

Real Estate Development and Design

The development of urban real estate is one of the most powerful forces shaping our buildings, cities, and metropolitan regions. From finance to design, the choices we make about what to build, where to build, and how to build influence urban sustainability, equity, and resilience – today and for years to come.

Our rapidly urbanizing world faces major challenges, ranging from climate change to social inequality. We need real estate professionals who have a deep knowledge of how development can bring positive benefits to society and the environment, and who understand the power of design to make cities efficient, livable, distinctive, and valued.

The Master of Real Estate Development + Design (MRED+D) is an interdisciplinary degree program incorporating finance and innovative design to prepare real estate development professionals to build sustainable, equitable, and prosperous cities.

The Master of Real Estate Development + Design (MRED+D) covers the fundamentals of real estate markets, finance, urban economics, property and land use law, project feasibility analysis, and the details of the urban development process. But we include 'design' in the degree's name for a reason. The MRED+D program goes beyond tradition, to link real estate to the world of design based on two convictions. One is that successful real estate development requires excellence in urban design, planning, and sustainability. The other is that design thinking – the iterative process of problem finding, prototyping solutions, and iterative critique – is fundamental to producing the most valued and valuable real estate projects of the future.

The MRED+D degree requires students to complete a minimum of 33 units. Curriculum includes a set of ten (10) required courses and at least one (1) elective:

Required Courses

RDEV 200	Principles of Sustainable Real Estate Development	3
RDEV 210	Introduction to Development Economics & Fundamentals	3
RDEV 220	Real Estate Development Finance	3
RDEV 230	Public-Private Partnerships, Strategies, and Tools	3
RDEV 240	Professional Practice of Real Estate Development	3
RDEV 280	Capstone Project	2
ARCH 209	Special Topics in Architectural Design	3
CY PLAN 238	Development--Design Studio	4
CY PLAN 252	Land Use Controls	3
LD ARCH 254	Topics in Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning	3

Electives

Housing & Urban Land Use

CY PLAN C213	Transportation and Land Use Planning	3
CY PLAN 230	U.S. Housing, Planning, and Policy	3
CY PLAN 207	Land and Housing Market Economics	3

The Development Process

LD ARCH C242	Citizen Involvement in the City Planning Process	3
LD ARCH 140	Social and Psychological Factors in Open Space Design	3
CY PLAN 235	Methods of Project Analysis	3

Sustainable Design & Construction

ARCH 260	Introduction to Construction, Graduate Level	3
ARCH 242	Sustainability Colloquium	1,2
ARCH 243	Natural Cooling: Sustainable Design for a Warming Planet ¹	3
LD ARCH C250	Theories of Urban Form and Design	3

Real Estate in Developing Markets

CY PLAN 231	Housing in Developing Countries	3
CY PLAN 219	Comparative International Topics in Transportation	3

Finance & Investment

MBA 280	Real Estate Investment and Market Analysis	3
MBA 284	Real Estate Investment Strategy	3

Real Estate Development & Law

ARCH 229A	Introduction to Construction Law	1-4
CY PLAN 207	Land and Housing Market Economics	3

¹ Prerequisite may apply

Required Application Materials

Transcripts

You must hold or expect to hold prior to the beginning of classes a bachelor's degree from a U.S. school accredited by one of the AACRAO regional accrediting agencies. International applicants of recognized academic institutions outside the United States must hold a degree equivalent to a U.S. bachelor's degree.

Required Records: Upload unofficial transcripts with the application for the departmental initial review. Unofficial transcripts must include at a minimum the name of the institution, your full name, and a chronological listing of all classes and grades. If your academic records do not include official evidence of the award of your degree, you must also submit additional documents that verify the degree conferral, such as a diploma or degree certificate

If your transcript is in a language other than English, then you must provide an official translation issued by your university or by certified members of the American Translators Association. Upload the original transcript and translation as one PDF.

Physical copies of official transcripts of all college-level work will be required if admitted. Official transcripts must be in sealed envelopes as issued by the school(s) you have attended. Request a current transcript from every post-secondary school that you have attended, including community colleges, summer sessions, and extension programs.

Please note that any discrepancy between the uploaded transcript and the official transcript could result in the denial of your application or withdrawal of your offer of admission.

Letters of recommendation

The two required letters of recommendation provide the admissions committee with a third party, qualitative accounts of your potential for success. We require two letters of recommendation. However, you may submit up to three if you like. The online application will prompt you for

three letters of recommendation. If you are only submitting the required two, just enter your own name into the third space.

We strongly prefer that letters of recommendation come from a current direct supervisor, former direct supervisor, or other individuals with whom you have had significant professional interaction. Please select individuals who know you well and who will take the time to write thorough and thoughtful letters on your behalf. The title of those you select is not important. What does matter is how closely your letter writers have worked with you and whether they can attest to your value as an employee, your professional accomplishments, and your personal qualities. We have found the most helpful letters to be recent, relevant, and written specifically for this application. We discourage letters of recommendation from subordinates, family, friends, or professors.

When completing the online application, you will enter the email address of your recommender and click the appropriate box to have the recommender upload their letter. You are responsible for ensuring that both required recommendations are submitted prior to the application deadline.

Essays

Applicants are required to complete two essays. Although we do not have a required minimum or maximum word count, the suggested length of each is around 1 to 2 pages, single-spaced.

Statement of Purpose

Our essay question was created to provoke honest, thoughtful responses to help us get to know you. The admissions committee is interested in learning how your professional or other experiences and achievements equip you and motivate you to pursue an MRED+D degree.

