Master of Urban Design, Curriculum

Accelerated Track—32 graduate-level credits in one year (Fall, Spring and Summer)

The one-year Indianapolis-based Master of Urban Design (MUD) Program is a hands-on program in the theory and practice of public-focused, interdisciplinary design for cities, town, neighborhoods, and places. This program is centered on design for, and of the public, striving for positive connections, experiences, and identity through public places. Our work integrates the various interconnected yet disparate elements of people, communities, policies, plans, landscapes, buildings, streets, and in-between spaces. This happens across a spectrum of scales from the experience of human interaction on the block, within the neighborhood, across the city, and beyond to the region as we facilitate connections between people and spaces in developing place-based outcomes.

Classes are typically held on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This allows selected students to work as Graduate Assistants in the Center for Civic Design as paid interns actually putting into practice the skills they are learning in class while working with community, municipal, and professional partners.

The Indianapolis-based MUD Program exemplifies Ball State University’s commitment to immersive and hands-on learning. All students participate in a studio-based and community-based curriculum taught by an interdisciplinary team of instructors from the many professional firms within the city and as well as the College of Architecture and Planning.

While the majority of our students come from design-based backgrounds such as architecture, and urban planning, due to the complex issues and problems facing our cities, we accept a limited number of students with other educational and professional experiences with such decisions being made on a case-by-case basis.

Consult the Ball State University Graduate Catalog for course descriptions and complete information on program requirements.

We consider qualified applicants for one-time scholarships and a Graduate Assistantship (GA) position that comes with a stipend and partial tuition waiver, and a commitment to work 10 hours per week supervised by a faculty member. We may consider highly-qualified applicants for a full GA position that comes with a stipend, full tuition waiver, and a 20-hour per week working load.
MUD Program

Our graduate degree aims to hone a student’s implementation skills of planning and develops further specialization. The program is located at CAP: INDY, 25 North Pine Street, the former Angie’s List campus, along the Washington Street corridor in Indianapolis. Learn more about CAP: INDY here.

How to Apply

Apply for admission into the Graduate School using the Graduate School Application Process. International students should follow the International Admissions Process.

Visit bsu.edu/urbandesign for more information about financial assistance (i.e., graduate assistantships and scholarships).

The information presented here, correct at the time of publication, is subject to annual review (Last revised July 2021). Ball State University practices equal opportunity in education and employment and is strongly and actively committed to diversity within its community.