

# Urban Design

The Master of Urban Design (MUD) degree program is a one-calendar-year program of study for students with a prior professional degree in architecture, landscape architecture, or city and regional planning. The program last for three semesters, starting with the June Summer Session and ending at the end of May of the following year. The program offers advanced training in urban design in an interdisciplinary curriculum with faculty drawn from architecture, landscape architecture, and planning in the College of Environmental Design. Designers work in teams and individually across a large range of scales to develop an understanding of the complexity of urbanism and the interdependencies of buildings, landscapes, and planning in environments shaped by cultural, social, economic, political, and environmental forces. The program is an intense and demanding learning experience in which a global group of students shares working methods, acquire additional skills, and explore new challenges in the rapidly expanding field of urban design. As the only stand-alone urban design program in the state, the MUD program begins by focusing on emerging issues in California and the West at the urban, suburban, and territorial scales. As the fifth-largest economy in the world, the most diverse state in the U.S., and a global pioneer in technology, sustainability, and culture, California is a unique laboratory to investigate future spatial challenges. The final independent advanced design project offers students the opportunity to address topics that they are passionate about in sites around the world.

The MUD program is STEM certified for 3 year OPD.

## Admission to the University

### Minimum Requirements for Admission

The following minimum requirements apply to all graduate programs and will be verified by the Graduate Division:

1. A bachelor's degree or recognized equivalent from an accredited institution;
2. A grade point average of B or better (3.0);
3. If the applicant has completed a basic degree from a country or political entity (e.g., Quebec) where English is not the official language, adequate proficiency in English to do graduate work, as evidenced by a TOEFL score of at least 90 on the iBT test, 570 on the paper-and-pencil test, or an IELTS Band score of at least 7 on a 9-point scale (note that individual programs may set higher levels for any of these); and
4. Sufficient undergraduate training to do graduate work in the given field.

### Applicants Who Already Hold a Graduate Degree

The Graduate Council views academic degrees not as vocational training certificates, but as evidence of broad training in research methods, independent study, and articulation of learning. Therefore, applicants who already have academic graduate degrees should be able to pursue new subject matter at an advanced level without the need to enroll in a related or similar graduate program.

Programs may consider students for an additional academic master's or professional master's degree only if the additional degree is in a distinctly different field.

Applicants admitted to a doctoral program that requires a master's degree to be earned at Berkeley as a prerequisite (even though the applicant

already has a master's degree from another institution in the same or a closely allied field of study) will be permitted to undertake the second master's degree, despite the overlap in field.

The Graduate Division will admit students for a second doctoral degree only if they meet the following guidelines:

1. Applicants with doctoral degrees may be admitted for an additional doctoral degree only if that degree program is in a general area of knowledge distinctly different from the field in which they earned their original degree. For example, a physics PhD could be admitted to a doctoral degree program in music or history; however, a student with a doctoral degree in mathematics would not be permitted to add a PhD in statistics.
2. Applicants who hold the PhD degree may be admitted to a professional doctorate or professional master's degree program if there is no duplication of training involved.

Applicants may apply only to one single degree program or one concurrent degree program per admission cycle.

## Required Documents for Applications

1. **Transcripts:** Applicants may upload *unofficial* transcripts with your application for the departmental initial review. Unofficial transcripts must contain specific information including the name of the applicant, name of the school, all courses, grades, units, & degree conferral (if applicable).
2. **Letters of recommendation:** Applicants may request online letters of recommendation through the online application system. Hard copies of recommendation letters must be sent directly to the program, by the recommender, not the Graduate Admissions.
3. **Evidence of English language proficiency:** All applicants who have completed a basic degree from a country or political entity in which the official language is not English are required to submit official evidence of English language proficiency. This applies to institutions 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:
  - courses in English as a Second Language,
  - courses conducted in a language other than English,
  - courses that will be completed after the application is submitted, and
  - courses of a non-academic nature.

