

Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Urban Design

About This Program

The Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Urban Design degree combines a core liberal arts curriculum with a structured sequence of courses in sustainable urban design, landscape architecture, architecture, planning, and public affairs. In addition to these courses, students within the program select 18 hours of upper-level electives from a list that includes courses from many disciplines within the university.

In their first two years, students will complete a foundation curriculum (basic studies) taken by all undergraduates in the School of Architecture. In addition to work in the arts and sciences, Basic Studies includes all required core curriculum for the degree as well as a series of lecture and studio courses which introduce the student to the concepts, history, skills, and vocabulary of design. Following the two-year basic studies sequence, the student completes two years of major studies, an intensive series of courses and studios on the theory, history, skill, and practice of sustainable urban design.

Competencies

1. Upon completion, students will demonstrate knowledge of environmental sustainability, energy efficiency, and resource conservation
2. Upon completion, students will demonstrate understanding of climate-responsive design, including passive design strategies, energy use, and urban heat island mitigation.
3. Upon completion, students will demonstrate familiarity with green building standards (e.g., LEED, BREEAM) and sustainable construction practices.

Admissions Criteria

Admission to the Sustainable Urban Design basic studies sequence is open to all students meeting the general requirements for entrance to the University.

MAJOR DECLARATION

To declare a major for a fall semester, qualified applicants will submit their request to declare a major in the Academic Advisor's office at the completion of the spring semester of second year, by the program specified deadline.

Official records of coursework taken at other institutions or universities must be submitted to the CAPPA undergraduate advising office before a student can file a Major Declaration form. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that all coursework is transferred to the Office of Admissions at UT Arlington in a timely manner.

Upon entrance into the major studies programs, students will be required to maintain the minimum 2.8 GPAs both overall at UT Arlington and within the major to remain active and proceed within and complete the program.

Curriculum

Foundations

General Core Requirements (<https://catalog.uta.edu/academicregulations/degree requirements/generalcore requirements/>)

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Students must complete specific courses in certain core areas.

For Communication select:

ENGL 1301	RHETORIC AND COMPOSITION I
ENGL 1302	RHETORIC AND COMPOSITION II

For Creative Arts select:

ARCH 1301	INTRODUCTION TO ARCHITECTURE AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT
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For Language, Philosophy & Culture select:

GLOBAL 2301	INTRODUCTION TO GLOBAL ISSUES
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For Life & Physical Sciences select 2 from the following: ²

BIOL 1334	BIOLOGY FOR NON-SCIENCE MAJORS: LIFE ON EARTH
ENVR 1301	INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
GEOL 1330	GLOBAL WARMING
GEOL 1301	EARTH SYSTEMS
GEOL 1340	WEATHER AND CLIMATE
GEOL 1360	GEOLOGIC HAZARDS
PHYS 1351	ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

For Mathematics select:

MATH 1301	CONTEMPORARY MATHEMATICS
MATH 1303	TRIGONOMETRY
For U.S. History select:	
HIST 1301 or HIST 1331	HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES TO 1865 TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE IN AMERICAN SOCIETY, I
HIST 1302 or HIST 1332	HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES, 1865 TO PRESENT TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE IN AMERICAN SOCIETY, II
Sustainable Urban Design Foundations (Basic Studies)	
20	
ARCH 1101 or UNIV-AR 1131	ACADEMIC SUCCESS SKILLS IN ARCHITECTURE STUDENT SUCCESS
UDES 1301	INTRODUCTION TO PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABLE URBAN DESIGN
UDES 1304	DIGITAL METHODS IN SUSTAINABLE URBAN DESIGN
UDES 1341	DESIGN COMMUNICATIONS
UDES 2441	URBAN DIAGRAMMING AND COMMUNICATION I
UDES 2442	URBAN DIAGRAMMING AND COMMUNICATION II
UDES 2551	URBAN DESIGN STUDIO I: URBAN RESILIENCY
Sustainable Urban Design Specialization (Major Studies)	
25	
UDES 3303	HISTORY OF URBAN DESIGN, FORM, AND INFRASTRUCTURE
UDES 3552	URBAN DESIGN STUDIO II: MOBILITY
UDES 4304	URBAN SUSTAINABILITY CAPSTONE PREP
UDES 4404	URBAN SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT CAPSTONE
UDES 4551	URBAN DESIGN STUDIO III: CLIMATE CHANGE
UDES 4552	URBAN DESIGN STUDIO IV: ADVANCED SUSTAINABLE URBAN DESIGN
Sustainability Specialization	
21	
Landscape Architecture	
LARC 4300	INTRODUCTION TO LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
LARC 4324	ENVIRONMENTAL ART AND DATA VISUALIZATION
LARC 4326	DESIGN AND HUMAN BEHAVIOR
Planning	
PLAN 4320	SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
PLAN 4356	INTRODUCTION TO GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS
PLAN 4357	INTERMEDIATE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS
Public Affairs	
PAPP 4307	URBAN GEOGRAPHY
Electives	
12	
Select 4 from the following (some options require prerequisites):	
Architecture	
ARCH 3361	ARCHITECTURE AND ENVIRONMENT ¹
ARCH 3364	SITE DESIGN ¹
ARCH 4308	HISTORY OF URBAN FORM ¹
ARCH 4314	HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION ¹
ARCH 4332	ENERGY USE AND CONSERVATION IN ARCHITECTURE ¹
ARCH 4360	POLITICS AND PRACTICE OF PRESERVATION ¹
Landscape Architecture	
LARC 4301	SITE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES
LARC 4327	REGIONALISM, CREATIVITY, AND DESIGN
LARC 4330	PLANT IDENTIFICATION AND ECOLOGY
Interior Design	
INTD 4314	HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION ¹
Planning	
ESST 2300	INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL & SUSTAINABILITY STUDIES
PLAN 3301	THE METROPLEX

