### URBAN STUDIES, MS

**School of Public Administration, College of Public Affairs & Community Service**

**Vision Statement**
Our graduates are social entrepreneurs, urban thinkers and agents of change. The Master of Science in Urban Studies (UBNS) is the degree for individuals desiring to make a difference in urban areas. UNO’s Urban Studies Program is a professional degree that trains leaders to critically analyze urban problems and engage residents in the creation of innovative solutions to conditions in the human community, built environment and natural systems.

**Program Contact Information**
Dr. Robert Blair, Graduate Program Chair (GPC)
College of Public Affairs & Community Service (CPACS) 111C
402-554-3865
rblair@unomaha.edu

Meagan Van Gelder, Coordinator
College of Public Affairs & Community Service (CPACS) 111
402-554-3480
mvangelder@unomaha.edu

**Program Website** ([http://www.urbanstudies.unomaha.edu](http://www.urbanstudies.unomaha.edu))

**Admissions**

**Application Deadlines**
- Fall: June 1

**Program-Specific Requirements**
- The general prerequisite for admission to the Urban Studies program is a four-year bachelors’ degree with a minimum grade point average of 3.0 in the junior and senior years combined (last 50-60 credit hours). Under extenuating circumstances an average below 3.0 will be considered.
- International applicants who do not have a baccalaureate or equivalent degree from an English-speaking institution of higher education in the US, the United Kingdom, Canada, English-speaking Africa, Australia, Ireland, or New Zealand are required to submit TOEFL and GRE scores.
  - The minimum TOEFL requirement is 550 (written) or 213 (computer-based), or 80 (internet-based), or an IELTS of 6.5 or better, or a PTE with a score of 53 or better.
- Two (2) Letters of Recommendation
- Statement of Purpose
- A two-page typed essay on how the Master of Science in Urban Studies will further the applicant’s career objectives must be included with the application for admission
- Resume

**Degree Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Required Courses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UBNS 8000/Geog 8830</td>
<td>SEMINAR IN URBAN STUDIES</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA/AVN 8120</td>
<td>ANALYSIS AND DECISION MAKING</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA 8010</td>
<td>THE PUBLIC ECONOMY</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UBNS/BLST 8020</td>
<td>RACE, ETHNICITY, AND AMERICAN URBAN CULTURE</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geog 8056</td>
<td>GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electives**

Urban studies is an interdisciplinary field. The UBNS strives to expose students to courses taught by faculty in the School of Public Administration who have expertise in urban studies, as well as faculty in other academic units. Students select five (5) elective courses with the approval of the UBNS Chair from the following list based on interests in the human community, built environment or natural systems. This is subject to change depending on course availability, and prospective as well as current students should check the program's website periodically for updates.

Electives currently include, but are not limited to the following:

- CACT 8326 ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY AND HUMAN HEALTH
- ENVN/CACT 8316 OUR ENERGY FUTURE: SOCIETY, THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY
- Geog 8126 URBAN GEOGRAPHY
- Geog 8166 URBAN SUSTAINABILITY
- Geog 8210 SEMINAR IN CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY
- Geog/Geol 8616 ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT
- HED 8360 COMMUNITY HEALTH
- PSCI 8015 URBAN POLITICS
- PA 8060 ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL REPORTING FOR PUBLIC MANAGERS
- PA 8436 MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION
- PA/Biol/Geog 8826 INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & REGULATIONS
- PA/AVN 8896 SPECIAL TOPICS PUBLIC ADMIN
- SOC 8100 SOCIAL INEQUALITY
- SOC 8146 URBAN SOCIOLOGY
- SOC 8200 SOCIETY & HEALTH
- SOC 8746 SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SOCIAL CHANGE

**Exit Requirements**

Select one of the following: 3-6

- Non-Thesis Option:
  - PA 8990 CAPSTONE PROJECT IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

- Thesis Option:
  - UBNS 8980 THESIS

**Total Credits**

- Non-Thesis Option 37
- Thesis Option: 40

**Internship**

Students who have not had at least two years full-time professional experience in the public or nonprofit sector (experience must have been in the sector of the student’s primary future career interest) are encouraged to complete an internship. The internship may be given as a supervised course of three credit hours in addition to the 37 hours required in the Urban Studies program. The internship is taken following completion of preparatory coursework as determined by the Director of the Urban Studies program.

**Total Credit Hours**

- Non-Thesis Option 37
- Thesis Option: 40
**UBNS 8000 SEMINAR IN URBAN STUDIES (3 credits)**
This course provides an interdisciplinary overview of the forces influencing and influenced by urbanization and urbanism. (Cross-listed with GEOG 8830)

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Not open to non-degree graduate students.

**UBNS 8020 RACE, ETHNICITY, AND AMERICAN URBAN CULTURE (3 credits)**
This course explores two central themes, race and ethnicity, which have played a dominant role in the shaping of American society and American culture. (Cross-listed with BLST 8020).

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): BLST 1000, BLST 1100, or permission by the instructor.

**UBNS 8060 INTRODUCTION TO URBAN PLANNING (3 credits)**
This course is an introduction to the development of urban planning as it has shaped and reacted to major trends in U.S. history. It provides students with major themes and traditions in the field of planning and includes planning practice, planning procedures and methods and contemporary issues in the field.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Not open to non-degree graduate students.

**UBNS 8200 COMMUNITY ORGANIZING AND DEVELOPMENT (3 credits)**
This course focuses on various theories and applications of organizing communities and neighborhoods to effect change. Of particular interest is the role of engaging citizens in improving their communities.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Not open to non-degree graduate students.

**UBNS 8820 COMPARATIVE URBAN STUDIES (3 credits)**
Emphasis is upon contrasting the cities of the developed and developing areas of the world.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Not open to non-degree graduate students.

**UBNS 8940 DIRECTED RESEARCH IN URBAN STUDIES (1-3 credits)**
The course is intended for advanced graduate students in urban studies. It is especially suited for those in-career students who have had their internships waived and who might profit more by in-depth research on a problem of urban studies rather than additional classroom courses. (Cross-listed with GEOG 8840).

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Completed 9 graduate hours in Urban Studies. Permission from the School. Not open to non-degree graduate students.

**UBNS 8980 THESIS (1-6 credits)**
A research project, designed and executed under the supervision of the chair and members of the graduate student's Thesis Advisory Committee. In this project, the student will develop and perfect a number of skills including the ability to design, conduct, analyze, and report the results in writing (i.e., thesis) of an original, independent scientific investigation. The project plan must be approved by the student's Thesis Advisory Committee.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Graduate student in UBNS and approval of Thesis Advisory Committee.