Applicants who have previously applied to Berkeley must also submit new test scores that meet the current minimum requirement from one of the standardized tests. Official TOEFL score reports must be sent directly from Educational Test Services (ETS). The institution code for Berkeley is 4833 for Graduate Organizations. Official IELTS score reports must be sent electronically from the testing center to University of California, Berkeley, Graduate Division, Sproul Hall, Rm 318 MC 5900, Berkeley, CA 94720. TOEFL and IELTS score reports are only valid for two years prior

to beginning the graduate program at UC Berkeley. Note: score reports can not expire before the month of June.

## Where to Apply

Visit the Berkeley Graduate Division application page (<http://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/apply/>).

## Admission Criteria and Prerequisites

Admission to the Master of Urban Design program requires:

- A prior professional degree in architecture (BArch or MArch), landscape architecture (BLA or MLA), or city and regional planning (MCP or MUP with a strong design background).
- Evidence of high-quality academic and professional work, including minimum TOEFL/IELTS score requirements.
- Two years of professional experience after completion of the professional degree is recommended but not required. Applicants will be evaluated based on the quality of their work.

## Course Requirements

Five courses constitute the core of the Master of Urban Design degree program:

- ENV DES 201 Urban Design Fundamentals Studio—an intensive studio involving collaborative work on problems that are large in scope, yet require attention to spatial organization and design details. This studio is scheduled in the 10 week Summer Session.
- ENV DES 251 Discourses in Urban Design Seminar—an introduction to the program, faculty resources, and important issues in contemporary urban design practice. This course is scheduled in the 8 week Summer Session.
- CY PLAN 298 Economics Module, which introduces key economic issues and concepts.
- ENV DES 252 Thesis Research and Preparation, a seminar that brings all candidates in the program together to develop and discuss their individual Advanced Design projects.
- ENV DES 253 Thesis Studio, led by an urban design practitioner with MUD faculty. The thesis studio provides students with guidance to complete their advanced design project by mid-May, when they will present their work to faculty, students, alumni, and invited reviewers.

Students can select an additional studio is selected from advanced urban design graduate studios offered in the three departments. Students must also complete courses in methods, urban design history or theory, and electives related to their interests. See the MUD Program Handbook for further information, including sample programs.

## Curriculum

### Courses Required

ENV DES 201	Urban Design Fundamentals Studio	5
ENV DES 251	Discourses in Urban Design	3
CY PLAN 298	Group Studies	1
ENV DES 252	Thesis Research and Preparation	3
ENV DES 253	Thesis Studio	4

Second Studio Requirement: Students must complete one of the following courses:

ARCH 202	Graduate Option Studio [5]
CY PLAN 248	Advanced Studio: Urban Design/Environmental Planning [5]

LD ARCH 202 Design of Landscape Sites [5]

LD ARCH 205 Environmental Planning Studio [5]

Methods Requirement: Students must complete one of the following 3-4 courses

LD ARCH C241 Research Methods in Environmental Design [4]

LD ARCH C242 Community Engagement and Public Participation in Planning Processes [3]

History/Theory Requirement: Students must complete one of the following courses 2-3

LD ARCH C25 Theories of Urban Form and Design [3]

LD ARCH 251 Theories of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning [2]

ARCH 279 Special Topics in the History of Architecture [1-4]

MUD Summer Studio: Students must complete the following course: 5

ENV DES 253 Thesis Studio [4]

Electives relevant to thesis topic per approved study list Variable

## Urban Design

Expand all course descriptions [+] Collapse all course descriptions [-]

### ENV DES 201 Urban Design Fundamentals Studio 5 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2023 10 Week Session, Summer 2022 10 Week Session, Fall 2021

An intensive studio involving collaborative work on problems that are large in scope, yet require attention to spatial organization and design details.

The studio course is offered each fall semester and required for incoming graduate students in the Master of Urban Design Program (MUD).

