

Faculty of Environmental Design

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Summary of Degree Programs

Degrees Offered

GRADUATE	Architecture	Environmental Design	Environmental Science	Industrial Design	Planning
	MArch	MEDes	MEDes	MEDes	MEDes
		LLB/MEDes*			
		PhD			

* Combined Degree with the Faculty of Law

Graduate

Degrees offered by the Faculty of Environmental Design:

Master of Architecture; Master of Environmental Design in the following Fields of Study:

Environmental Design, Environmental Science, Industrial Design, and Planning. In addition, Urban Design is a newly supported field of study within the Environmental Design Program.

PhD degree in Environmental Design in thematic areas related to Architecture, Environmental Design, Environmental Science, Industrial Design, and Planning.

Note: More information on the PhD program can be obtained from the Faculty of Environmental Design website or the Faculty of Graduate Studies calendar.

Faculty Information

Contact Information

Location: Professional Faculties - 2182

Student Information: (403) 220-6601

Fax number: (403) 284-4399

E-mail address: info@evds.ucalgary.ca

Web page URL: http://www.ucalgary.ca/evds/

Introduction

The Faculty's mandate is a dual one: to offer a learning environment that prepares individuals for interdisciplinary design and research collaboration; and to offer professional practice competency in one or more of the five programs. Students and the members of faculty frequently collaborate in research and demonstration projects. Students develop individual programs of study with a faculty advisor to meet their academic and professional objectives. Since its founding, the nature and scope of the Faculty's activities have developed in concert with growing concerns about the environment and its qualities, and with the extended complexity of environmental issues. Attention is being increasingly given to the appropriate ends, the just and

equitable modes of intervention, and the qualitative character of environment to be achieved when design, management and planning projects are undertaken. In these respects, the Faculty's research, educational programs and outreach services variously touch on social, cultural, built and natural environments. Its ultimate concerns are for the quality of human life and sustainability.

The objects of design may be plans, policies, management strategies, social or political institutions, media for communicating or exhibiting ideas, knowledge and public attitudes, products, buildings, and other artifacts that make up environments.

The Faculty explicitly recognizes that scholarship, creative activity, exhibitions, engagement in participatory research, scientific research, and innovative, thoughtful professional practice are all valuable media for both inquiry and the communication of knowledge.

The Faculty's disposition towards research, scholarship and creative activity is that individual and collaborative endeavours will serve to advance not only the intellectual and skills bases of environmental design, but as well, the advancement of knowledge, skills and societal perspectives necessary for the professions represented in the Faculty.

Enquiries

Enquiries regarding application for admission and financial assistance forms and specific questions about programs and degree requirements should be directed to:

Admissions Administrator
Faculty of Environmental Design
University of Calgary
Calgary, Alberta Canada T2N 1N4
Telephone: (403) 220-3630/7286

Pattern

Master's degrees are offered by the Faculty of Environmental Design, not the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Please refer to the Faculty of Environmental Design calendar for further details.

For PhD studies, an area of specialization, submitted by the student and supervisor, must

receive the approval of the PhD Coordinator prior to its submission to the Faculty of Graduate Studies for their approval.

The Faculty does not offer undergraduate programs, although an undergraduate Minor in Architectural Studies is offered in partnership with the Faculty of Communication and Culture. The Faculty is engaged in research and graduate level, professional education and communications, directed towards management, planning and design in the human and natural environments. An integral part of this mission is the Faculty's readiness to work cooperatively with local communities, governments, private corporations, and associations.

Admissions

There are no prerequisites as to undergraduate programs or courses. However, prospective applicants are advised to use opportunities within their baccalaureate studies to develop knowledge in the humanities, social sciences, arts, biological and/or physical sciences — including, wherever possible, laboratory, studio and collaborative learning experiences.

Applicants to the degree program will normally possess a baccalaureate degree from a recognized university with a grade point average (GPA) in the final two years of study of at least 3.00 (based on a four-point grading system). The Faculty will consider qualifications of equivalent standing, particularly in the case of mature students (usually in their mid-thirties or older) and individuals in mid-career.

