The MUED curriculum consists of design studios, history and theory seminars, technical training, community outreach, and independent research. For students with a background in design, coursework begins in the fall semester and is completed in the spring, followed by a summer term of independent research developing a thesis or project. For students with a non-design background, introductory courses begin in the summer and join the incoming cohort in the fall.

Three concentrations are offered in the MUED curriculum. The first is Town Design, Main Streets, and Rural Communities, which targets design challenges facing the many small cities in Kentucky and elsewhere. The second concentration – Sustainability, Adaptability, and Resilience – addresses the growing concern for energy conservation and resilient systems in the design of urban environments. The third is Urban Ecology, Data Analytics, and Infrastructure Design, which leverages the design opportunities embedded in the growing archive of urban data.

**Core Courses**

UED 501: Introduction to Urban and Environmental Design*
UED 511: Urban and Environmental Design Studio Primer*
UED 601: Urban and Environmental Design Studio I
UED 602: Urban and Environmental Design Studio II
UED 611: Visualization and Representation
UED 612: Research Design and Methods in Urban and Environmental Design
UED 651: History and Theory of Urban and Environmental Design
HP 602: Historic Preservation Law

* Core courses for only those students with a non-design background

**Electives**

UED 551: Special Topics in Urban and Environmental Design I
UED 561: Special Topics in Urban and Environmental Design II
ARC 515: History and Theory Seminar: Urban Forms
ARC 761: Special Problems in Town Design
HP 615: American Settlement Patterns: History of Land Development
HP 617: Historic Preservation Planning
HP 723: Topical Seminar in Kentucky Architecture and Cultural Landscapes
ID 655: Creative and Theoretical Design Processes
GEO 509: Community Mapshop
GEO 531: Landscape Ecology
GEO 714: Political Geography
GEO 717: Urban Geography

**Thesis and Project**

UED 701: Urban and Environmental Design Project
UED 711: Urban and Environmental Design Thesis

**Core Courses**

**UED 601:** Urban and Environmental Design Studio I, 5 credits

Investigates the relationship between form and function in urban environments. In this studio, students will develop proposals for phased interventions that respond to both empirical and theoretical problems in urban and environmental design. Close engagement with established community groups will help define the goals of the design studio project.

**UED 602:** Urban and Environmental Design Studio II, 5 credits

Examines issues of mobility and access at different scales in urban environments. Working with established community groups, students will develop proposals for phased interventions in response to the specific studio prompt. Particular attention will be devoted to community outreach.

**UED 611:** Visualization and Representation, 2 credits

Offers technical instruction on prevailing methods of visualization and representation in urban and environmental design. Students will use material from previous or existing courses to create new visual representations. This course is delivered in a studio setting.

**UED 612:** Research Design and Methods in Urban and Environmental Design, 1 credit

Outlines the framework for research in urban and environmental design through a series of case studies that seek to illustrate methodological diversity. Students will develop a research proposal for completing their project or thesis. This course is delivered in a studio setting

**UED 651:** History and Theory of Urban and Environmental Design, 3 credits
Defines the field of urban and environmental design through a survey of notable histories and theories. This course offers diverse perspectives from allied fields such as architecture, landscape architecture, heritage conservation, planning, geography, and others.

**HP 602: Historic Preservation Law, 3 credits**

The goal of this course is to assist non-lawyers in understanding laws, policies, and procedures and how they impact your professional practice as preservationists, planners, archaeologists, and in other conservation related fields. Preservation law encompasses a number of practice areas including, but not limited to land use and zoning, real property, local government, constitutional, administrative, and environmental law as well as the conservation of archaeological resources.

**UED 501: Introduction to Urban and Environmental Design,* 3 credits**

Introduces the concept of urban and environmental design through a series of case studies that seek to outline the contours of the field. Students will learn key principles and techniques used in urban and environmental design.

**UED 511: Urban and Environmental Design Studio Primer,* 5 credits**

Introduces the practice of urban and environmental design through a preliminary design project that seeks to implement ideas through guided exercises. In collaboration with local community groups, the studio will propose design alternatives for a collectively defined set of urban and environmental challenges. A significant portion of this course will be dedicated to learning software commonly used in the field.

