

**UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND URBAN STUDIES**

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN URBAN STUDIES
CURRICULUM OUTLINE & STUDENT ADVISING GUIDELINES**

In effect August 2015

OVERVIEW

The MSUS curriculum ensures each student becomes knowledgeable about urban studies, receives training in research methods and develops an area of expertise. The program has thesis and non thesis options.

Thesis option

- 33-34 total credit hours
- 15 hours of core curriculum coursework
- 15-16 hours of specialization coursework
- 3 hours of thesis research
- Thesis

Non thesis option

- 36-37 total credit hours
- 15 hours of core curriculum coursework
- 21-22 hours of specialization coursework
- Comprehensive exam

During the first academic year or 15 credit hours, whichever comes first, all students must submit to the MSUS Coordinator in writing a substantive area of concentration and the courses they intend to take. The student may choose from the designated tracks listed below or petition for an individually designed concentration.

PREREQUISITE COURSES (3 credit hours each)

1) A 3 hour undergraduate macro or micro economics course is a prerequisite for the MSUS program. It is possible take a prerequisite while attending UNO with the permission of the department offering the course. Courses can also be taken through community colleges or online from other universities. MOOC courses might be acceptable. Please contact the MSUS coordinator prior to taking a MOOC course. The prerequisite courses will not apply to a student's graduate degree program.

2) A graduate level statistics course is required to complete the program. At UNO, the graduate level statistics courses have an undergraduate statistics course as a prerequisite. It is possible take a prerequisite while attending UNO with the permission of the department offering the course. Courses can also be taken through community colleges or as an online course offered from different universities. MOOC courses might be acceptable. Please contact the MSUS coordinator prior to taking a MOOC course. The courses may only be taken for undergraduate credit and will not apply to a student's graduate degree program.

REQUIRED COURSES (15 credit hours)

Urban Core:

Each student must take **2** urban studies seminars at the 6000 level or above offered by the Anthropology, Planning and Urban Studies, or Geography departments. Courses from other departments can be substituted with permission from the course instructor and the MSUS coordinator. The MSUS coordinator will notify students each semester which course or courses will fulfill this requirement.

Each student must take **1** urban history course at the 5000-level (or above) offered by the History Department.

Methods:

URBN 6005 Statistics for Urban Analysis
OR GEOG 6801 Advanced Quantitative Methods in Geography
AND ANTH 5070 Qualitative Research

Note: All students will be required to have participated in a course or project in which they have made (or participated in as a team member in making) an oral presentation.

SUBSTANTIVE AREAS (15/16 credit hours)

Students must choose five to seven courses from one of the following substantive areas. Students in the geography track must take an additional 1 credit hour course. Required courses for each substantive area are available from the MSUS coordinator.

- Applied Urban Anthropology
- Urban Planning
- Geography
- Cultural Resource Management
- Historic Preservation

With the graduate coordinator's written consent, a student may submit another substantive area which is subject to approval by the urban studies faculty.

Applied Urban Anthropology

- *Required courses*
ANTH 5772 Applied Anthropology
ANTH 5775 Urban Anthropology
- *Three or five additional anthropology courses*

Urban and Regional Planning

- *Required courses*

MURP 6620 History, Theory and Practice of Planning

- *Four or six additional planning courses (either URBN or MURP) with at least one from three different MURP concentrations*

Geography

- *Required courses (4 hours)*
GEOG 6001 Problems in Land Use and Environmental Analysis (1 hr)
GEOG 6887 Geographic Thought and Research Methods
- *Four or six additional geography courses*

Cultural Resource Management

- *Required courses*
ANTH 5825 Contemporary Archeological Theory
ANTH 5721G Cultural Resource Management and Preservation Archeology
ANTH 5991 (6 credits) Advanced Field Research in Anthropology
- *One to three additional approved courses. GEOG 5805 and GEOG 5810 are recommended for the non thesis option.*

Historic Preservation

- *Required courses*
MURP 5010 Intro to Historic Preservation
MURP 5071 Historic Preservation Law *or* ANTH 5721 Cultural Resource Management and Preservation Archeology *or* MURP 5800 Legal Issues in Housing and Historic Preservation
- *Three to five additional approved courses.*

THESIS (3 hours)

Students pursuing the thesis option must take 3 credits of thesis research.

URBN 7000 Thesis Research

OR GEOG 7000 Thesis Research (Geography Track Only)

Please note that students must contact David Lambour, the PLUS Director of Academic Services, and provide an approved copy of the ***Thesis Research Agreement Form*** in order to be able to register for URBN 7000 or GEOG 7000 (this agreement form can be found at <http://www.uno.edu/cola/planning-and-urban-studies/forms.aspx>).

