IMMERSIVE LEARNING.
SUSTAINABLE PLANNING.

PROGRAMS IN
CITY PLANNING & URBAN AFFAIRS
bu.edu/cityplanning
The majority of the world’s population lives in cities. The ongoing welfare of these urban environments requires the vision and expertise of urban professionals equipped to address a range of social, economic, environmental, and geographic challenges.

Our competitive degrees in City Planning and Urban Affairs and other graduate certificates at the Metropolitan College prepare students to enter their chosen field with the skills and knowledge to critically analyze and creatively address just such urban challenges. Our commitment to immersive learning and sustainable planning shapes our pedagogy and by providing a global perspective on planning and urbanization, we prepare our students to make a difference in the community—and in the world.

The analytical and practical skills students gain through internship opportunities and exposure to faculty and visiting lecturers of diverse professional backgrounds are complemented by useful connections to planners, policy makers, and community activists from Greater Boston and beyond. Our socially and professionally diverse classrooms offer students a strong opportunity for peer learning and networking. In the last two years, 89 percent of our students were employed at the time of graduation within their primary field.
Boston University’s Metropolitan College City Planning & Urban Affairs programs challenge students to regard cities—and the roles played by planners, policymakers, and social advocates—in a critical and thoughtful light. Students learn from faculty with expertise in areas such as sustainable development, climate change, transportation, land reclamation, city finance, regional economics, and urban design, and benefit from a curriculum that embraces sustainability, creativity, pragmatism, and diversity of thought.

Apart from the program’s academic offerings that are deeply rooted in “real-world” applications, students can participate in several skill-based and professional workshops and events, such as the Directed Internship Program and the Student Learning Enrichment Series.

Our students have access to a large and influential network of planners, policymakers, and community activists from across the world—and as graduates they are educated to distinguish themselves as critical, open-minded thinkers and inventive problem solvers ready for the myriad political, social, and technical challenges that arise in the field.

Apart from the academic, professional, and social resources of Boston University, which is ranked among the top 40 universities internationally, students also have the opportunity to engage in a vibrant urban setting and learn from nearly four centuries of Boston’s urban history.
Master of City Planning (MCP)

Twelve courses (48 credits): Distribution; Five required courses (20 credits) and seven electives (28 credits)

The City Planning master’s degree prepares students for a wide variety of professional roles in planning for urban and regional development. During the course of their study, students can specialize in an array of complex issues and policy areas that include: environmental sustainability, land use, housing, and community development; infrastructure planning; transportation planning; and urban design. This professional graduate degree is intended for those pursuing careers in planning-related fields, and designed to be completed in one and a half to two years if taken full time. Graduates work as town and city planners, community development directors, research analysts, and policy experts with federal, state, and local governments; nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations; corporations; and research institutions. MCP students may obtain up to two additional graduate certificates without taking any additional courses.

Bachelor of Science in Urban Affairs

Twelve distribution courses (48 credits), four required courses (16 credits), six major electives (24 credits), two related courses (8 credits), and eight general electives (32 credits)

This self-paced, evening bachelor’s degree program prepares students for further study and jobs in urban public policy, community development and service delivery, and the administration of public and private agencies in urban settings. The Urban Affairs major and minor combine a foundation in the liberal arts with relevant disciplinary and interdisciplinary courses.

“One of the most important lessons I learned during the program is that urban planning is conducted most effectively at the regional level when adjacent jurisdictions break down their silos, pool their resources, and work together to solve problems. I’m fortunate to work in a capacity where I can help facilitate that kind of planning in the context of serious threats to the American way of life. Furthermore, the mission of Denver OEM aligns with my personal passion for ‘cultivating safe, prepared, and resilient communities’ in the face of ever-increasing human, technological, and natural threats.”

Tiana L. Farrant,
Master of City Planning ’15
Emergency Management Coordinator,
Denver Urban Area Security Initiative,
City and County of Denver Office of Emergency Management
**Graduate Certificate in Applied Sustainability**

Four courses (16 credits)

This four-course graduate certificate program offers a unique interdisciplinary look at what it takes to make urban and economic development compatible with the natural environment. Coursework guides students through the foundations of ecology; current theories of sustainability; methods for optimizing energy and land use; building management techniques; the politics, law, and economics of the global green movement; and the relationship between IT and the consumption of resources. This certificate is appropriate for individuals currently in roles as sustainability professionals as well as those seeking to enter this expanding and high-demand field. Architects, facilities managers, city planners, and IT experts have the opportunity to fill gaps in their existing knowledge, whereas those just beginning careers in these and related fields will gain the foundation to make green thinking central to their work from the outset. Course credit earned in pursuit of the Graduate Certificate in Applied Sustainability may subsequently be applied to Master of Urban Affairs or Master of City Planning degree programs.

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**Master of Urban Affairs (MUA)**

Eight courses (32 credits): Distribution; Five required courses (20 credits) and three electives (12 credits)

This program is designed for students seeking a broad background in urban public policy, community development and service delivery, and the administration of public and private agencies in urban settings. Graduates are prepared for careers in the public, private, or nonprofit sectors in which they assemble and analyze information for policy-making, identify community needs and resources, and administer effective service-delivery programs—tasks which are common to organizations in a wide variety of urban functions, such as housing, health services, economic development, transportation, and environment control. Many students obtain the Master of Urban Affairs degree in preparation for further study, or to seek advancement in their current job or field. MUA students may obtain up to one additional graduate certificate upon completion of one additional elective.
“I appreciate the City Planning & Urban Affairs program because it requires students to develop actionable solutions to real world problems. The professors are diverse in their academic and professional fields of expertise. They challenge students to combine theory with practice to develop urban policies that address primary areas of concern like social justice, economic security, and environmental protection.”

Darrell Higginbottom, Master of Urban Affairs ’15
Fire Captain, City of Boston Fire Department

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LEARN MORE
For detailed information about BU’s City Planning and Urban Affairs programs, including course descriptions, admission policies, faculty bios, and more, visit bu.edu/cityplanning.

Please call 617-353-3025 or email cityplan@bu.edu with any questions you may have.