

MASTER OF ARTS IN URBAN AFFAIRS

The Master of Arts in Urban Affairs is an interdisciplinary degree program focusing on how cities work and the challenges they face, such as economic growth or decline, globalization and immigration, and the impact of the housing market on neighborhood stability. The curriculum brings together viewpoints and analytical tools from multiple fields to provide different perspectives on the causes of urban problems and their possible solutions. Our location in the Chicago metropolitan area provides firsthand exposure to some of the most pressing social and economic challenges in the country and opportunities to work with agencies addressing those challenges.

Many critical social and political problems are concentrated in cities. Violence and poverty continued to be concentrated in areas of Chicago while investment in prime neighborhoods skyrockets. Affordable housing pressures and evictions are adding stress to low- and moderate-income households. Sanctuary Cities are threatened with the loss of funds and the rollback of voting rights protections. Pension costs at the state and local levels are compounding more quickly than ability to pay.

Our 18 month graduate degree in urban affairs prepares people to work effectively on these issues, combining theory and professional skills, drawing on program strengths across departments, and developing experience working in the urban environment.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The degree program requires 31 hours of coursework—10 three-credit courses, plus a one-credit Professional Development course.

Students can attend part-time (typically 2 classes per semester) or full-time (3 classes per semester). Students can complete the program in 18-24 months.

Classes are a mix of online and in-person. In-person classes are taught at the Water Tower Campus in late afternoon and evening hours. A fully online degree might be possible with careful planning and consultation with your advisor.

INTERNSHIPS/RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

A required internship or capstone project provide students with opportunities to apply the knowledge gained in the classroom to real-world settings.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Knowledge of urban issues from a variety of disciplinary perspectives related to cities - such as politics, economics, sociology, and history.

Knowledge of local government structures and intergovernmental relationships.

Ability to analyze urban problems and determine possible government, non-profit, or business sector solutions.

Development of technical skills appropriate to the student's specific career goals- such as statistics, GIS mapping and analysis, finance, surveys, and community impact analysis.

Experience working in the public policy arena in a government agency, non-profit, research, or private sector organization.

FINANCIAL AID

Begin the financial aid process by completing your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at fafsa.ed.gov.

LEARN MORE

APPLY

gpem.LUC.edu/apply

For all application requirements and deadlines, please visit LUC.edu/gpem/info.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information about the academic program or to arrange a visit, please contact:

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For questions regarding your application or the application process, please contact:

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