The Master of Urban Design (MUD) is a post-professional degree program for planners and designers who seek a career in urban design practice or who want to expand and enhance their existing planning and design foundation with urban design expertise. The MUD program consists of three 6-credit studios and six 3-credit lecture courses (36 credits total) and covers the spectrum of urban design theory and practice.

The MLA + MUD DUAL DEGREE option allows you to apply to the MUD program and earn MUD credits before you’ve completed your MLA professional degree. Adding the MUD provides you with valuable urban design knowledge and skills, vital interdisciplinary training, and a competitive career advantage. Here’s how it works:

- Apply to the MUD program once you’ve completed at least 12 MLA credits with a minimum 3.00 GPA.
- As you progress through the MLA program, take three MUD lecture courses, which double-count as MLA electives and reduce the total credits required to earn both degrees, saving you time and money.
- After completing the MLA requirements, take the three MUD studios and remaining three MUD lecture courses to conclude the MUD program.
- Graduate and receive both your MLA and MUD degrees.

WHY GET AN URBAN DESIGN DEGREE?

Earning your MUD degree expands your perspectives and your career prospects! Grow as an interdisciplinary thinker, practitioner, and leader through urban design, allowing you to:

- Pursue a career in urban design practice where your primary work focuses on producing urban design solutions that holistically integrate buildings, parks and public spaces, streets and bike/ped/transit infrastructure, and diverse uses into sustainable and equitable places that prioritize people over cars.
- Integrate urban design knowledge, concepts, and skills into your landscape architecture practice, making you a BETTER landscape architect and giving you a distinct advantage in the job market.
MASTER OF URBAN DESIGN – PROGRAM CURRICULUM

FALL SEMESTER COURSES

URBN 6500: URBAN DESIGN STUDIO I
Introduces urban design at a citywide scale through the evaluation of urban structures, systems, networks, and spatial forms that create the complex organism known as the city. Students explore urban design concepts as physical solutions to contemporary issues by completing a substantial urban design project for a real-world client. 6 CREDITS

URBN 6550: DESIGN POLICY, PROCESS, AND REGULATION
Explores the design policies and regulations that shape the urban form of cities, how they are created and evolve over time, and how policies and regulations impact design ideation, analysis, and communication using real-world scenarios to experiment with and test iterative design processes and techniques. 3 CREDITS

URBN 6525: CITY DESIGN FUNDAMENTALS
Investigates the historical roots, patterns, and forms of cities and their evolution over time; environmental, cultural, and economic forces influencing city design; physical elements and spatial attributes of the urban fabric; and urban design as the nexus of the planning and design professions in contemporary city-building. 3 CREDITS

SPRING SEMESTER COURSES

URBN 6600: URBAN DESIGN STUDIO II
Advances the understanding and application of urban design tools, methods, and practices and engages students in a real-world project with a community partner. Students integrate real estate development, economics, environmental and social equity, aesthetic criteria, historic preservation, and community engagement. 6 CREDITS

URBN 6650: URBAN DESIGN ECONOMICS AND EQUITY
Explores the economics of urban design through its relationship with private-sector real estate development, public-sector infrastructure, and budgetary constraints on design implementation while emphasizing the critical role of urban design in advocating for social equity and justice, affordable housing, and related issues. 3 CREDITS

URBN 6650: URBAN DESIGN AND THE ENVIRONMENT
Provides an understanding of the inextricable relationship between urban design and the natural environment. Students learn how to design sustainable public spaces, promote environmental resilience, combat climate change, and foster environmental justice and healthy communities through urban design. 3 CREDITS

URBN 6625: URBAN DESIGN ECONOMICS AND EQUITY
Explores the economics of urban design through its relationship with private-sector real estate development, public-sector infrastructure, and budgetary constraints on design implementation while emphasizing the critical role of urban design in advocating for social equity and justice, affordable housing, and related issues. 3 CREDITS

SUMMER SEMESTER COURSES

URBN 6700: URBAN DESIGN GLOBAL STUDIO
Travels to international locations to engage in public space site assessments and undertake urban design concept planning, analysis, and production on a real-world project involving multiple environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic factors, diverse urban contexts, and various design scales and dimensions. URBN 6700 is the default summer course. 6 CREDITS

URBN 6725: URBAN DESIGN CAPSTONE
Requires students to work individually, paired with an urban design practitioner mentor, on a complete design solution for a real-world client that incorporates the full spectrum of urban design knowledge, methods, and skills to produce professional-grade urban design plan deliverables. URBN 6725 is a substitute for URBN 6700 for students not able to travel internationally. 6 CREDITS

MASTER OF URBAN DESIGN – PROGRAM HALLMARKS

PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT
Learning by engaging with accomplished urban design practitioners

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Learning by engaging with community members and local organizations

ENVIRONMENT AND EQUITY
Learning how to fight climate change and social inequities through urban design

INTERDISCIPLINARY LEADERSHIP
Learning how to lead the city-building process through urban design

Please contact MUD Program Director Ken Schroeppel (ken.schroeppel@ucdenver), CAP Academic Advisor Roxy New (roxy.new@ucdenver.edu), or CAP Admissions Manager Jodi Stock (jodi.stock@ucdenver.edu) for assistance.