

# Community Development Planning, MCDP

## Master of Community Development Planning, Degree Program Requirements

The degree requires a minimum of 37 semester credit hours. The core of the program consists of 19 credit hours of courses required of all students. A list of pre-approved courses is provided, from which the student may select the remaining 18 credit hours. Only 6 credit hours of alternative graduate courses may be selected from offerings of other degree programs on campus, with departmental approval.

### Major Requirements 18

Select courses from the following:

CODE 5301	Introduction to Community Development
CODE 5305	Community Dev Studio
CODE 5307	Community Development Financing
CODE 5308	Demography and GIS
CODE 5321	Negotiation, Mediation and Facilitation
CODE 5334	Community Research <sup>1</sup>
CODE 5360	Land Development and Planning in Declining Communities <sup>1</sup>

### Electives 18

Select classes from the following:

CODE 5310	Cultural Heritage Preservation
CODE 5312	Historic Preservation
CODE 5320	Introduction to Community Leadership <sup>2</sup>
CODE 5330	Community Political Structure
CODE 5331	Community Management and Leadership
CODE 5332	Community Analysis
CODE 5336	Community Physical Structure
CODE 5351	Grant Development
CODE 5352	Campaigns and Gifts
CODE 5354	Research for Capital and Grant Development
CODE 5360	Land Development and Planning in Declining Communities <sup>2</sup>
CODE 5361	Land Development and Use Control Strategies
CODE 5375	International Community Development Policies and Practices
CODE 5380	Principles of Real Estate I
CODE 5381	Principle of Real Estate II
CODE 5382	Law of Agency
CODE 5383	Law of Contract
CODE 5640	Internship
CODE 5384	Promulgated Contract Forms
CODE 5385	Real Estate Finance

### Total Hours 36

<sup>1</sup> Students interested in pursuing an internship can take CODE 5640 in place of CODE 5334 and CODE 5360 with departmental approval.

<sup>2</sup> For a broad based understanding of the field of community development, the following are recommended. However, students can select from any of the electives listed.

## Master of Community Development, Degree Sequence

### First Year

Fall - Semester 1	Hours	Spring - Semester 2	Hours	Summer	Hours
CODE 5301		3 CODE 5305		3 Elective IV	3
CODE 5308		3 CODE 5321		3 Elective V	3
Elective I		3 CODE 5334		3	

Elective II	3 Elective III	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>12 Total</b>	<b>12 Total</b>

**Total Hours: 30****Second Year****Fall - Semester 1****Hours**

CODE 5307		3
Elective IV		3
<b>Total</b>		<b>6</b>

**Total Hours: 6**

Name	Unit
------	------

Total Semester Credit Hours: 36

## Graduate Certificates

The graduate program in Community Development offers certificates in the following study areas:

- Professional Planning
- Real Estate Development

The purpose of offering graduate certificates is to meet the additional educational needs of the community development professional. As job responsibilities change due to emerging new markets and demands, additional training or specialized training is often required. For example, an architect may become involved in the preservation of historic districts or the planning and development of a community; a developer is involved in the development of another country's infrastructure. Students in the Community Development Master's Program or any other master's program have the option to select courses from these study areas to fulfill their elective course requirements. The Community Development Graduate Certificate Program is a set of courses that provides in-depth knowledge in a subject matter. The set of courses are more practice-oriented than the required courses in a graduate academic program.

Certificates in Professional Planning and Real Estate Development are awarded after the completion of the program and must be signed by the program director and/or the Dean of the School of Architecture.

Students must consult with their academic advisor to ensure the courses for the certificate meet the requirements of the declared degree program. If the courses do not apply to the declared degree plan, the courses for the certificate will not qualify for federal aid under CPoS requirements.

The certificate course work in Professional Planning consists of 18 semester hours and certificate course work in Real Estate is 18 hours as follows:

### Certificate in Community Planning

Total		12
CODE 5305	Community Development Planning Studio	3
CODE 5331	Community Growth Management and Leadership	3
CODE 5308	Community Analysis, Demography and GIS	3
CODE 5335	Comprehensive Project Studio	3

### Certificate in Real Estate Development

CODE 5380	Principles of Real Estate I	3
CODE 5382	Law of Agency	3
CODE 5383	Law of Contract	3
CODE 5381	Principle of Real Estate II	3
CODE 5384	Promulgated Contract Forms	3
CODE 5385	Real Estate Finance	3
Total		18

## Certificate Procedure

### Step 1: Application for the Certificate Program

Apply to Graduate Studies for Admission. After being admitted by Graduate Studies, the student will be able to request consideration for Certificate Programs and will review the requirements with the Director of the Community Development Program.