You should describe what you are passionate about that motivates you to make an impact on the world. How have these interests shaped your short-and long-term career goals, and how will an MRED+D degree enable you to build on your prior professional experience and achieve these goals?

Personal History Statement

Anything that can give the admissions committee a sense of you as a person belongs here. You can repeat information about your experiences found in your Statement of Purpose, but we encourage you to highlight any experiences that show your understanding of groups that are historically underrepresented and your commitment to serving underrepresented segments of society with your MRED+D degree.

Curriculum Vitae (CV) or Resume

We are interested in learning about your work and experiential background. Please upload your most current resume or curriculum vitae in a chronological format. If applicable, please also include honors, awards, publications, presentations, languages spoken, and associations you belong to.

Evidence of English Proficiency

All applicants from countries in which the official language is not English are required to submit official evidence of English language proficiency. This applies to applicants from Bangladesh, Burma, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Latin America, the Middle East, the People's Republic of China, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, Southeast Asia, most European countries, and Quebec (Canada).

However, applicants who, at the time of application, have already completed at least one year of full-time academic course work with grades of B or better at a US university may submit an official transcript from the US university to fulfill this requirement. The following courses will not fulfill this requirement: 1) courses in English as a Second Language, 2) courses conducted in a language other than English, 3) courses that will be completed after the application is submitted, and 4) courses of a non-academic nature.

RDEV 200 Principles of Sustainable Real Estate Development 3 Units

Terms offered: Not yet offered

Addresses the needs and challenges of developing sustainable urban communities through multi-disciplinary real estate development approaches, which confront the social, economic, cultural and environmental conditions facing contemporary cities in the United States and throughout the world. The course develops a conceptual foundation that allows students to define goals and metrics for sustainable development principles amidst the complex social-environmental dynamics that constitute large urban development in cities. Approaches to sustainable development and building will range from planning related issues such as smart growth, urban infill and healthy city policies, tactical urbanism, civic engagement and "smart cities."

Principles of Sustainable Real Estate Development: [Read More \[+\]](#)

Hours & Format

Summer: 6 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Real Estate Development + Design/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Principles of Sustainable Real Estate Development: [Read Less \[-\]](#)

RDEV 210 Introduction to Development Economics & Fundamentals 3 Units

Terms offered: Not yet offered

This course teaches students the fundamentals of real estate development finance and economics. Grounded in an understanding of urban economics in large cities, the class will examine the factors in national, regional and local real estate markets that determine development needs and opportunities. Financial analysis skills and analytical processes will be developed for evaluating private and public sector development and investment sources employed across all major property classes and land uses. The class will discuss aspects of financial feasibility throughout the scope of the development process from market and predevelopment analysis and site selection to lease-up or sales of the final product.

Introduction to Development Economics & Fundamentals: [Read More](#) [+]

Objectives Outcomes

Course Objectives: Acquire an understanding of the economic and market impacts of different real estate development product types
Develop critical financial analysis skills and knowledge to evaluate real estate development markets and opportunities
Gain financial knowledge and principles which support sustainable and more equitable real estate development
Understand how urban economics and investment markets impact urban land and real estate development production and viability

Hours & Format

Summer: 6 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Real Estate Development + Design/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Introduction to Development Economics & Fundamentals: [Read Less](#) [-]

RDEV 220 Real Estate Development Finance 3 Units

Terms offered: Not yet offered

Fundamentals of real estate development finance. Financial analysis skills and analytical tools for evaluating private and public development and investment in real estate, over all product types. Site selection, market analysis, financial feasibility, design and legal considerations, construction, lease-up, operations, and property sales. Decision-making scenarios to evaluate and assess development concepts and project viability. Funding sources for market rate and affordable development. Real Estate Development Finance: [Read More](#) [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Real Estate Development + Design/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Real Estate Development Finance: [Read Less](#) [-]

RDEV 230 Public-Private Partnerships, Strategies, and Tools 3 Units

Terms offered: Not yet offered

Public-private partnerships have emerged as a key means of real estate development across the United States. Governments, both local and regional, have real estate assets but they often need private partners to catalyze and execute projects. The course will explore the tools, strategies and partnerships used to implement such projects and pay special attention to the transaction and financing of such developments. The class will teach students the skills and knowledge to manage the complex and often competing agendas of parties involved in public-private partnerships in real estate development.

Public-Private Partnerships, Strategies, and Tools: [Read More](#) [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Real Estate Development + Design/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Public-Private Partnerships, Strategies, and Tools: [Read Less](#) [-]

RDEV 240 Professional Practice of Real Estate Development 3 Units

Terms offered: Not yet offered

Fundamental practices in private, public, and non-profit real estate development. Perspectives of project managers, investment specialists, bankers and lawyers, architects, planners, contractors and property managers representing companies from around the Bay Area following the life cycle/sequence of a real estate project. Approaches to understanding and incorporating community perspectives. Familiarity with professional work products, contracts, schedules and documents handled or produced by practitioners on a daily basis as course materials.

Professional Practice of Real Estate Development: [Read More](#) [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Real Estate Development + Design/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Professional Practice of Real Estate Development: [Read Less](#) [-]

RDEV 280 Capstone Project 2 Units

Terms offered: Not yet offered

In this course you will conduct an original investigation in order to acquire new knowledge within a framework set by a client in practice. The primary goal of this research class is to deepen your personal understanding of a particular topic or issue in real estate development. A key secondary goal is to help address a practical aim or objective of your client.

Capstone Project: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Real Estate Development + Design/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Capstone Project: Read Less [-]