of 2.45 overall.

Minimum GPA of 2.5 in [PD 120](#) and [PD 212](#).

Minimum completion of 24 credit hours.

Successful completion of the Library Skills general education requirement.

Competitive admission on a space available basis.

Advising Notes

Declared pre-environmental design are provisionally admitted as School of Architecture and Planning general studies majors. Contact the School of Architecture and Planning for additional advisement information.

Dates for departmental admission application submission are May 31 for fall admission and November 1 for spring admission. As admission is competitive, applications received after May 31 for Fall admission consideration and November 1 for Spring admission consideration will be reviewed on a space-only available basis as guided by the School of Architecture and Planning's admission statement. Contact School of Architecture and Planning Academic Services for assistance.

Transfer students from other colleges should complete the required introductory courses prior to applying to the major or may apply to transfer these introductory courses if they have completed equivalent coursework. No more than 12 credits of transfer coursework may be applied toward major requirements.

Workshop courses ([PD 350](#), [PD 360](#), [PD 450](#), [PD 494](#), [PD 498](#)) are majors-only courses and require admission to the environmental design bachelor of arts. Concurrent enrollment in the following combination of program courses is not permitted: [PD 350/PD 450](#), [PD 360/PD 494](#), and [PD 360/PD 498](#).

A minimum cumulative urban planning and design (PD-prefixed) GPA of 2.5, completion of [PD 350](#) Environmental Design Workshop 1 plus [PD 360](#) Environmental Design Workshop 2, and senior standing is required for enrollment in [PD 494](#) Visions of the City and [PD 498](#) Research Projects in Environmental Design.

No more than 3 credits of [PD 496](#) Environmental Design Internship and 3 credits of [PD 499](#) Independent Study may be applied toward major requirements. Only one 200 level urban planning and design (PD-prefixed) course may be applied towards fulfillment of major electives.

A minimum of 36 PD-prefixed credit hours must be completed at the University at Buffalo to satisfy the Department of Urban and Regional Planning's bachelor of arts in environmental design academic residency requirement, a minimum cumulative urban planning and design (PD-prefixed) GPA of 2.5, and a minimum cumulative UB GPA of 2.0 is required for successful completion of the major. Grades of lower than C- in any environmental design workshop or capstone course will not count toward the preprofessional bachelor of arts in environmental design degree requirements. The preprofessional bachelor of arts in environmental design is completed in six semesters.

Prerequisite Courses

Environmental Design

[PD 120](#) Introduction to Urban Environments

[PD 212](#) Urban and Environmental Planning

Required Courses

[PD 350](#) Environmental Design Workshop 1: Information Analysis

[PD 360](#) Environmental Design Workshop 2: Graphic Communications

[PD 450](#) Environmental Design Workshop 3: Comprehensive Projects

[PD 494](#) Visions of the City

[PD 498](#) Research Projects in Environmental Design

Minimum 18 credit hours and minimum 6 courses of department electives at the 270-level or higher

Summary

Total required credit hours for the major: 48

See [Baccalaureate Degree Requirements](#) for general education and remaining university requirements.

Recommended Sequence of Program Requirements

Note: Recommended Sequence Of Program Requirements will be based upon a student initiating program requirements in a Fall semester (sequence option #A) or a Spring semester (sequence option #B).

FIRST OR SECOND YEAR - SEQUENCE OPTION #A

Fall [PD 120](#)

Spring [PD 212](#)

THIRD YEAR - SEQUENCE OPTION #A

Fall [PD 350](#), PD electives

Spring [PD 360](#), PD electives

FOURTH YEAR - SEQUENCE OPTION #A

Fall [PD 450](#), PD electives

Spring [PD 494](#), [PD 498](#), PD electives

FIRST OR SECOND YEAR - SEQUENCE OPTION #B

Spring [PD 212](#)

Fall [PD 120](#)

THIRD YEAR - SEQUENCE OPTION #B

Spring [PD 360](#), PD electives

Fall [PD 350](#), PD electives

FOURTH YEAR - SEQUENCE OPTION #B

Spring [PD 494](#), [PD 498](#), PD electives

Fall [PD 450](#), PD electives

Electives and Course Groupings

The following is a sample, but not all-inclusive, list of possible electives offered by the Department of Urban and Regional Planning:

