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 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

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Other Program Related Information

Fast Track Program

The Master of Science in urban studies program has developed a Fast Track program for highly qualified and motivated students providing the opportunity to complete a bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree in an accelerated time frame. With Fast Track, students may count up to 9 graduate hours toward the completion of their undergraduate program as well as the graduate degree program.

Program Specifics:

- This program is available for undergraduate students with a BS in emergency management or a BS in black studies desiring to pursue a MS in urban studies.
- Students must be within at least 30 undergraduate credits yet to complete their undergraduate degree. Exceptional students who do not meet this requirement may be considered.
- Students must have a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.5.
- Students must complete the Fast Track Approval form and obtain all signatures and submit to the Office of Graduate Studies prior to first enrollment in a graduate course
- Students will work with their undergraduate advisor to register for the graduate courses.
- Students must consult with the urban studies advisor prior to enrollment in one of the courses listed below.
- A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5 is required to remain in good standing.
- Students remain undergraduates until they meet all the requirements for the undergraduate degree and are eligible for all rights and privileges granted undergraduate status including financial aid.
- Near the end of the undergraduate program, formal application to the MS in urban studies program is required. The application fee will be waived, the applicant will need to contact the Office of Graduate Studies for a fee waiver code.
- Admission to Fast Track does NOT guarantee admission to the graduate program.

- For this program, if students maintain at least a grade of B+ in courses taken, they will be recommended for admission to the MS in urban studies.
- The admit term must be after the completion term of the undergraduate degree.

The following courses may be taken under the Fast Track program

- BLST 8886: Seminar on Black Leadership
- UBNS 8000: Seminar in Urban Studies
- UBNS 8060: Introduction to Urban Planning
- UBNS 8020: Race, Ethnicity and American Urban Culture**
- UBNS 8200: Community Organizing and Development**
  - PA 8010: The Public Economy (Must have completed or be concurrently enrolled in UBNS 8000)

Admissions

General Application Requirements and Admission Criteria (http://catalog.unomaha.edu/graduate/admission/)

Program-Specific Requirements

Application Deadlines (Spring 2023, Summer 2023, and Fall 2023)

Applications for this program are accepted on a rolling basis. All materials must be submitted prior to the beginning of the semester in which the student has elected to begin coursework.

Other 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.
- English Language Proficiency: Applicants are required to have a command of oral and written English. Those who do not hold a baccalaureate or other advanced degree from the United States, OR a baccalaureate or other advanced degree from a pre-determined country on the waiver list, must meet the minimum language proficiency score requirement in order to be considered for admission.
- Statement of Purpose: A two-page typed essay on how the MS in urban studies will further the applicant’s career objectives must be included with the application for admission.
- Resume
- Letters of Recommendation: Two letters of recommendation are required

Degree Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UBNS 8000/</td>
<td>SEMINAR IN URBAN STUDIES</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEGO 8830</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>UBNS/BLST 8020</td>
<td>RACE, ETHNICITY, AND AMERICAN CULTURE</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEGO 8056</td>
<td>GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS I</td>
<td>4</td>
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</table>
Electives
Urban studies (UBNS) 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 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 approved by the director of urban studies. Electives are intended to give students knowledge and skills that prepare them to manage projects and organizations. Electives currently include, but are not limited to the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UBNS 8200</td>
<td>COMMUNITY ORGANIZING &amp; SOCIAL CHANGE</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PA 8030</td>
<td>INTERNSHIP IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION</td>
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<td></td>
<td>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 highly encouraged to complete an internship. The internship is taken following completion of preparatory coursework as determined by the director of the urban studies program.</td>
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<tr>
<td>CACT 8326</td>
<td>ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY AND HUMAN HEALTH</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENVN/CACT 8316</td>
<td>OUR ENERGY FUTURE: SOCIETY, THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEOG 8126</td>
<td>URBAN GEOGRAPHY</td>
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<td>GEOG 8166</td>
<td>URBAN SUSTAINABILITY</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEOG 8210</td>
<td>SEMINAR IN CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEOG/GEOL 8516</td>
<td>ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT</td>
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<td>PHHB 8360</td>
<td>COMMUNITY HEALTH</td>
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<td>PSCI 8015</td>
<td>URBAN POLITICS</td>
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<tr>
<td>PA 8436</td>
<td>MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION</td>
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<td>PA/BIOL/CACT 8826</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL LAW &amp; REGULATIONS</td>
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<td>PA/AVN 8896</td>
<td>SPECIAL TOPICS PUBLIC ADMIN</td>
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<td>SOC 8100</td>
<td>SOCIAL INEQUALITY</td>
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<td>SOC 8146</td>
<td>URBAN SOCIOLOGY</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 8200</td>
<td>HEALTH &amp; SOCIETY</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 8746</td>
<td>SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SOCIAL CHANGE</td>
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<tr>
<td>UBNS 8400</td>
<td>URBAN LEADERSHIP</td>
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<tr>
<td>UBNS 8500</td>
<td>URBAN POLICY</td>
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<tr>
<td>UBNS 8820</td>
<td>COMPARATIVE URBAN STUDIES</td>
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<tr>
<td>PA 8990</td>
<td>CAPSTONE PROJECT IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION</td>
<td>3</td>
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Total Credits: 37

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 as part of 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.

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 & SOCIAL CHANGE (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. (Cross-listed with PA 8200).
Prerequisite(s/Corequisite(s): Not open to non-degree graduate students.

UBNS 8400 URBAN LEADERSHIP (3 credits)
UBNS 8400 is an introduction to leadership in an urban setting. The course focuses on both theoretical and applied cases and strategies of effective urban leadership in a diverse society. Topics include leadership strategies for community engagement, neighborhood development, and nonprofit leadership. Profiles of urban leaders provide an applied setting for the course.
Prerequisite(s/Corequisite(s): Graduate student standing, but open to non-degree seeking students with Bachelor’s degree; open to certificate students.

UBNS 8500 URBAN POLICY (3 credits)
Seminar on urban policies and policymaking. Attention is given to various current urban issues and the policy options surrounding them. Policy theories, policy processes, and the institutions of policymaking in cities are covered. Topics of focus include policies related to policing, economic development, land use, transportation, education, poverty, housing, and ordinances.
Prerequisite(s/Corequisite(s): Graduate student standing, but open to non-degree seeking students with Bachelor’s degree; open to certificate 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 (3 credits)
The course is intended for advanced graduate students in urban studies or
geography. 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. For Geography students, GEOG 8126
(Urban Geography) or permission from the School.