The course is also open to College of Environmental Design graduate students of advanced standing in the Master of City Planning Program/ Urban Design Concentration, the Master of Architecture and Master of Landscape Architecture Programs.

Urban Design Fundamentals Studio: Read More [-]

#### Rules & Requirements

**Prerequisites:** Students enrolled in the Master of Urban Design program have priority. Others welcome with consent of instructor

#### Hours & Format

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar and 5 hours of studio per week

**Summer:** 10 weeks - 6 hours of seminar and 6 hours of studio per week

#### Additional Details

**Subject/Course Level:** Environmental Design/Graduate

**Grading:** Letter grade.

Urban Design Fundamentals Studio: Read Less [-]

## ENV DES 202 Advanced Urban Design Studio 5 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022

The advanced urban design studio builds on the conceptual and design skills taught in the introductory studio, adding more complex contexts, sites and programs. The studio will address realistic contemporary urban, suburban, or rural situations requiring innovative solutions. The studio projects will be either sponsored or led by professional firms. Students will undertake in-depth research, understand economic, political, social, and cultural dynamics, investigate challenging sites, and produce creative responses.

Advanced Urban Design Studio: [Read More](#) [+]

### Rules & Requirements

**Credit Restrictions:** Students will receive no credit for ENV DES 202 after completing ENV DES 202. A deficient grade in ENV DES 202 may be removed by taking ENV DES 202.

### Hours & Format

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 8 hours of studio per week

### Additional Details

**Subject/Course Level:** Environmental Design/Graduate

**Grading:** Letter grade.

**Instructor:** Crawford

Advanced Urban Design Studio: [Read Less](#) [-]

## ENV DES 207 Design and Difference 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

This course explores contemporary debates around race, gender, sexuality, disability rights and other forms of embodied politics and considers their potential to transform the normative assumptions and practices of the built environment disciplines. Concepts such as self-abstraction, assimilation, and discourses of the "universal" or neutral body will be examined critically in relation to socially situated theories of power, identity, and activism. The course will investigate case studies of everyday objects, buildings and urban space that exemplify the creative limits and possibilities of embodied difference in the design process. Weekly reading responses, class discussions, presentations, and a final project are required.

Design and Difference: [Read More](#) [+]

### Rules & Requirements

**Repeat rules:** Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

### Hours & Format

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

### Additional Details

**Subject/Course Level:** Environmental Design/Graduate

**Grading:** Letter grade.

Design and Difference: [Read Less](#) [-]

## ENV DES C231 Critical Race Theory in Planning, Design, and Public Policy 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023

This course focuses on four inter-connected areas of pedagogy important to urban planning, design, and public policy that repair, rather than perpetuate, systemic harm. First, we will examine the main tenets of critical race theory to address the structural roots and history of injustice. Second, students will learn the theory, methodology and practice of transformative community planning, design and public policy principles that center the lived experiences, experiential knowledge, and agency of people directly impacted by systemic injustice. Third, we will examine the role of individual and collective healing focusing on the principles of restorative justice. Fourth, we will explore the theory and practice of love-based justice.

Critical Race Theory in Planning, Design, and Public Policy: [Read More](#) [+]

### Hours & Format

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

### Additional Details

**Subject/Course Level:** Environmental Design/Graduate

**Grading:** Letter grade.

**Also listed as:** PUB POL C231

Critical Race Theory in Planning, Design, and Public Policy: [Read Less](#) [-]

## ENV DES 251 Discourses in Urban Design 1 or 3 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2023 8 Week Session, Summer 2022 8 Week Session, Fall 2021

The course is the first of three courses (ED251, ED252, ED253) directed toward the development of research and design proposals that advance the field of urban design. As the first course in the sequence, ED251 introduces topics and research methods in contemporary urban design. There is a lecture component (Section 1) that is open to the College and campus. Graduate students preparing for theses and professional reports in urban design will enroll in Section 2, which includes attending the lectures as well as a seminar that expands on the lecture topics by exploring various research and design methodologies.