## Step 2: Review of the Application

The student would meet with the Director to develop a study plan to layout the certificate course selections. The Director will review the study plan for compliance with the established requirements for certificates.

## Step 3: Issue of the Certificate

Upon completion of the certificate requirements, the student must notify the Director of their status by applying for the certificate. The student is required to pay a certificate fee of \$50 to cover the cost to administer the certificate. The Director after their review of the student's study plan and progress will advise the dean of the college. The director/dean will then authorize the granting of the certificate.

## Marketable Skills

Marketable skills, as defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's 60x30TX Plan (<http://www.60x30tx.com/>), include interpersonal, cognitive, and applied skill areas, are valued by employers, and can be either primary or complementary to a major. These skills are acquired by students through education, including curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular activities.

## MCD Community Development

### *Degree Skills*

#### Sustainable Development and Communication Skills

- **Community Engagement Strategies:** Develop and implement inclusive strategies to involve community members in the planning process, ensuring that development aligns with local needs and sustainable goals.
- **Public Relations and Outreach:** Effectively communicate planning initiatives to a diverse audience, fostering transparency and building trust through clear and engaging messaging.

#### Project Management in Real Estate, Finance, and Community Projects

- **Budgeting and Financial Analysis:** Manage financial aspects of urban development projects, including budgeting, financial forecasting, and funding acquisition.
- **Timeline Development and Scheduling:** Organize and manage project timelines to ensure timely completion of urban planning initiatives.
- **Risk Assessment and Mitigation:** Identify and mitigate risks associated with urban development, ensuring sustainable and resilient community growth.

#### Understanding of Community Engagement Research Principles

- **Participatory Research Methods:** Utilize community-based participatory research to ensure that development projects are both relevant and beneficial to community members.
- **Data Interpretation and Application:** Translate complex data into actionable insights to guide sustainable urban development.

#### Concentration Skills

- **Feasibility Studies and Applied Research:**
  - **Market Analysis:** Analyze market trends to assess the viability of development projects within a sustainable urban framework.
  - **Environmental Impact Assessments:** Conduct comprehensive environmental impact studies to ensure development projects meet sustainability criteria.
  - **Policy Evaluation:** Critique and influence urban planning policies to foster sustainable development practices.

#### Grant Writing and Management

- **Proposal Development:** Craft effective grant proposals that align with both community needs and sustainable development goals.
- **Fund Allocation and Reporting:** Manage resources efficiently, ensuring accountability and alignment with project objectives.

#### Co-curricular and Extracurricular Skills

- **Community Engagement and Projects:**
  - **Leadership Coordination:** Lead community planning initiatives, ensuring effective team collaboration and community involvement.
  - **Public Speaking and Presentation:** Master the art of public speaking to persuasively communicate urban planning projects and their benefits to the community and stakeholders.

#### Data-Driven Outcomes

- **Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Proficiency:** Apply GIS technology to analyze spatial data and enhance decision-making in urban planning.
- **Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis:** Utilize both statistical and thematic analysis methods to inform and guide urban development.

#### **Additional Marketable Skills**

- **Urban Design and Land-Use Planning:**
  - **Site Planning:** Design sustainable urban layouts that are both functional and aesthetically pleasing.
  - **Zoning and Land-Use Regulation:** Apply zoning laws and regulations to promote sustainable urban growth and development.

#### **Real Estate Development and Master Planning**

- **Property Development Processes:** Oversee the complete lifecycle of real estate development, from initial concept through to completion.
- **Long-Range Planning:** Develop comprehensive master plans that guide the strategic growth of communities, emphasizing sustainability and resilience.

#### **Technical Proficiencies**

- **Geographic Information Systems (GIS)**
- **Computer-Aided Design (CAD):** Utilize CAD software to create detailed and precise designs for urban projects.
- **Adobe Creative Suite:** Employ advanced graphic design tools to visually represent planning concepts and projects.

#### **Soft Skills**

- **Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving:** Analyze complex urban issues and devise innovative solutions that support sustainable development.
- **Collaboration and Teamwork:** Work collaboratively across disciplines to achieve comprehensive and sustainable urban solutions.
- **Adaptability and Flexibility:** Respond effectively to changing urban dynamics and emerging planning challenges.

These skills ensure that graduates of the MCDP program are equipped to meet the complex demands of modern urban planning and development, with a strong emphasis on sustainability, community engagement, and the application of best practices in design and policy formulation.