[PD 245](#) Urban Development Law and Policy

[PD 279](#) Exploring Buffalo Niagara

[PD 301](#) Perspectives on Land Use and Development

[PD 302](#) Sustainable Global Environments

[PD 303](#) Methods of Communication

[PD 305](#) Environmental Education and Development

[PD 306](#) Communities and Educational Development

[PD 308](#) Problem Solving in Urban Environments

[PD 312](#) Design of Cities

[PD 313](#) Local Government Policy and Politics

[PD 309](#) The City Through Film

[PD 355](#) Urban and Environmental Information

[PD 356](#) Computing for Environmental Analysis

[PD 402](#) Real Estate Development

[PD 406](#) Community Development

[PD 407](#) School Planning and Development

[PD 409](#) Data and Decisions in Environmental Design

[PD 422](#) Economic Development Planning

[PD 425](#) CAD Technology in Environmental Design

Environmental Design

[PD 428](#) Historic Preservation
[PD 467](#) Legal Issues in Planning and Development
[PD 469](#) GIS Applications
[PD 470](#) Infrastructure Planning and Design
[PD 472](#) Designing Livable Communities
[PD 474](#) Projects in Physical Planning and Design
[PD 479](#) Global Issues and Communities
[PD 496](#) Environmental Design Internship
[PD 499](#) Independent Study

Environmental Design - Minor

Acceptance Criteria

Minimum GPA of 2.0.
Minimum B- in [PD 120](#) or [PD 212](#).

Advising Notes

Minimum cumulative urban planning and design (PD-prefixed) GPA of 2.5 is required for successful completion of the environmental design minor.

No more than 6 credits of transfer coursework may be applied toward minor requirements.

No more than 3 credits of [PD 496](#) Environmental Design Internship and 3 credits of [PD 499](#) Independent Study may be applied toward environmental design minor requirements.

For undergraduate information, or for an admission application to the minor in environmental design, contact School of Architecture and Planning Advisement.

Prerequisite Courses

[PD 120](#) Introduction to Urban Environments or [PD 212](#) Urban and Environmental Planning

Required Courses

[PD 120](#) Introduction to Urban Environments or [PD 212](#) Urban and Environmental Planning (whichever is not taken as the prerequisite course)

Minimum of four department electives and 12 credits at the 270 level or higher

Summary

Total required credit hours for the minor: 18

PD 120: Introduction to Urban Environments

Credits: 3
Semester(s): Fall
Type: LEC

An introductory course and approved social science general education course.

An introductory course and approved social science general education course. Studies how physical, design, social, political and economic forces interact to shape and reshape our urban environments. Examines concepts and content related to cities, suburbs, and metropolitan regions within and outside the U.S. From multidisciplinary perspectives, covers media images of cities and suburbs, patterns and trends in urban environments over time and

place, urban observation, demographics, culture, and design. Assesses contemporary urban issues, including race relations, environmental issues, and population problems. Involves lectures, discussions, and fieldwork. Open to non-majors.

PD 212: Urban and Environmental Planning

Credits: 3
Semester(s): Spring
Type: LEC

An introductory course and approved social science general education course.

An introductory course and approved social science general

Environmental Design

education course. Examines concepts and content in urban and environmental planning. Covers the who, what, why, and how of planning as a profession and process. Topics include the legal basis for urban and environmental planning, planning tools and techniques, the development process, and urban design issues. Studies major urban and environmental planning foci, such as physical sprawl, growth management, land use, sustainable environments, neighborhood development, transportation systems, historic preservation, and environmental affairs. Involves lectures, discussions, and fieldwork. Open to non-majors.

PD 279: Exploring Buffalo Niagara

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

A major and minor elective.

Explores the planning and design history of the Buffalo Niagara region in relation to the future. Examines proposals aimed at revitalizing the economy, improving the quality of life, and protecting the environment of Buffalo Niagara for future generations. Involves historical plus current plans and designs accompanied with lectures, discussions, films, and readings. Introduces urban design and regional development theory and practice. Provides and opportunity to understand community design, the full scope of small to large scale regional work, and comprehend location of place in relationship to the Buffalo Niagara region. Researches the history of Buffalo Niagara communities, examine the place as planned, and critically interpret its history, plans, and designs. May be offered on an intermittent basis. Open to non-majors.

