

# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN URBAN DESIGN (MSUD)

The Master of Science in Urban Design (MSUD) degree is oriented to those who wish to expand upon their previous professional education and professional experience, as architects, landscape architects, city planners, or civil engineers, and to enter urban design practices either in private firms or public agencies, or to pursue a Ph.D. The MSUD Program is housed in the School of Architecture and collaborates with the Georgia Tech School of City and Regional Planning. The curriculum is focused on urban design studios, often in direct collaboration with local communities, addressing contemporary challenges including climate change, equity, and retrofitting obsolescent infrastructure. Practicum Internships with leading urban design firms across the US over spring break help students build professional networks. Fall and spring required courses in urban design, history and theory, real estate, and urban ecology provide a rich interdisciplinary experience augmented with elective opportunities in architecture, planning, engineering, computation, public policy, heritage preservation, and other areas. Most students complete the program over the summer in our MODERN ARCHITECTURE AND MODERN CITY 4-city European study tour doing coursework and independent study.

## Qualifications Needed to Apply

Applicants to the MSUD Program are limited to those with prior accredited professional degrees in

- Architecture (M.ARCH or B.ARCH),
- Landscape Architecture (BLA or MLA),
- City and Regional Planning (MCRP or equivalent), or
- Civil Engineering (BCE or equivalent).

Applicants must demonstrate their ability for graduate study in urban design by submitting the following in their application package:

1. A design portfolio, including academic and professional work, demonstrating experience and ability to engage professional level urban design problems. The portfolio must be submitted in digital form.
2. Tests of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores, with a minimum scores of 600 (paper), 250 (computer) or 100 (Internet) are required for students whose first language is not English.

The MSUD Program recommends students start the 3-semester sequence in the fall semester. Students have the option of extending the program with additional coursework or an independent year-long thesis.

The course of study for the Master of Science in Urban Design (MSUD) includes a set of required core courses, totaling 30 credit hours, and professional electives, totaling 9 credit hours. The total minimum credit hour requirement for the MSUD degree is thirty-nine credit hours.

### First Year

| Fall      |                          | Credit Hours |
|-----------|--------------------------|--------------|
| ARCH 7013 | Urban Design Studio 1    | 6            |
| BC 6975   | The Evolution of a Deal  | 3            |
| ARCH 6151 | Theories of Urban Design | 3            |

|                            |                         |           |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| ARCH Elective <sup>1</sup> |                         | 3         |
| <b>Credit Hours</b>        |                         | <b>15</b> |
| <b>Spring</b>              |                         |           |
| ARCH 7014                  | Urban Design Studio 2   | 6         |
| ARCH 7151                  | History of Urban Form   | 3         |
| ARCH 6447                  | Urban Ecological Design | 3         |
| ARCH Elective <sup>1</sup> |                         | 3         |
| <b>Credit Hours</b>        |                         | <b>15</b> |
| <b>Second Year</b>         |                         |           |
| <b>Fall</b>                |                         |           |
| Optional Second Year Fall  |                         |           |
| ARCH 7015                  | Urban Design Studio 3   | 6         |
| ARCH Elective <sup>1</sup> |                         | 3         |
| <b>Credit Hours</b>        |                         | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>Total Credit Hours</b>  |                         | <b>39</b> |

Students have the option of completing requirements during Year 1 Summer with Modern Architecture Modern Cities (includes 6 hours of independent study and 6 hours of electives) or Independent Study in Atlanta.

<sup>1</sup> The 9 credit hours of elective courses are organized into six subject areas, reflecting important areas of urban design practice. Students will be advised to take these electives, either in concentrated areas or in distributed subjects, based on their prior professional degrees, professional experience and career interests.

These elective areas are as follows:

- **Urban Design History, Theory and Practice** electives provide depth in several aspects of urban design history, theory and practice. These are especially appropriate for students with strong technical backgrounds, who wish to engage broader aspects of urban design practice.
- **Sustainable Development** electives provide an introduction, as well as policy and technical depth, to issues of sustainable urbanism from a variety of perspectives, ranging from building to city to regional and scales.
- **Transportation Planning** electives are courses in the existing Transportation Dual Degree Program between City and Regional Planning and Civil and Environmental Engineering. Students also may enroll, with permission, in other transportation planning and design courses in the Georgia Tech School of Civil and Environmental Engineering.
- **Real Estate and Economic Development** electives provide additional depth in real estate development and economic development. Students may also cross enroll, with permission, in the Georgia State University Robinson College of Business. In addition, students may select to complete the Real Estate Certificate Program at Georgia State University.
- **Digital Media** electives respond to the rapidly growing need in urban design practice to bridge among GIS, CAD, 3-D Modeling and Animation. The strengths in the College of Design GIS Center and the Digital Buildings Laboratory provide substantial opportunities in this area, and these opportunities are expanding rapidly.
- **Heritage Preservation** electives address an area of urban design practice that has not had significant academic attention. These electives are based on opportunities for students to cross enroll, with permission, at GSU for courses in the Heritage Preservation Program in the College of Arts and Sciences. In addition, students may select to complete the Historic Preservation Certificate Program at Georgia State University.

For additional information and links see: [www.arch.gatech.edu/urban-design/msud](http://www.arch.gatech.edu/urban-design/msud)