MASTER OF COMMUNITY PLANNING

PROGRAM INFORMATION

2021-2022

College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning
University of Cincinnati
Dear Prospective Graduate Student:

Enclosed please find information about our Master of Community Planning (MCP) program at the University of Cincinnati (UC).

The School of Planning enrolls students in a program that encourages donor-funded studio projects in which students act as consulting teams for specific clients, while preparing students for professional practice through the teaching of quantitative and qualitative analytical methods and a variety of techniques appropriate for a range of circumstances. All students gain paid professional experience prior to graduation through the University of Cincinnati’s unique Co-op program developed over 100 years ago. It is impossible to earn a planning degree at UC without having had meaningful professional experience while in the program. Graduate assistantships, scholarships and fellowships are available. Accredited since 1965 and one of the oldest programs in the country, the over 1200 graduates of our MCP program have also received prestigious Fulbright Fellowships and other awards.

In our program, students have the option to earn graduate certificates in Historic Preservation, Geographic Information Sciences (GIS), Public Art and Placemaking, Urban Design and Real Estate, as well as develop their own specializations. Recent alumni have secured full-time positions at private firms as diverse as planning, landscape architecture, and multi-disciplinary design firms in Maui, Cincinnati, Chicago, Washington DC, Ahmedabad and Mumbai, as well as public agencies both large and small in the US and abroad. Several students continue annually in our own doctoral program or another in the US, Canada or elsewhere. Other students pursue careers in non-profit organizations at local, national, and international organizations.

Moreover, the MCP program at UC has a student body that is one third from the Tri-State (Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana), one third from the rest of the country and one third from a rich variety of countries abroad. Almost all faculty members have significant experience abroad as well. About 40% of our students come directly from their undergraduate studies, 40% from employment, service (i.e., Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, etc.) or another graduate degree of two or three years, and 20% who are older and changing careers or upgrading their professional skills. We are a very interesting bunch.

Of course, we would also be pleased to speak with you or meet with you in person. If you would like to make an appointment with me, or if you have any questions regarding the application process or the program, please call me at (513) 556-2378 or e-mail me at the address below. I would be happy to meet with you, show you our facility, and answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your interest in our program. We look forward to hearing from you!

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An affirmative action/equal opportunity institution
PREFACE

The Division of Graduate Studies and Research at the University of Cincinnati exists to serve the needs of faculty and graduate students, and to enhance these efforts through academic leadership, administrative service, and financial support. It is headed by the University Dean for Graduate Studies and Research, who serves as coordinator to all graduate programs throughout the University. It is the function of the Graduate School to afford its members, students, and faculty, opportunities for advanced work in their chosen fields. The All-University Graduate Faculty has the responsibility for determining educational policies and regulating requirements for the admission of students, their candidacy, and the awarding to them of degrees. The Graduate Faculty formulates common rules of instruction throughout the various departments of study, precise manners of instruction, and individual methods for evaluating the results of examinations.

Students should also comply with the Rules and Policies of the University Of Cincinnati Graduate School.

INTRODUCTION TO THE MASTER OF COMMUNITY PLANNING PROGRAM

The challenge this urbanized world poses is the substance of the planning profession. Planners are dedicated to developing innovative approaches to managing cities and planning their development. The constructive management of change is at the heart of the profession. Planning is growing in importance throughout the country, and the number of planners is rising rapidly.

Planners often work in local governments and communities, but their concerns are issues that affect the world - land use, social policy, historic preservation, transportation, housing, economic development, policy planning, environmental protection, urban design and international development. Planners are visionaries working for a better future through improvements in the quality of life in one or more of these areas.

Students learn creative and technical skills in the studio environment, taught by a passionate faculty who interact with their students on a daily basis. The goal is to guide students as they grow both intellectually and professionally. Faculty are innovative in transforming the urban planning design discipline by applying the newest technologies. They inspire students to take advantage of interdisciplinary studio projects and work within corporate partnerships. This prepares School of Planning (SOP) students to practice their professional knowledge and skills in both local and global markets.

The MCP degree prepares students for the professional practice of planning at local, regional, state, federal and international levels of government and within the private sector with a planning consultant, land developer, law firm, economic development agency/corporation, non-profit organization or other business.

The Master of Community Planning program is fully accredited by the Planning Accreditation Board, an organization formed jointly by the American Institute of Certified Planners and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning.
RESOURCES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

The University of Cincinnati is a comprehensive, urban university and a member of the State system. Located on five campuses, the University has seventeen component colleges and divisions that provide a wide range of undergraduate, graduate and professional programs. Over 46,000 students are enrolled at the University. The main campus is located in the hilltop section called Clifton, readily accessible to a variety of housing, a few blocks from three interstate highways, yet only minutes away from the downtown center and other cultural resources.