PD 301: Perspectives on Land Use and Development

Credits: 3
Pre-requisites: [PD 212](#)
Type: LEC

A major or minor elective.

Covers concepts and practices of urban land use and development in U.S. Topics include zoning, growth management, site design, environmental issues and land use evolution. Involves lectures, discussions, and fieldwork.

PD 302: Sustainable Global Environ

Credits: 3
Pre-requisites: [PD 120](#) or permission of advisement
Type: LEC

A major or minor elective.

Examines the relationship of urban and natural environments, focusing on sustainable development and global climate change. Emphasis on biodiversity, pollution, efficiency, and renewable energy. Considers appropriate use of resources that are environmentally sound. Involves lectures, discussions, and fieldwork. May be offered on intermittent basis.

PD 303: Methods of Communication

Credits: 3
Pre-requisites: [PD 120](#) or permission of advisement
Type: LEC

A major or minor elective.

Develops communication skills on urban and environmental issues, and hones skills of description and reporting about urban and environmental places and policies. May be offered on an intermittent basis.

PD 305: Environmental Education and Development

Credits: 3
Pre-requisites: [PD 120](#) or permission of advisement
Type: LEC

A major or minor elective.

Explores methods for creating public knowledge, awareness, and understanding toward the physical development of our natural and urban environments. Develops competency and skills for environmental design practitioners in presenting environmental information and guiding urban development outcomes. Involves lectures, discussions, and fieldwork. May be offered on an intermittent basis.

PD 306: Communities and Educational Development

Credits: 3
Pre-requisites: [PD 120](#) or permission of advisement.
Type: LEC

Examines ways in which education influences, and is influenced by, communities. Considers how educational institutions can respond to conditions and issues that exist in community environments. Reviews challenges confronting communities, educational institutions, and urban development. Explores and identifies opportunities for collaboration and partnerships. Involves lectures, discussions, and fieldwork. May be offered on an intermittent basis.

PD 308: Problem Solving in Urban Environments

Credits: 3
Pre-requisites: [PD 120](#) or permission of advisement
Type: SEM

A major or minor elective.

Explores current issues found in urban and built environments, examines associated problems and processes, and reviews possible community solutions. Topics vary annually. In the past, the course has covered U.S.-Canadian border issues. Involves lectures, discussions, and fieldwork. May be offered on an intermittent basis.

PD 312: Design of Cities

Credits: 3
Semester(s): Fall
Pre-requisites: [PD 212](#)
Type: LEC

A major or minor elective.

Traces evolution of urban form and character from Greek city-states to the present. Emphasizes how technological, social, economic, and political changes affect urban layout and functioning.

Environmental Design

PD 313: Local Government Policy and Politics

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

A major or minor elective.

Provides insights to the process and outcomes of local government decision-making. Topics include the types and powers of various local government entities, including: the influence of politics, how governments determine agendas, and implement projects/policies. May be offered on an intermittent basis.

PD 319: The City Through Film

Credits: 3
Pre-requisites: Minimum of Sophomore Standing or Higher Or Permission of Advisement
Type: LEC

Through weekly film screenings, discussions, readings, and critiques, explores themes of urban imagery, inner city, city-suburb relations, community planning and politics, and urban futures in cinema. May be offered on an intermittent basis.

PD 350: Environmental Design Workshop 1: Information Analysis

Credits: 6
Semester(s): Fall
Pre-requisites: Junior Standing & Admission to the Environmental Design BA only. Concurrent enrollment in [PD 350](#) and [PD 450](#) is prohibited.
Type: SEM

A required workshop; first in a three-course studio sequence. Theme is information analysis.

A majors-only core workshop. Provides students with research methodologies in gathering, analyzing, interpreting, and communicating qualitative and quantitative information about the contemporary urban environment and its possible futures. Data sources include U.S. Census materials, state and regional agency databases, community master plans, historical archives, and online and hardcopy reports and surveys. Involves lectures, discussions, and fieldwork.

PD 355: Urban and Environmental Information

Credits: 3
Pre-requisites: [PD 120](#) or permission of advisement.
Type: LEC

A major or minor elective.

