Master of Science in Urban Design

1. Program Mission
The Master of Science in Urban Design (MSUD) degree is oriented to those who wish to expand upon their previous professional education and professional experience, as architects, landscape architects, city planners or civil engineers, and to enter urban design practices either in private firms or public agencies. It offers an intensive and richly interdisciplinary experience, with required courses in urban design, architecture and city planning, with additional opportunities in civil and environmental engineering, real estate development, heritage preservation and other fields. Students in the MSUD Program are in daily contact with architecture and planning students and faculty throughout the College of Architecture. The degree requires a total of 39 credit hours that can be completed in three semesters, or a full calendar year.

2. Administration
The MSUD Program is housed in the School of Architecture in consultation with the Chair of the School of City and Regional Planning. The program coordinator is Professor Ellen Dunham Jones. Academic advisement is offered at the School of Architecture office by the Graduate Advisor for all matters pertaining to program requirements, course registration, student records and petitions. All members of the faculty involved with advising M.S. students meet at least once every semester to review matters pertaining to the M.S. program, including the progress of individual students. These meetings can result in specific recommendations regarding students whose record of achievement does not conform to all the program requirements described in this handbook. A student who wishes to raise a question regarding his or her progress or performance in the M.S. program, outside formal Institute procedures, should first talk to the MSUD coordinator. If the question is not fully resolved they should bring it to the School of Architecture Chair, who will determine appropriate courses of action.

3. Applications
Applicants to the MSUD Program are limited to those with prior accredited professional degrees in architecture (M.ARCH or B.ARCH), landscape architecture (BLA or MLA), City and Regional Planning (MCRP or equivalent), or Civil Engineering (BCE or equivalent). Professional degrees from other countries are acceptable with proper documentation with the understanding that the MSUD cannot serve, in itself, as a professional degree in the US. It is preferable that applicants have a year or more of professional experience.
Applicants must demonstrate their ability for graduate study in urban design by submitting the following in their application package:

A design portfolio, including academic and professional work, demonstrating experience and ability to engage professional level urban design problems. The portfolio must be submitted in digital form.

Graduate Record Examination scores, taken within the past 5 years, and professional degree grade point records and averages to demonstrate overall ability to engage graduate studies. In general, minimums are 60th percentile or higher for the GRE sections and 3.0 GPA or higher. GRE scores are required for all applicants.

Tests of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores, with a minimum scores of 600 (paper), 250 (computer) or 100 (Internet) are required for students whose first language is not English.

The MSUD Program only admits students for the fall semester, unless the student plans to participate in one of the COA urban design oriented international summer programs prior to the first semester in the MSUD Program.

The applications and application materials are submitted electronically through: [http://www.gradadmiss.gatech.edu/](http://www.gradadmiss.gatech.edu/). Application deadlines are also provided on the program website.

### 4. Requirements for Award of the Master of Science in Urban Design

The course of study for the Master of Science in Urban Design (MSUD) requires a minimum of 39 credit hours total. This includes 30 credit hours of required core and 9 credits hours of professional electives.

#### REQUIRED COURSES

The 30 credit hours of required core courses are organized into two groups. These include:

- **Four Seminar and Lecture Courses,** totaling 12 credit hours:
  - COA 6151: History of Urban Form (3-0-3)
  - ARCH 6151: Theories of Urban Design (3-0-3)
  - CP 6016: Growth Management Law (3-0-3)
  - CP 6611: Principles of Real Estate Finance and Development (3-0-3)

- **Three Laboratory, Studio or Special Problems Courses,** totaling 18 credit hours:
  - COA 6011: Urban Design Fundamentals (1-15-6 credits)
  - COA 7011: Urban Design Studio I (1-15-6 credits)
  - And one of the following:
    - COA 7012: Urban Design Studio II (1-15-6)
    - COA 8881: Special Problems - Urban Design (0-18-6)
    - ARCH 7045: Urban Design Workshop (0-18-6)
The MSUD coordinator can substitute equivalent courses for any of the above, in some particular year, subject to approval by the School Chair or Associate Chair.

ELECTIVE COURSES

The 9 credits of elective courses are organized into six subject areas which are important to urban design practice. Students will be advised to take these electives based on their prior professional degrees, professional experience and career interests.

5. Rules and regulations
M.S.U.D. students are subject to the Institute-wide rules and regulations, as these are described in the web-page of the registrar:
http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/students/grad/index.php

Student honor code: http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18b.php
Student code of conduct: http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/19a.php

In addition, students studying for the M.S.U.D. degree in Architecture are subject to the stipulations of this handbook as it stands the year of their first registration with the program. The handbook is updated at the beginning of every academic year. An up-to-date copy of the handbook is available at the School on website of the School of Architecture. When handbook changes are significant, students already enrolled with the program will be offered appropriate options as to whether to continue under the provisions applicable at the time of their first registration, or to transition to the new handbook.

6. Minimum program requirements and key milestones
Upon admission to the M.S.U.D. Program, the student and faculty advisor will review an appropriate plan of study, specifying the courses required for degree completion if these are different from those listed above.

7. Requirements for Award of the Master of Science in Urban Design Degree
7.1. Degree Awarded: The diploma will read “Master of Science in Urban Design.”
7.2. Petition to Graduate: To apply for the master’s degree, the student must submit to the registrar, during the semester prior to the anticipated final semester of work, the petition for a degree with the Approved Program of Study. The diploma of a candidate for a degree shall bear the date of the latest commencement ceremony for the term in which the degree is awarded.
7.3. Approved Program of Study (listed on Graduate Petition for Degree): The student's Approved Program of Study must show that course requirements for the master's degree will be satisfied before or during the final semester. The Approved Program of Study must be successfully completed within a period of no more than six consecutive calendar years. These and other applicable Institute rules will be enforced at graduation.

All requirements for the degree must be completed and certified by the Registrar’s Office no later than forty-eight hours after final grades for the term are due. If a candidate for a degree is not certified by the appropriate deadline, the degree will not be awarded. It is the responsibility of the student to reactivate the degree petition for the following semester.

The student must have an overall grade point average of at least 2.70 and satisfy all school academic requirements. All courses are taken on a letter-grade basis.