Discourses in Urban Design: [Read More](#) [+]

### Rules & Requirements

**Prerequisites:** The one unit section is open to all students. The three unit section is for students enrolled in the Master of Urban Design program or those who have obtained the consent of the instructor

### Hours & Format

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 1-3 hours of seminar per week

**Summer:** 8 weeks - 3-6 hours of seminar per week

### Additional Details

**Subject/Course Level:** Environmental Design/Graduate

**Grading:** Letter grade.

Discourses in Urban Design: [Read Less](#) [-]

## ENV DES 252 Thesis Research and Preparation 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2022

Seminar focuses on individual urban design interests, the design and research work that students are pursuing in other courses, and development of thesis or final design projects.

Thesis Research and Preparation: [Read More](#) [+]

### Rules & Requirements

**Prerequisites:** Students must be in the Master of Urban Design program or obtain consent of instructor

### Hours & Format

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

### Additional Details

**Subject/Course Level:** Environmental Design/Graduate

**Grading:** Letter grade.

Thesis Research and Preparation: [Read Less](#) [-]

## ENV DES 253 Thesis Studio 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2023 10 Week Session, Spring 2023, Summer 2022 10 Week Session

A studio for Masters of Urban Design students aimed to support students during the final months of their thesis work. Faculty will hold bi-weekly individual desk critiques of student work and organize preliminary reviews to outside reviewers in preparation of the final review scheduled at the end of the semester.

Thesis Studio: [Read More](#) [+]

### Rules & Requirements

**Prerequisites:** 252

### Hours & Format

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 6 hours of studio per week

### Additional Details

**Subject/Course Level:** Environmental Design/Graduate

**Grading:** Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Thesis Studio: [Read Less](#) [-]

## ENV DES C297 Dismantling Racism in Planning, Design, and Public Policy Clinic 3 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023

This Clinic seeks to develop students to advance an anti-racist future guided by the principles of love, healing, and justice. Students are required to enroll in the companion theory course, EnvDes C231, Critical Race Theory in Planning, Design, and Public Policy. This Clinic focuses on four areas of professional practice. First, students are supervised by experienced professional practitioners. Second, students will learn the framework of racial equity analysis through applied theoretical frameworks and case study pedagogy. Third, students will apply the framework of racial equity analysis to real-world projects. Fourth, students will engage in reflection of their experiences through peer learning and regular journal entries.

Dismantling Racism in Planning, Design, and Public Policy Clinic: [Read More](#) [+]

### Rules & Requirements

**Repeat rules:** Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

### Hours & Format

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 7-9 hours of clinic and 3-3 hours of lecture per week

### Additional Details

**Subject/Course Level:** Environmental Design/Graduate

**Grading:** Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

**Also listed as:** PUB POL 297A

Dismantling Racism in Planning, Design, and Public Policy Clinic: [Read Less](#) [-]

## ENV DES 298 Environmental Design Group Studies 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023, Fall 2015, Spring 2015

Topics to be announced at the beginning of each semester.

Environmental Design Group Studies: [Read More](#) [+]

### Rules & Requirements

**Prerequisites:** Consent of instructor

**Repeat rules:** Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

### Hours & Format

**Fall and/or spring:**

4 weeks - 4-14 hours of directed group study per week

15 weeks - 1-4 hours of directed group study per week

### Additional Details

**Subject/Course Level:** Environmental Design/Graduate

**Grading:** Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Environmental Design Group Studies: [Read Less](#) [-]

## ENV DES N298 Directed Group Study 1 - 2 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2023 Second 6 Week Session

Topics are announced at the beginning of the semester.

Directed Group Study: [Read More](#) [+]

### Hours & Format

**Summer:** 8 weeks - 3-5 hours of directed group study per week

### Additional Details

**Subject/Course Level:** Environmental Design/Graduate

**Grading:** Letter grade.

Directed Group Study: [Read Less](#) [-]