Two hundred acres and an adjoining park give the University one of the more spacious of urban campuses. A municipal university until 1974, the University of Cincinnati and its programs continue to enjoy close relations with the city’s agencies, institutions, and businesses.

The City of Cincinnati is an attractive city on the picturesque Ohio River. The three-state metropolitan area has a population of 1.5 million people. Cincinnati boasts an accessible and pleasant downtown area, a fine resident symphony orchestra and ballet company, accomplished amateur and professional theater groups, and a summer opera series. An outstanding system of city and county parks makes outdoor recreation both inexpensive and convenient. The Cincinnati Art Museum is one of the earliest collections in the United States and is still considered one of the finest. The Contemporary Arts Center brings a contemporary and experimental dimension to the art life of the city, while the famous Taft Museum is among the best private collections open to the public.

The College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning (DAAP) at the University of Cincinnati is considered to be among the Top 10 Design Schools globally, and a major world resource. It is generally considered the top public design college in the country. The DAAP library has an outstanding collection of books, periodicals and visual resources supporting architecture, planning, design, art history and related subjects. Access to library holdings is provided by an automated online catalog, UCLID, which provides access to the University of Cincinnati Library information database, and through OhioLINK, the holdings of other academic libraries throughout Ohio.

The Computer Graphics Center is a state-of-the-art university facility with hardware that includes PCs, Apple computers and peripherals such as scanners, plotters and digital video-editing suites. Students have access to sophisticated graphics equipment and receive hands-on instruction to augment the use of laptops in the classroom.

The college supports a Rapid Prototyping Center, which is the home of state-of-the-art equipment that allows students to create communication aids for their design projects. Using CAD (computer-aided design) models, students are able to create physical models using three basic methods: 3-D printing, large format laser-cutting and CNC (computer numeric control) devices, including a Kuomo CNC Router. This facility is intended for all DAAP students to use in creating large-scale designs.

NATIONAL RANKINGS

The Master of Community Planning (MCP) Degree at the University of Cincinnati is a prominent program in the United States, and it has been continually ranked in the Top 25 by Planetizen. The most recent rankings from August of 2019 recognize the program in a number of ways:

1st Among All Small Planning Programs in the United States

1st Among Graduate Urban Planning Programs in Ohio
4th Among Midwestern Urban Planning Graduate Programs
9th Among all U.S. Urban Planning Programs Allowing Part-Time Study
12th Among all Public Urban Planning Graduate Programs
20th Among all U.S. Urban Planning Graduate Programs
THE APPLICATION PROCESS

All application materials should be received prior to February 1 to assure first consideration for a financial award from the School of Planning. Assistantships and scholarships are merit-based and extremely competitive. However, the School of Planning will accept applications not requesting financial consideration up to August 1 of each year to begin studies at the end of that month. Please gather/prepare:

- University Graduate Application
- Application Fee of $65. There is a $5 surcharge for international applicants, permanent residents, and foreign nationals.
- Unofficial transcript(s) from all colleges/universities attended (to be uploaded with the online application). Note: Official transcripts are not required during the admissions process, and only unofficial transcripts are required for the application. Applicants should not send official transcripts until they are offered admission. For complete requirements, please visit the Graduate School transcript requirements. (For International Students: Transcripts must be translated to English)
- Resume or CV
- Two letters of recommendation (3 preferred). However, for fall 2021 admission, only 1 letter of recommendation will be required (2 preferred)
- Professional resume
- Results of a standardized test such as the GRE, the GMAT, the LSAT or the MCAT, with the GRE strongly preferred. However for fall 2021 admission, the results of a standardized test will not be required
- Statement of purpose. The two-page paper should describe your broader goals within the field of planning, and why pursuing an MCP degree is the right path for you. Please also describe your significant academic experiences and touch on why you believe that you can successfully undertake graduate study.
- Applicants interested in a graduate assistantship should upload a one-page description of relevant skills and knowledge (such as teaching experience, computer programming, design software, statistics, languages, drafting/design, knowledge of research tools such as GIS, SPSS or SAS) that could be utilized as a graduate assistant. Be sure to include some qualitative judgment of your skills, and describe how you have used these skills in prior academic/work experiences.
- International Students also need: TOEFL (Minimum TOEFL: 87 (internet-based test), IELTS (Min. IELTS: 6.5), or ELS (Min. ELS: 112) scores.
- Portfolio (optional)

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

The Masters of Community Planning Graduate Program normally accepts twenty to twenty-five students per year. The MCP Program does not make decisions on the basis of race, age, sex, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or handicap.

There are three types of admission/standings in the graduate program. They are (1) Full Graduate Standing, (2) Provisional Admission, (3) Unclassified Graduate Student. Please read the University of Cincinnati Graduate Handbook for more information.