Examines, uses, and assesses urban information systems, such as signage, environmental data, and neighborhood demographics. Involves lectures, discussions, and fieldwork. May be offered on an intermittent basis.

PD 356: Computing for Environmental Analysis

Credits: 3

Pre-requisites: Admission to the Environmental Design BA / Minor or permission of advisement.

[PD 356](#)

Co-requisites: PD 356LAB. Students must register for both PD 356SEM and PD 356LAB
Type: SEM

A major elective.

Covers basics of geographic information systems (GIS) and other computing tools for understanding, mapping, and analyzing natural and built environments. Includes weekly computer lab. May be offered on an intermittent basis.

PD 360: Environmental Design Workshop 2: Graphic Communications

Credits: 6
Semester(s): Spring
Pre-requisites: Junior Standing And Admission to the Environmental Design BA
Type: SEM/LAB

A majors-only required workshop; second in a three-course studio sequence. Theme is graphic communications

A majors-only core workshop. Examines modes of visual literacy for comprehending the built environment. Introduces rudimentary graphic representation skills for visually communicating urban planning and design concepts through readings and hands-on exercises. Class activities include drawing, drafting, design fundamentals, generating computer graphics, and urban observation. Involves lectures, discussions, and fieldwork.

PD 362: Property Management

Credits: 3
Type: SEM

A major or minor elective.

Examines management of residential, commercial, and industrial properties within various community settings. Reviews property site selection procedures and community land use planning. Investigates activities within property management including market surveys, planning, design, aesthetics, renovations, and forecasting demand within urban and regional environments. May be offered on an intermittent basis.

PD 363: Cities and Globalization

Credits: 3
Pre-requisites: PD 350SEM And Environmental Design major or Permission of advisement.
Type: LEC

Considers "world cities" and how global trends and forces shape the community design, politics, social life, environment, and economies of urban places. Involves lectures, discussions, and fieldwork. May be offered on an intermittent basis.

PD 395: Special Topics

Credits: 6
Type: SEM/LAB

Environmental Design

A major or minor elective.

A major or minor elective. Topics vary by semester.

PD 402: Real Estate Development

Credits: 3

Pre-requisites: [PD 212](#) and junior or senior standing in Environmental Design BA / Minor

Type: LEC

A major or minor elective.

Introduces students to all aspects of real estate development, including planning, site acquisition, project feasibility, finance, and development. Uses case studies, small group activities, fieldwork, readings, and discussions. May be offered on an intermittent basis.

PD 405: Special Topics

Credits: 3

Type: LEC

A major or minor elective.

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

Topics vary annually. In the past this course addressed the development and management of real estate property. May be offered on an intermittent basis.

PD 406: Community Development

Credits: 3

Pre-requisites: [PD 350](#)

Type: SEM

A major or minor elective.

Studies theories, concepts, and practices of neighborhood planning and design in community development, emphasizing local urban neighborhoods. Involves lectures, discussions, and fieldwork. May be offered on an intermittent basis.

PD 407: School Planning and Development

Credits: 3

Pre-requisites: [PD 212](#)

Type: LEC

A major or minor elective.

Examines school planning within the larger context of neighborhood development. Considers how school planning and development creates opportunities for potential urban redevelopment as well as generating a sense of community pride and physical identity. Involves lectures, discussions, and fieldwork. May be offered on an intermittent basis.

PD 408: Special Topics

Credits: 3

Type: LEC

A major or minor elective.

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The University Grade Repeat Policy does not apply. A major or minor elective. Topics vary by semester.

PD 409: Data and Decisions in Environmental Design

Credits: 3

Pre-requisites: [PD 350](#)

Type: LEC

A major or minor elective.

A major or minor elective. Topics vary annually. Explores environmental design and urban development concerns to analyze data about resulting problems and possible solutions. Considers concepts and methods in critiquing data and decision making. Evaluates studies and reports on trends for understanding planning, design, and development shaping our urban and community environments. Involves lectures, discussions, and fieldwork. May be offered on an intermittent basis.

PD 410: Special Topics

Credits: 3

Type: LEC

A major or minor elective.

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

Topics vary annually. In the past this course addressed the policies and politics of local government. May be offered on an intermittent basis.

PD 412: Special Topics

Credits: 3

Type: SEM

A major or minor elective.