PLAN 4305	FOUNDATIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABILITY
PLAN 4327	GREEN CITIES AND TRANSPORTATION
Business	
MANA 1301	BUSINESS IN A GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT
Engineering	
CE 3300	INTRODUCTION TO SUSTAINABLE ENGINEERING
CM 2331	CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS
Liberal Arts	
ART 3357	SUSTAINABLE DESIGN
DS 3355	UNIVERSAL DESIGN & ACCESSIBILITY IN THE PERFORMING ARTS
HIST 3327	CITIES AND SUBURBS IN THE UNITED STATES
HIST 3336	ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES
HIST 3348	HISTORY OF THE DALLAS-FORT WORTH METROPLEX
THEA 3355	UNIVERSAL DESIGN & ACCESSIBILITY IN THE PERFORMING ARTS
Science ²	
BIOL 1334	BIOLOGY FOR NON-SCIENCE MAJORS: LIFE ON EARTH
GEOG 3380	THE SPATIAL HUMANITIES
GEOL 1301	EARTH SYSTEMS
Social Work	
AAST 3353	SOCIAL CLIMATE OF CITIES

Total Hours **120**

At least 36 hours must be 3000/4000 level.

¹ Must be fully declared into the SUD major studies program for enrollment consideration into upper-level ARCH and INTD classes.

² Courses on elective list taken as Life and Physical Science requirements cannot count for both. Classes can only be used to fulfill one requirement.

SUGGESTED PLAN OF STUDY

First Year			
Fall Semester	Hours	Spring Semester	Hours
ARCH 1101 or UNIV-AR 1131		1 ENGL 1302	3
ARCH 1301		3 MATH 1303	3
ENGL 1301		3 POLS 2312	3
MATH 1301		3 UDES 1304	3
UDES 1301		3 UDES 2441	4
UDES 1341		3	
		16	16
Second Year			
Fall Semester	Hours	Spring Semester	Hours
GLOBAL 2301		3 HIST 1302	3
HIST 1301		3 POLS 2311	3
PLAN 4356		3 UDES 2551	5
UDES 2442		4 Life & Physical Sciences Core	3
Life & Physical Sciences Core		3 Social/Behavioral Sciences Core	3
		16	17
Third Year			
Fall Semester	Hours	Spring Semester	Hours
LARC 4300		3 PAPP 4307	3
LARC 4324		3 PLAN 4357	3
PLAN 4320		3 UDES 3303	3
UDES 3552		5 UDES 4551	5
		14	14
Fourth Year			
Fall Semester	Hours	Spring Semester	Hours
UDES 4304		3 LARC 4326	3

UDES 4552	5 UDES 4404	4
SUD Elective	3 SUD Elective	3
ENVR 1301	3 SUD Elective	3
14		13

Total Hours: 120

FACILITATED ADMISSION TO THE MLA

The Master of Landscape Architecture offers outstanding graduating students from UTA's Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Urban Design program the opportunity to participate in a Facilitated Admissions program. See advisor for details.

Program Completion

In addition to [CAPPA Undergraduate Policies](https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/cappa/#undergraduatepolicies) (<https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/cappa/#undergraduatepolicies>), the following specific policies apply the Sustainable Urban Design BS.

COMPETENCE IN ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Students obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree in Sustainable Urban Design demonstrate oral proficiency by taking and passing UDES 2551, UDES 3552, UDES 4551, and UDES 4552, or approved equivalents.

COMPETENCE IN COMPUTER USE

Students obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree in Sustainable Urban Design can demonstrate computer proficiency by:

- Taking and passing [ENGL 1301](https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=ENGL%201301) (<https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=ENGL%201301>) or [ENGL 1302](https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=ENGL%201302) (<https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=ENGL%201302>) at UT Arlington in a computer classroom environment or [ENGL 3372](https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=ENGL%203372) (<https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=ENGL%203372>), [ENGL 3374](https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=ENGL%203374) (<https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=ENGL%203374>), [CSE 1301](https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=CSE%201301) (<https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=CSE%201301>) (or equivalent), or any other class approved by the Undergraduate Assembly.
- Passing the University computer literacy examination.

Advising Resources

The College of Architecture, Planning and Public Affairs (CAPPA) at UT Arlington equips students with skills and knowledge to address real-world challenges in design, public policy, and research. Our Advising Office supports academic and career success. Explore our Future Students page to connect with an Academic Advisor and shape your future.

Location:

203 CAPPA Building

Email:

cappa.advising@uta.edu

Phone:

817-272-2801

Web:

[General advising](https://www.uta.edu/academics/schools-colleges/cappa/general-advising/) (<https://www.uta.edu/academics/schools-colleges/cappa/general-advising/>)

[Future students](https://www.uta.edu/academics/schools-colleges/cappa/admissions/) (<https://www.uta.edu/academics/schools-colleges/cappa/admissions/>)