Please click here to see linked documents for information about student retention and graduation rates, tuition and fees, student achievements, AICP pass rate, and employment rates.

FINANCIAL AID

Graduate students may obtain financial support from several sources. The University of Cincinnati provides merit-based graduate awards in the form of tuition scholarships and graduate assistantships (including teaching and research assistantships), and program-specific scholarships and fellowships. Scholarship and fellowship support is also available from a diverse collection of external sponsors at the local, state, national and international levels. Need-based support may be obtained from federal and state sources.
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Foreign students can only be admitted with full graduate standing. If you are a foreign student, you must fulfill Immigration Service requirements and must register with the International Services and Foreign Student Counseling Office. Please refer to the English Proficiency Requirements from the Graduate School for scores. The test should be administered in the country of residence prior to the time of application. The requirements may be temporarily waived for you if you have completed an academic program of two years or more in an accredited American college or university. You are also required to carry the specified health and accident insurance. The School of Planning has Graduate Students from China, India, Bangladesh, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Spain, Iraq, Korea, Columbia, Peru, Ghana, Brazil, and Iran.

STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES

The School of Planning offers numerous study abroad experiences for graduate students. Among these are:

- Beijing, China, Beijing Jioitong University
- Lueven, Belgium, Faculty of Architecture
- Ghent, Belgium, St. Lucas College of Architecture
- Agra, Ahmedabad, Chandigarth, Mumbai, New Delhi, India, Faculty Led Program
- Bordeaux, Paris, France, Ecole Superieure d'Architecture et the Paysage de Bordeaux
- Delft, the Netherlands, Technical University of Delft

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Master of Community Planning program of the University of Cincinnati reaffirms its policy that discrimination on the basis of race, gender, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, handicap or age will not be practiced in any of its activities. The full policy can be read here: Notice of Non-Discrimination.

MCP DEGREE TRACKS

For the Master of Community Planning program, we understand that each incoming student may have particular backgrounds and interests. We offer five track options for applicants to choose from:

- MCP Standard Track
- MCP Standard Track – Peace Corps Coverdell Fellow Option
- MCP Accelerated Track
- 5+1 BUP/MCP
- MCP/JD Dual Degrees

*Several tracks are currently being modified, corresponding links are inactive pending final approval of changes.

GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

The School of Planning offers a variety of Graduate Certificates. The Certificates offered by the School of Planning include:

- Historic Preservation
- Public Art and Place Making
- Urban Design

Other popular and relevant Certificates are offered by other Schools at the University, including:

- GIS (Geographic Information Sciences)
- Real Estate

If you are interested in a graduate certificate that you don’t see listed above, please contact David Edelman (edelmadj@ucmail.uc.edu) for more information.
THE CO-OP EXPERIENCE

You practice what we teach.

This valuable on-the-job experience helps our students learn and mature in a professional environment. Our students graduate with solid experience which makes them more valuable to future employers and increases opportunities for more responsible initial career assignments.

Co-op also provides an opportunity for students to preview their career path to make sure they are headed in the right direction. It provides career perspective that can’t be learned in a classroom. The schedule permits students in the program to have a full summer of highly beneficial professionally related experience before graduation and to obtain first-hand knowledge of professional practices and opportunities.

Co-op helps create a perfect match for future employers since our graduates know what they want in their careers. Companies hire graduates who are already familiar with the environment and have an understanding of the corporate culture. Co-op assignments assist students by teaching them to work with others as a team, and how to apply classroom knowledge in the real world.

Based on which MCP track you follow, you will apply to and work at an agency in your field of study to gain professional experience.

PEACE CORPS PAUL D. COVERDELL FELLOWS PROGRAM

The School of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning of the University of Cincinnati offers a special course of study within its MCP degree program. Students will utilize their Peace Corps experience while they earn a master’s degree from an accredited graduate program at one of the largest schools of planning in the Midwest. This prepares them for a professional career in urban planning in either domestic or international urban planning.

The director of the MCP Program as well as the director of the BUP Program are both RPCV's and over 40 School of Planning graduates have served.

Each semester on campus, students will also be placed in paid internships with community organizations consistent with their experience and interests. In addition, students will enroll in the Peace Corps Practicum class each semester. This seminar and the courses throughout the program will allow students to reflect on their experience as Peace Corps Volunteers – particularly in their area of focus. Students also have the opportunity to complete a thesis based on their work they carried out while working overseas or locally.

Upon completing the MCP/Paul D. Coverdell Fellows Program, students will possess an invaluable combination of overseas and domestic work experience to pursue careers as professional planners wherever that might be.

Questions? Contact Us:

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