*For incoming students with degrees in non-design disciplines

**Electives**

**UED 551: Special Topics in Urban and Environmental Design I, 3 credits**

Examines emergent themes in urban and environmental design and links these themes with historical precedents. Students will develop both visual and verbal arguments in relation to the course topic.

**UED 561: Special Topics in Urban and Environmental Design II, 3 credits**

Explores additional themes in urban and environmental design through historical and theoretical analysis. This is a required course for students planning to complete the project option. Students will develop both visual and verbal arguments in relation to the course topic.

**ARC 515: History and Theory Seminar: Urban Forms, 3 credits**

One of a series of graduate seminars devoted to investigations and analyses of urban forms. Subtitle required. May be repeated to a total of 6 credit hours under different subtitles.

**ARC 761: Special Problems in Town Design, 3 credits**

Students explore various topics related to the theory and practice of existing, emerging and new strategies for city and town development, revitalization, and long-term sustainability.
**HP 615: American Settlement Patterns: History of Land Development, 3 credits**

A graduate seminar that explores the traditions, policies, practices and regulations that dictate the form of the built environment in the United States, from colonial times to the present, in rural, suburban, and urban contexts.

**HP 617: Historic Preservation Planning, 3 credits**

An introduction to historic preservation planning. Projects will introduce students to a variety of preservation planning tools, including neighborhood historic resource surveys, the creation of historic districts, the development of design guidelines, and the mapping of historic resources among others. The course will focus on historic sites and structures within Kentucky. Individual and team projects will involve interaction with local government, planning and preservation groups.

**HP 723: Topical Seminar in Kentucky Architecture and Cultural Landscapes, 3 credits**

This course is a topical seminar with a subtitle each time it is offered. It emphasizes an understanding of how the built and physical landscapes combine to generate locally characteristic cultural landscapes. Class readings and discussions will provide background, contextual and comparative information for class investigation of a research, design or policy problem concerning Kentucky architecture and cultural landscapes. Students will each research an aspect of the topic problem, and present their findings both orally and in written form.

**ID 655: Creative and Theoretical Design Processes, 3 credits**

This course will focus on creativity and the design process with emphasis on investigation of current topics in interior design and the built environment. Theoretical frameworks will be explored to advance understanding of creativity and help students form a knowledge base for developing an in-depth research topic.

**GEO 509: Community Mapshop, 3 credits**

This course focuses on the development of applied GIS skills and follows a participatory workshop model with intensive, hands-on collaboration with community partners. The course covers a full range of collaborative GIS: working with team members and project partners to identify project goals, acquiring and preparing spatial data for GIS analyses, communicating with clients to assess progress, managing spatial data, and producing necessary maps and analyses.

**GEO 531: Landscape Ecology, 3 credits**

This course explores the field of landscape ecology – the causes, development, importance of ecological processes, and the interactions of dynamic processes over broad spatial scales that can serve as foundation for decision-making and problem solving.

**GEO 714: Political Geography, 3 credits**

A seminar in political geography, including, for example, electoral systems; state theory; post-Cold War democratization; the geography of revolutionary change; critical geopolitics; political economy of environmental movements; political economy of globalization discourses and practices.

**GEO 717: Urban Geography, 3 credits**
Seminar in urban geography, including, for example, urban morphology; urban systems; the local state; urban social fragmentation; conflicts over urban growth and development; urban transportation planning; urban historical geography; gender and urban space; race and urban space; urban landscapes.

**Thesis and Final Project**

**UED 701: Urban and Environmental Design Project, 5 credits**

Focuses on a specific context in which urban and environmental design interventions can be tested. Students may work individually or in a team to develop a project that addresses issues that derive from independent research. Final deliverables for the course include a public presentation of design work.

**UED 711: Urban and Environmental Design Thesis, 5 credits**

Identifies themes in the history and theory of urban and environmental design and connects these themes to a specific context drawn from independent student research. Working individually and in close contact with a faculty advisor, specific requirements will be tailored to meet the thesis demands. Final deliverables for the course include a written thesis in addition to supplementary visual media.