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

Topics vary annually. In the past this course addressed issues in environmental design and development planning in practice. May be offered on an intermittent basis.

PD 413: Special Topics

Credits: 3

Type: SEM

A major or minor elective.

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

Environmental Design

Topics vary annually. In the past this course addressed legal issues in planning, design, and development. May be offered on an intermittent basis.

PD 422: Economic Development Planning

Credits: 3
Semester(s): Fall
Pre-requisites: [PD 350](#)
Type: SEM

A major or minor elective.

Covers theory, concepts, and practices in contemporary economic development planning. Considers alternative approaches to job growth, including industrial development, workforce training, and quality of life strategies. May be offered on an intermittent basis.

PD 428: Historic Preservation

Credits: 3
Pre-requisites: PD 301LEC Or PD 312LEC
Type: LEC

A major or minor elective.

Historic preservation theory related to urban and environmental planning, emphasizing preservation practice, including tools of effective preservation, legislation, community roles, economics, adaptive use, and management. Involves lectures, discussions, and fieldwork. May be offered on an intermittent basis.

PD 439: Local Government Finance and Budgeting

Credits: 3
Semester(s): Fall
Type: LEC

A major or minor elective.

Introduces students to the theory, practice, and real world applications local government finances. Concentrates on public budgeting issues and revenue analysis. Examines concerns in community planning, including fiscal impact of development, school finance, and tax increment financing models. May be offered on an intermittent basis.

PD 442: Central City Revitalization

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

A major or minor elective.

A major or minor elective. Examines theory and practice of urban revitalization with a focus on downtown and commercial revitalization in metropolitan central cities. Place-based and people-based strategies for urban revitalization will be investigated and explored. Best Practices in urban planning and design, including current research and scholarship, will be analyzed. May be offered on an intermittent basis.

PD 443: Negotiation and Conflict Resolution

Credits: 3
Semester(s): Fall
Pre-requisites: [PD 350](#)
Type: SEM

A major or minor elective.

Introduces and practices techniques in negotiations and bargaining, particularly as applied to community planning and environmental conflict. May be offered on an intermittent basis.

PD 450: Environmental Design Workshop 3: Comprehensive Projects and Processes

Credits: 6
Semester(s): Fall
Pre-requisites: [PD 350](#), [PD 360](#), and senior standing. Concurrent enrollment in [PD 350](#) is prohibited.
Type: SEM

A majors-only required workshop; third in a three-course studio sequence. Theme is comprehensive workshop projects.

A majors-only core workshop. Engages students in community planning and environmental design fieldwork in Western New York. Under the instructor's supervision, students work with clients and neighborhood groups to understand complex community planning and environmental issues, research best practices, and develop final plans, comprehensive designs, and presentations. Involves lectures, discussions, and fieldwork. An undergraduate senior capstone studio.

PD 459: Tourism and Recreation Development

Credits: 3
Pre-requisites: [PD 350](#)
Type: SEM

A major or minor elective.

Examines a variety of specific tourism and recreation ventures and explores how they can be used to enhance development. Considered from several perspectives; including the role of tourism in economic development and the community level relationship between hosts and guests. May be offered on an intermittent basis.

PD 464: Infrastructure Planning & Design

Credits: 3
Type: SEM

Introduces principles, operation and design of physical infrastructure systems including roads, public transportation, community facilities, public open space, surface drainage, and electric, gas, water, waste disposal, and telecommunication services.

PD 467: Legal Issues in Planning and Development

Credits: 3
Pre-requisites: [PD 212](#)
Type: LEC

A major or minor elective.

Environmental Design

Explores historical and legal foundations of planning and development. Provides a legal perspective on land use, zoning policies, environmental regulations, housing, and other areas of interest. Reviews political, legal, and administrative institutions related to the planning and development process. May be offered on an intermittent basis.

PD 469: GIS Applications

Credits: 1
Pre-requisites: [PD 356](#)
Type: LAB

A major or minor elective.

Covers theory, techniques, and applications in geographic information systems, particularly as applied to planning problems and issues. Includes weekly computer lab. May be offered on an intermittent basis.

PD 472: Designing Livable Communities

Credits: 3
Pre-requisites: [PD 350](#)
Type: SEM

A major elective.

