



University at Buffalo
The State University of New York

School of Architecture and Planning Advisement

School of Architecture and Planning

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

We live in times in which our urban and built environments are undergoing unprecedented change. The bachelor of arts in environmental design provide students with the skills to understand, analyze, and solve problems associated with such change, with a view toward community vitality, social fairness, and the design of sustainable environments. Environmental design applies knowledge of social and behavioral science to plan and design community environments that affect, and are affected by, human behavior. Environmental design addresses the arrangement, appearance and functionality of towns and cities including the spaces used freely on a day-to-day basis by the general public. This encompasses streets and parks together with public infrastructure and privately owned places. In addition, environmental design is concerned with the way these places are experienced and used, as well as other aesthetic elements that contribute to the quality of community environments.

Environmental design applies knowledge of social and behavioral science to plan and design community environments that affect, and are affected by, human behavior. While concerned about humanity's use, misuse, and abuse of the natural environment, environmental design practitioners are also concerned with the planned environment which humans build - the "artificial" or designed physical environment - and its ability to meet community needs. More subtly, environmental design includes issues from our cultural, economic, physical, political, and social environments. The purpose of environmental design is to gain a better understanding of these community environments, and then apply that knowledge to plan and design improved surroundings. In addition, environmental design practitioners are concerned with the way these places are experienced and used, as well as other aesthetic elements that contribute to the quality of community environments. Environmental design practitioners develop long- and short-term plans and designs to use land for the growth and revitalization of urban, suburban, and rural communities, while helping local officials make decisions concerning social, cultural, economic, physical, and environmental issues.

Environmental design promotes the best use of a community's land and resources for residential, commercial, institutional, and recreational purposes. Before preparing plans for community development, planners and environmental design practitioners report on the current use of land for residential, business, and community purposes. These reports include information on the location and capacity of streets, highways, airports, schools, libraries, and cultural and recreational sites. They also provide data on the types of industries in the community, the characteristics of the population, land-use issues created by population movements, and employment and economic trends. Using this information, plans and designs are developed for the layout of land uses for buildings, public transportation, developing resources, and protecting ecologically sensitive regions. Environmental design practitioners may formulate plans relating to the construction of new school buildings, college campuses, public housing, or other kinds of infrastructure. Some are involved in environmental planning issues ranging from pollution control to wetland preservation and forest conservation. Others are involved in landscape planning through the development of urban park systems and greenways.

The UB Department of Urban and Regional Planning offers a breadth of knowledge through its degree programs on understanding urban and built environments, and teaches skills in information analysis, computing technologies, written communications, and graphic techniques. In addition, the department offers specialized courses in land use, neighborhood design, community development, local government, economic development, environmental affairs, real estate development, historic preservation, regional development, city design, legal issues, and geographic information systems.

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Environmental design offers a preprofessional program of study grounded in the multidisciplinary traditions of design and the social sciences, illustrated by active intervention in community and regional environments. The preprofessional environmental design program utilizes the dynamic bi-national Buffalo-Niagara region as a laboratory for planning, design, and action.

Founded in 1969, the UB Department of Urban and Regional Planning has evolved to offer a number of degree programs, including an undergraduate preprofessional bachelor of arts (B.A. Env.Dsn.) and minor in environmental design, as well as an accredited professional master of urban planning (M.U.P.) degree. In addition, the Department of Urban and Regional Planning offers a dual master of urban planning plus master of architecture (M.Arch. + M.U.P.) with the Department of Architecture, and a dual master of urban planning plus doctor of jurisprudence (M.U.P. + J.D.) with the Law School.

Acceptance Information:

Admissions Statement. The School of Architecture and Planning has an admission policy that actively encourages applicants from protected groups and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or veteran status. Admission is competitive, and; applicants are reviewed according to the admission criteria. Acceptance of students in the preprofessional, professional, and postprofessional programs is determined on the basis of the applicants' qualifications and experience. However, since the school's size is limited, the programs may exercise discretionary powers of selection. Courses and programs offered by the School of Architecture and Planning may include an instructional technology fee. Contact School of Architecture and Planning Advisement at ap-advising@buffalo.edu or visit <http://wings.buffalo.edu/ap/> for additional information on undergraduate admission and advisement.

Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Design Admissions:

The bachelor of arts in environmental design is a preprofessional, 48-credit-hour curriculum offered by the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, divided into four parts: an introductory sequence, core workshops, department electives (including internship opportunities), and senior-year capstone courses. Courses from other UB departments, selected with the aid of a faculty mentor, supplement major courses. The environmental design major is completed within six semesters.

Students are reviewed for admission consideration to the preprofessional bachelor of arts in environmental design by the Department of Urban and Regional Planning upon **completing a minimum of 24 credit hours; attaining an overall minimum UB grade point average (GPA) of 2.45; completing the Library Skills General Education requirement; and, completing both PD 120 (Introduction to Urban Environments) and PD 212 (Urban and Environmental Planning) with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5.** Environmental design has competitive admission on a space available basis; therefore, **ideal applicants should have a minimum overall UB GPA of 2.5.**

Both current UB students and transfer students must complete an environmental design departmental application, available from the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, School of Architecture and Planning Advisement, or online at <http://wings.buffalo.edu/ap/>. Dates for admission application submission are June 1 for fall admission and November 1 for spring admission. Applications received after June 1 for Fall admission consideration and November 1 for Spring admission consideration will be reviewed on a space-only available basis as guided by the School of Architecture and Planning's admission statement. Contact the Department of Urban and Regional Planning or UB's School of Architecture and Planning Advisement at ap-advising@buffalo.edu or visit <http://wings.buffalo.edu/ap/> for additional information on admission and advisement.

For more information on the preprofessional bachelor of arts in environmental design, visit:

<http://undergrad-catalog.buffalo.edu/academicprograms/env.shtml>
<http://wings.buffalo.edu/ap/BAEnvDsn-Major.pdf>
<http://wings.buffalo.edu/ap/envdesign-planning-facts.pdf>
http://www.ap.buffalo.edu/portfolios/plan_portfolio.asp?p=plan-student
<http://www.ap.buffalo.edu/planning/admissions/undergraduate.asp>
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<http://wings.buffalo.edu/ap/>

For further information on academic advisement, contact School of Architecture and Planning Advisement via e-mail at ap-advising@buffalo.edu.