Candidates for the Architecture Program must provide evidence of original and/or creative work in any field or medium and demonstrate in writing the relevance of the skills shown by this work to the study of Architecture. This work should be presented in a compact form (box, envelope or binder in A4 metric [81/2" x 11"] or 297 mm by 297 mm [11" x 11"] format).

Prior to admission to the Faculty of Environmental Design all applicants must demonstrate English language proficiency for purposes of admission in one of the following ways:

- successful completion of at least three years of formal, full-time study (not less than three courses per semester) at an English secondary or post-secondary institution in an English-speaking country which the University of Calgary recognizes as English language proficiency exempt; or
- graduation from a degree program offered by an accredited university in a country which the University of Calgary recognizes as English language proficiency exempt; or
- by writing the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and obtaining a score of at least 580 (written test) or 237 (computer based test); or
- by writing the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) and obtaining a minimum score of 7.5; or
- by successful completion of the English Language Foundation Program (ELFP) at the University of Calgary.

No exceptions will be made to this regulation. Because of limitations on enrollment, all applicants meeting these qualifications are not necessarily admitted. Applicants who do not meet all the qualifications for admission, but who in the judgment of the Faculty merit the opportunity to demonstrate ability, may be admitted with Probationary status. Probationary status will not normally be granted for a period exceeding one year.

Application Procedures

The deadline date for applications is February 1 for registration in the following Fall Session. A Faculty Admissions Committee reviews all applications and may invite applicants to attend an interview. The committee will attempt to arrange such interviews at a convenient location for students applying from afar. The committee admits the most qualified applicants with demonstrated potential to work in an interdisciplinary program. Therefore, applicants need not be concerned if, at the time of making application, they have not decided firmly on the degree option or field of study they will select.

New admissions to the Faculty are limited in number on an annual basis. Applicants will be notified by the Admissions Committee no later than April 15.

Program Descriptions

Architecture

The Master of Architecture is a four year program that prepares students for practice as registered architects in North America. It may be earned in six years after high school if preceded by the University of Calgary's Minor in Architectural Studies. There are no prerequisites as to undergraduate programs or courses. However, those admitted to the program who hold a pre-professional degree in architecture, including the University of Calgary's Minor in Architectural Studies, will be admitted into the second year. Non-accredited and post-professional Architectural degrees can be taken through the Environmental Design program (MEDes and PhD). Please see the Faculty's calendar or web site (www.ucalgary.ca/evds) for details.

In Canada, all provincial associations recommend a degree from an accredited professional degree program as a prerequisite for licensure. The Canadian Architectural Certification Board (CACB), which is the sole agency authorized to accredit Canadian professional degree programs in architecture, recognizes two types of accredited degrees, the Bachelor of Architecture and the Master of Architecture. A program may be granted a five-year, three-year, or two-year term of accreditation, depending on its degree of conformance with established educational standards. After its last review, in 2000, the University of Calgary Master of Architecture professional program was accredited for five years.

Master's degree programs may consist of a pre-professional undergraduate degree and a professional graduate degree, which, when earned sequentially, comprise an accredited professional education. However, the pre-professional degree is not, by itself, recognized as an accredited degree.

Environmental Design

The degree Master of Environmental Design without a specified field of study provides flexible programs of study in interdisciplinary professional education for design and management of the environment. This is an alternative to the other four programs that emphasize preparation for the professions identified by the degree or field of study designation and, in architecture and planning, recognized by the accrediting bodies. The Environmental Design program allows studies in a number of areas that bridge the other programs including but not limited to: ecological management and planning; building science and technology (building envelopes, preservation, health issues including indoor air quality); sustainable design;

industrial design and architecture (product design for buildings, ergonomics and user needs); history and theory of design; modeling, graphics and computer applications in environmental design, including multimedia; community design, history of cities and urban management. Urban Design is a newly supported area of specialization within the Environmental Design Program.

Students are prepared for non-traditional professional roles in new and emerging forms of practice. They may act as integrators and facilitators of the processes of policy development, implementation and stakeholder participation. As examples, there are environmental managers with proficiency across science, management and public policy; environmental designers with proficiency across building, product and urban scales; and persons capable of addressing the overlapping areas of health, safety and environment. Alternatively, they may act as specialists educated in working with regular professionals.

