



THE UNIVERSITY of  
NEW ORLEANS

# MSUS

## MASTER OF SCIENCE IN URBAN STUDIES



The **Master of Science in Urban Studies (MSUS)** program engages students in the interdisciplinary study of cities and the processes of urbanization. Subfields in urban anthropology, geography/GIS, historic preservation/cultural resource management, and justice studies. Students have the opportunity to pursue unique programs of study that draw upon the resources of multiple departments and a diverse group of faculty members at the University of New Orleans.

MSUS graduates work in the areas of historic preservation, cultural resource management and the arts, urban planning, public administration, and government. The program also prepares students to pursue specialized research leading to a doctoral degree in urban studies or related fields such as urban planning, anthropology, sociology, and hospitality management.

### CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Graduates are professional planners, GIS specialists, economic developers, trade and transportation professionals, preservationists and environmentalists. Over 90% of all Planning and Urban Studies graduates are employed within the first year. Graduates earn an average of \$57,000/year and nearly 50% of graduates go on to additional advanced degrees.

### DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The MSUS program is a 33 hour interdisciplinary course of study built around a core knowledge of urban literature and research design and methods.

Following successful completion of the core courses, students develop their own curricula centering on a particular area or research interest that they will expand upon in their thesis research or additional coursework.

The flexibility of the MSUS program allows students to pursue emergent career fields that may not be covered in more structured and traditional master's degree programs.



## MSUS SUBFIELDS

### Applied Urban Anthropology

The subfield in Urban Anthropology is offered in cooperation with the UNO Department of Anthropology and Sociology. Students develop specialized knowledge in anthropological and social theory as well as in qualitative research methods that equip them to both frame questions and carry out research pertinent to many facets of urban life, including but not limited to migration, work, food, globalization, expressive arts and visual cultures, and inequality in both the Global North and the Global South.

### Historic Preservation and Cultural Resource Management

The subfield in Cultural Resource Management is offered in cooperation with the Department of History and Philosophy and the Department of Anthropology and Sociology, and introduces students to the field of heritage management, with a particular emphasis on archaeology. Students develop both a theoretical foundation and the practical skills related to the analysis and interpretation of data used in assessing impacts to historic structures and resources. The program provides a theoretical foundation for students who wish to continue their education in the fields of archaeology, anthropology, cultural heritage, and cultural landscape preservation, among other fields. Students can also learn the techniques and develop the knowledge to champion and protect historic architecture, neighborhoods, and landscapes in order to preserve irreplaceable architecture and material culture and tell stories about a shared past. Students wishing to earn their Historic and Cultural Preservation Certificate while in the MSUS program should contact Mr. David Lambour at [dmlambou@uno.edu](mailto:dmlambou@uno.edu).

### Geography and Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

The subfield in Geography and GIS is offered through the Division of Planning and Public Affairs. Students can learn GIS skills that are valued across career fields including urban and regional planners, policy analysts, coastal preservation, surveyors, cartographers, geographers, mapping technicians, and others. Students wishing to earn their GIS Certificate while in the MSUS program should contact Mr. David Lambour at [dmlambou@uno.edu](mailto:dmlambou@uno.edu).

### Justice Studies

Justice Studies foster interdisciplinary, community-engaged scholarship in the service of social change. Students can conduct applied research projects that combine ethnography, archival research, survey research, and other humanities and social science approaches as well as develop the capacity to engage in critical dialogue that promotes justice.

## DPPA: WHO WE ARE

The Division of Planning and Urban Affairs (DPPA) at UNO prepares students for the challenge of shaping urban and regional change locally, throughout the country and around the globe. DPPA is where art and science converge as we teach urban design, scientific research and public policy. The department fulfills the university-wide mission to improve the quality of life throughout the New Orleans region. Our faculty works with federal, state, and local governments as well as non-profits and businesses. Our hands-on program encourages students to get involved in their community and to gain skills that will aid them in the field to affect change.

## CONTACT

Dr. Bethany Stich  
112 Kirschman Hall  
University of New Orleans  
2000 Lakeshore Dr.  
New Orleans, LA 70148  
[bstich@uno.edu](mailto:bstich@uno.edu)



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2000 Lakeshore Dr, New Orleans, LA 70148

504-280-6519 phone | [www.uno.edu](http://www.uno.edu)