

MASTER OF ARTS IN URBAN SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE

INTRODUCTION

The Master of Arts in Urban Sustainability and Resilience is designed around an innovative curriculum that blends elements from traditional, urban-focused graduate programs (urban/regional planning and development, urban ecology, urban studies/political science, public administration) with business, economics, community development, environmental science, geography and communications.

Graduates of the program are prepared to improve the livability, economic vitality, civic health and social equity of metropolitan areas across the country, including the Cincinnati region. They are able to successfully engage the serious problems facing urban areas including population decline, environmental vulnerabilities and inequitable resource distribution. They are prepared to work in the public sector, non-government agencies and the private sector in positions that reshape the interaction between cities, their economies and the environment. Graduates understand systems thinking (integrated development planning, strategic environmental assessment, eco-city planning) and have the technical and analytical skills to interpret, respond to and communicate complex information. Grounded in a multidisciplinary investigation of cities that builds upon the competencies they developed as undergraduates, graduates are able to contribute to solutions for the complex sustainability challenges metropolitan regions face.

The learning objectives of the program are:

- Graduates develop a holistic understanding of the urban environmental landscape with a particular focus on the ecosystems in the city of Cincinnati and the surrounding region.
- Graduates develop an intellectual and ethical orientation toward environmental stewardship. They recognize the false dichotomy between the business and altruistic approaches and develop an enthusiasm for what is possible.
- Graduates use creative approaches in their problem-solving and critical thinking, transferring knowledge across domains and seeking holistic connections. This includes the flexibility to think at multiple scales, ask critical questions and respond with agility to rapid changes in the needs of the urban ecosystem.
- Graduates have the requisite analytical, technological and communication skills to meet the unprecedented challenges of urban sustainability. They conduct

research to gather required information, see the range of choices in geographic and analytical data sets, and make clear and well-considered decisions.

- Graduates understand the history and predominant theories of urban development and the tools and techniques used by its practitioners.
- Graduates are able to build community relationships and work constructively with a variety of constituencies.
- Graduates understand legal, regulatory and policy frameworks and their implications.

ADMISSION

To be considered for admission as a degree-seeking graduate student, students must first submit the following to the Office of the Graduate School:

- Completed application. Apply online at Xavier.edu/grad where you can register for an account and start your application by selecting "Graduate Studies."
- One official transcript of all undergraduate and graduate work from accredited colleges or universities.
- A résumé.
- A 500-word minimum statement of purpose for graduate study.
- Two letters of reference from individuals commenting on the applicant's academic/professional potential.
- Official test scores from the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) or Graduate Record Exam (GRE).

Applicants should have an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or above, a score of 390 or above on the MAT or a score of 4.0 or above on the analytical section of the GRE.

Application deadlines are:

- Fall semester: March 1
- Spring semester: Oct. 1
- Summer semester: March 1

Faculty review the pool of applications after each of these dates and invite selected candidates to an on-campus interview to continue the application process. Applicants are encouraged to attend an information session with the program director prior to completing the application process. Dates and times for information sessions are available on the counseling program website.

Students have six years to complete the degree program.

FINANCIAL AID

A limited amount of graduate scholarship money is available on a semester-by-semester basis. All applications for a graduate study grant should be made through the Office of the Graduate School (513-745-3360).

Graduate assistantships, federal loans and other forms of financial assistance are also available to graduate students. Please contact the Office of the Graduate School for details.

CURRICULUM

The program has a trans-disciplinary curriculum that provides a rigorous theoretical framework in sustainability from a business, environmental science and planning/public policy perspective along with the technical skills in using quantitative methods, GIS, economic modeling, cost-benefit analysis and in promoting community engagement. The program is designed to be completed as a full-time program with a cohort of students from different disciplines involved in joint team research, seminars and projects.

YEAR ONE - FALL SEMESTER

HIST 536 Urban Ecologies and Economies
SOC 554 Intro to Urban Systems
POLI 554 The Politics of Urban Sustainability

YEAR ONE - SPRING SEMESTER

SOCI 555 Urban Development and Space
UNST 554 Urban Geography and GIS
SOC 552 Quantitative Analysis
Field placement

SUMMER INTERNSHIP

YEAR TWO - FALL SEMESTER

MGMT 621 Corporate Sustainability
ECON 520 Urban and Regional Economics
COMM 560 Strategic Organizational Communication

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Liz Blume, Director
Community Building Institute
Program Coordinator, MA in
Urban Sustainability and Resilience
Xavier University
3800 Victory Parkway
Cincinnati, Ohio 45207-3226
Phone: 513-745-3332
Fax: 513-745-3422
Email: blume@xavier.edu

Produced by Xavier University's Office of University Communications.
Xavier University is an academic community committed to equal opportunity for all persons regardless of age, sex, race, religion, handicap or national origin.

ADM1309041234/32801/250

YEAR TWO - SPRING SEMESTER

PHIL 554 Eco-systems Thinking
PHIL 506 Social Justice in the City
HIST 556 City as Vocation (four tracks)

Select one:

SOCI 556 Urban Planning and Community Organizing
POLI 555 Politics and Urban Administration
WCB 555 Sustainability Initiatives in the Corporate and Non-profit Sectors
UNST 555 Scientific Research in Sustainability

COMMUNITY BUILDING INSTITUTE AND THE GREEN UMBRELLA

Students benefit from access to research and consulting opportunities through the work of the Community Building Institute. CBI works with community and regional clients on planning, community engagement and community development initiatives. It partners with the city, county and many other government, philanthropic and private clients throughout the region. A partnership between Xavier University and the Green Umbrella also provides a network of opportunities for research and field placements with local corporations and organizations striving to become more sustainable.

INTERNSHIP

Each student is expected to complete a summer internship between the two academic years. The internship is planned as a full-time position in a related placement for pay. The program coordinator assists students with placements. Through our network of corporate, government and community partners, students have access to several opportunities that can be tailored to complement each student's career path.

Office of the Graduate School
100 Hailstones Hall
3800 Victory Parkway
Cincinnati, Ohio 45207-3211
Phone: 513-745-3360
Toll free: 800-344-4698
Email: xugrad@xavier.edu
www.xavier.edu



XAVIER
UNIVERSITY