This program is intended for students who wish to add graduate level professional skills and knowledge to their diverse backgrounds. It allows graduates from the arts and sciences to pursue careers in design, management, and planning of the natural and built environment. It allows graduates from professional programs to pursue advanced education in wider or parallel areas of expertise. It allows experienced designers, managers and professionals to upgrade or make career shifts.

Applicants must meet the general criteria for admission to the Faculty of Environmental Design and must clearly articulate the intended direction for their program of study. For administrative purposes, students are affiliated with whichever one of the four other programs predominates in their studies.

Environmental Science

The Master of Environmental Design (Environmental Science) degree prepares students for professional practice in environmental science from an interventionist, professional and interdisciplinary perspective. The program emphasizes creative problem solving to design interventions for achieving desirable environmental outcomes. The emphasis on design intervention and interdisciplinarity strengthens the program and is a critical element in preparing students for careers in professional practice. In addition to ensuring scientific and technical competence, the program requires applied skills such as design of management systems and strategies, and development and analysis of policies. The program teaches and upholds professional standards of practice and ethics. Students are expected to develop specific knowledge and skills through learning and research in one or more of three areas of concentration:

- (1) Ecosystem and Natural Resource Management;
- (2) Corporate and Urban Environmental Management; and
- (3) Assessment and Management of Environmental Impacts. These areas embrace a wide spectrum of learning and research opportunities including natural resource management (vegetation, fish, wildlife or species at risk), management of integrated resource systems (ecosystems, rangelands, biodiversity, parks and reserves), design, implementation, and operation of environmental management systems for corporation or governments, and assessing, predicting or measuring the effects of human activities on the environment.

Environmental Science graduates are in high demand in both public and private sectors.

Industrial Design

The degree Master of Environmental Design (Industrial Design) prepares students for professional roles in product design, design/production management, design education or research in private or public institutions. A student with no previous industrial design education normally requires two and one-half years of course work in

the Faculty prior to enrolling in the Master's Degree Project. Drawing and drafting skills are not a requirement for admission but are an important part of Industrial Design education and practice so incoming students will find them an asset. Those who already hold a degree in Industrial Design are encouraged to apply and to pursue a more specialized program in interdisciplinary research or professional practice under the industrial design degree option. Students in the latter category will normally require one and one-half years of course work in the Faculty prior to enrolling in the Master's Degree Project.

It is normally expected that industrial design students will complete their Master's Degree Project in two to four terms of work.

The Industrial Design Program stresses an understanding of the conceptual issues and the intellectual and operational skills pertinent to the design, development and manufacture of artifacts or components of the built environment. Individual achievement in design is enriched by interdisciplinary studies and group work, and students are encouraged to work closely with their colleagues in the other Faculty programs.

Planning

The degree Master of Environmental Design (Planning) qualifies students for a wide variety of opportunities in private practice, third sector and public institutions. Recent graduates have been employed in municipal planning agencies, the urban development industry, in small communities, and by aboriginal groups. The program normally requires two and one-half calendar years, with course work in five successive Fall and Winter Sessions. It is possible to structure some programs of study to complete the degree in two calendar years. However, there are other circumstances which may result in longer programs of study, e.g. interdisciplinary term-abroad program.

The Planning Program emphasizes the development of an understanding of the complex phenomena of human settlements and the development of a range of skills for professional practice. It embraces studies and research in the dimensions of the city and region, including urbanization. The framework of social (ethical, political, economic, legal and administrative) institutions which underlie planning in a liberal democratic society is critically examined. Historical and utopian conceptions of planning and city design are investigated. Contemporary issues in planning and their relationships to the practices of architecture and the ecological sciences are explored.

Administration

Faculty Administrative Officers

Dean

M.E. Tyler

Associate Dean (Research and Outreach)

J.A. Love

Associate Dean (Academic)

S. Walker

For more information please consult the 2003/2004 Faculty of Environmental Design calendar, or visit the Faculty of Environmental Design Calendar website at: www.ucalgary.ca/evds/