M.A. in Sustainable Urban Development

Learning Outcomes

Students of the Master of Arts in Sustainable Urban Development can:

• Identify and describe the practical and theoretical links between sustainable urban development and issues of economic development, community development, social justice and the environment.

• Define and discuss interdisciplinary perspectives from subject areas including, but not limited to, geography, sociology, public policy studies, anthropology, and urban planning.

• Practice and apply critical insights associated with local urban development issues.

• Articulate details about strategies being used to transform U.S. urban areas to make them more environmentally, economically and socially sustainable.

• Define and describe contemporary urban issues and debates by citing and critiquing contemporary scholars and through employing either qualitative or quantitative methodologies.

• Formulate a cogent research question about the character of an urban, socio-cultural, or environment-society phenomenon and express that question in the form of a research plan or proposal.

• Identify, collect and assess data from either primary (including field work), or secondary sources.

• Articulate and present publicly an assessment of critical social, environmental and economic issues facing contemporary U.S. cities.

• Explain and analyze the structure of urban processes through case study analysis.

• Recognize the significant urban challenges posed by problems relating to brownfields, land use, neighborhood decline, and transportation, and offer solutions drawing on literature and/or primary data collection.

• Use with competence geographical information systems and/or other technology to assess and analyze sustainable urban development and design.

• Exhibit a range of practical and communication skills, including but not limited to:
  • Conducting independent research and writing.
  • Conducting research and writing as part of a team.

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Conducting research and analysis for a community client or other third party;
• Engaging in critical and analytical thinking.
• Creating and delivering a presentation.
• Writing a 10-page research paper or compiling a scholarly poster.