All students pursuing in the thesis option be prepared to defend their thesis to a jury that will consist of both program faculty and outside readers.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AS STUDENT

While it is the role of the college advisors to provide you with assistance in planning and carrying out

your academic program, it is your responsibility to meet all necessary university, graduate school, and college requirements and deadlines. Students should check the current UNO catalog required prerequisites and course restrictions before trying to enroll in a course.

RECOMMENDED COURSE LOAD

In the fall and spring semesters, 9 - 12 credit hours is considered a full-time course load. 6 credit hours is considered a full-time course load for the summer semester. Part-time students generally take 6 credit hours per semester.

6000-LEVEL COURSE REQUIREMENT

UNO requires that at least half of the coursework used for the MSUS degree be completed at the 6000-level (or above). Three hours of thesis credit (URBN 7000 or GEOG 7000) may be applied to this total. Please see the Graduate Coordinator if you need assistance in planning your program to meet this requirement.

TRANSFER COURSEWORK

A maximum of one third of the credit hours required for the degree may be transferred into a master's degree program from other graduate programs with department approval. You must have completed at least nine hours of graduate residence at UNO with an overall B average in order for a transfer to be made. The University also requires that all course transfers be at a grade of B or higher. Official transcripts, displaying the course(s) to be transferred in must be received by the UNO Office of Admissions before the request for transfer credit can be made. The UNO Graduate School also specifies that all coursework applied toward a master's degree must have been taken within the last six years. In order officially transfer coursework, a *Request for Transfer of Credit* form is completed at the same time as the student's *Candidate Plan of Study*, and submitted to the Graduate School.

SUBSTITUTING COURSES

Under special circumstances, you may request the substitution of an elective for a required course. This substitution must be approved by the MSUS Graduate Coordinator.

WAIVING COURSES

In a very limited number of cases, a required course may be waived if you have demonstrated competence or prior knowledge in an area. Evidence of such competence may be required. You must take an elective in place of each course waived. The waiver must be approved by the Graduate Coordinator.

URBN/GEOG 7000 (THESIS RESEARCH)

You may enroll in URBN 7000 or GEOG 7000 (Thesis Research) if you are within 12 hours of completing the program. Even though you may enroll in URBN/GEOG 7000 any number of times, you may apply only three credit hours to your degree. Enrollment in Thesis Research must be approved by the chair of your thesis committee.

TIME LIMIT FOR DEGREE COMPLETION

You should be mindful of the six year limit for completion of the degree program including the thesis or final project. This is calculated from the initial date of your admission to the Graduate School at UNO. Transfer credits applied to your degree must also fall within this six year window.

NOT ATTENDING ONE OR MORE SEMESTERS

Once you have started in the program and you do not register for more than a calendar year, you must complete a simple re-entry form with the Admissions Office. You can sit out the summer semester without having to be formally re-admitted.

CANDIDACY

You must submit a Candidate Plan of Study form to the Graduate School by the semester before the semester you intend to graduate. The Candidate Plan of Study contains the following information: courses completed, courses in progress and remaining, thesis advisor and thesis committee members. See the academic counselor to complete this form. You only need to complete this form once unless there are any changes in your program of study. If you do not graduate during your intended semester, you do not need to file a new form. The form signals the Graduate School that you are a potential candidate for graduation in your program.

URBN 7040 or GEOG 7040 (EXAM OR THESIS ONLY)

Students writing a thesis may use URBN 7040 or GEOG 7040 if they have successfully defended their thesis while enrolled in URBN 7000 or GEOG 7000 the previous semester. URBN/GEOG 7040 is not a requirement and may not even be necessary for you if you can successfully defend your thesis, make any necessary changes, and can meet the deadlines for graduation all in the same semester. If, however, you successfully defend your thesis in one semester, but need time to polish it for final production, you may sign up for URBN 7040 or GEOG 7040 (for a nominal fee) in the following semester, with approval from your thesis committee chair. Students may take URBN 7040 only once.

ENROLLMENT AND GRADUATION DATE

You must be enrolled in a course during the semester in which you intend to graduate.

DIPLOMA AND GRADUATION FEES

Remember that you must complete an Application for Degree and pay associated fees at the beginning of your last semester of enrollment (check the UNO Class Bulletin or the registrar's website for official deadlines). If you do not graduate as intended, you file a new application for degree form and must pay an additional fee at the beginning of the semester in which you do graduate. *This is very important.* If you do not file, the university will not know that you are a candidate for graduation.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact Dr. David Gladstone, the Master of Science in Urban Studies program coordinator, at david.gladstone@uno.edu.