Introduces concepts and techniques in community design, land use, site planning, property development, and redevelopment. Involves lectures, discussions, and fieldwork. May be offered on an intermittent basis.

PD 479: Global Issues and Communities

Credits: 3
Semester(s): Fall
Type: SEM

A major or minor elective.

A major or minor elective. Considers significant themes in global issues, global culture, global development, and global relations shaping our local urban and community environments. May be offered on an intermittent basis.

PD 480: Environmental Design Study Abroad

Credits: 3
Pre-requisites: [PD 212](#)
Type: LAB

A majors-only study abroad course.

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The University Grade Repeat Policy does not apply. A majors-only study abroad course. Locations vary annually. In the past, undergraduate students have participated in environmental design study abroad programs taught in Australia, Cuba, Costa Rica, Canada, the Dutch Antilles, and other international locations as organized by the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. Other in-house study abroad programs will be offered on an ad-hoc

basis by the Department of Urban and Regional Planning and the UB Office of Study Abroad, based upon faculty and student interest. May be offered on an intermittent basis.

PD 488: Special Topics

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

A major or minor elective.

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

Topics vary annually. In the past this course addressed hidden systems of cities and urban environments- utilities, water, sewer, telecommunications, and transport. May be offered on an intermittent basis.

PD 489: Special Topics

Credits: 3
Type: SEM

A major or minor elective.

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

Topics vary annually. In the past this course addressed urban hazards and disasters and community revitalization planning. May be offered on an intermittent basis.

PD 491: Special Topics

Credits: 3
Type: SEM

A major or minor elective.

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

Topics vary annually. In the past this course addressed community planning, tourism planning, and environmental design. May be offered on an intermittent basis.

PD 492: Colloquium I

Credits: 1
Type: TUT

Topics vary annually. In the past, an examination of issues pertaining to environmental design, community planning, and regional development. Included historical, theoretical, formal, technical, and ethical concerns in planning, design, and development. Content defined by instructor; with group discussions focused on assigned readings and field trips. May be offered on an intermittent basis.

PD 493: Colloquium II

Credits: 1
Type: TUT

Environmental Design

Topics vary annually. In the past, an examination of issues pertaining to environmental design, community planning, and regional development. Included historical, theoretical, formal, technical, and ethical concerns in planning, design, and development. Content defined by instructor; with group discussions focused on assigned readings and field trips. May be offered on an intermittent basis.

PD 494: Visions of the City

Credits: 3

Semester(s): Spring

Pre-requisites: PD 350SEM, PD 360SLB, and Environmental Design Majors only.

Co-requisites: PD 498SEM

Students may not enroll in PD 360SLB and PD 494SEM in the same semester.

Type: SEM

A required senior capstone course.

Student-led, faculty-guided reading course covers classic and contemporary books on the natural, built, and urban environments. An undergraduate senior capstone course.

PD 496: Environmental Design Internship

Credits: 1-3

Semester(s): Fall, Spring, Summer

Pre-requisites: Admission to the Environmental Design BA / Minor or permission of advisement.

Type: TUT

A major or minor elective.

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

Offers opportunity to work in urban or regional agencies in areas such as housing development, local government, strategic planning, transportation, community development, environmental affairs, land use, and urban design.

PD 498: Research Projects in Environmental Design

Credits: 3

Semester(s): Spring

Pre-requisites: PD 350SEM and PD 360SLB, Approved Environmental Design Major

Co-requisites: PD 494SEM.

Students may not enroll in PD 360SLB and PD 498SEM in the same semester.

Type: SEM

A required senior undergraduate research and creative activity course.

A required senior undergraduate research and creative activity course. Engages students in environmental design methodologies and individual research on a topic of contemporary interest. Topics vary annually. In the past this course addressed community gardens, urban food security, active living, community design, urban/suburban relations, urban subcultures, urban hazards and disasters, environmental planning, and urban development.

PD 499: Independent Study

Credits: 1-6

Semester(s): Fall, Spring, Summer

Pre-requisites: Admission to the Environmental Design BA only.

Type: TUT

An independent study course.

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

Designed to add depth and breadth to a student's degree program. Students electing this course must be accepted for work on a specific topic by a member of the faculty, and must have the approval of the department's chair.