



UNIVERSITY OF  
GEORGIA

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## University Council

October 11, 2019

### UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2019-2020

John Maerz, Chair

Agricultural and Environmental Sciences – Nicholas Fuhrman

Arts and Sciences – Jonathan Evans (Arts)

Trenton Schirmer (Sciences)

Business – Richard Gooner

Ecology – Jasmine Crumsey Forde

Education – Morgan Faison

Engineering – E.W. Tollner

Environment and Design – Brad Davis

Family and Consumer Sciences – Patricia Hunt-Hurst

Forestry and Natural Resources – Joseph Dahlen

Journalism and Mass Communication – James Hamilton

Law – Randy Beck

Pharmacy – Michelle McElhannon

Public and International Affairs – Jeffrey Berejikian

Public Health – Brittani Harmon

Social Work – Harold Briggs

Veterinary Medicine – Susan Sanchez

Graduate School – Amy Medlock

Ex-Officio – Provost S. Jack Hu

Undergraduate Student Representative – Melissa Hevener

Graduate Student Representative – Jordan Henley

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the College of Environment and Design to change the name of the following major will be an agenda item for the October 18, 2019, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting:

From: Master of Environmental Planning and Design (M.E.P.D.)

To: Master of Urban Planning and Design (M.U.P.D.)

Sincerely,

John Maerz, Chair  
University Curriculum Committee

cc: Provost S. Jack Hu  
Dr. Rahul Shrivastav

## ACADEMIC PROGRAM NAME CHANGE JUSTIFICATION FORM

**Date:** August 19, 2019

**College:** College of Environment and Design

**Effective Date:** Fall 2020

**Current Program Name:** Master of Environmental Planning and Design (M.E.P.D., Thesis and Non-Thesis)

**Proposed Program Name:** Master of Urban Planning and Design (M.U.P.D., Thesis and Non-Thesis)

### **Background and Justification:**

The program is one of the very few in the country that effectively focuses on the physical planning and design of neighborhoods, cities, and regions. The present name does not clearly and concisely express that focus, which also may affect its presentation to students looking to attend a professional city planning program. As its second self-study for professional accreditation by the Planning Accreditation Board (PAB) of the American Planning Association (APA) is being drafted, the faculty, in consultation with the students, decided to seek the name change for clarity in the expression of a unique focus and strategically for recruitment of future practitioners. Accreditation requires the term “planning,” the word “city” is not used, and “planning and design” is what the program offers.

**Faculty Vote:** Consistent with our College’s Faculty Governance, the College of Environment and Design faculty voted 22 yes, 5 no, and 1 abstained for the proposed name change from Master of Environmental Planning and Design to Master of Urban Planning and Design.

**Program of Study:** The Environmental Planning and Design graduate program is accredited by the Planning Accreditation Board and focuses on the physical planning and design of the built environment. The M.E.P.D. program is structured around planning studios which foster an energetic, collaborative, and creative environment and pursues excellence through innovative teaching. The studio culture enables the program to develop and employ new ideas and technologies and promotes innovation by involving students in a variety of local, regional, and international projects. The M.E.P.D. program engages students in interdisciplinary collaboration and experiential learning. The curriculum allows students to master the essential knowledge, skills, and competencies of the required coursework through an innovative model that couples rigorous academic learning with professional engagement.

A degree in the M.E.P.D. program prepares students for careers working in public planning agencies, private firms with city and regional planning departments as professional planners, or in non-profit agencies. The program also offers preparation for future doctoral work in city and regional planning. The program attracts students from a wide variety of undergraduate degree programs who are interested in working with local communities, civic leaders, public agencies, and design teams to engage in a democratic planning process.

Degree program was designed by Professor John Crowley in 2003 when he was dean and working with the dean at Georgia Tech to not replicate their city planning program. This was at a time when the School of Environmental Design at UGA had, with the addition of the School of Ecology, become the

College of Environment and Design (2001). This resulted in naming the unique new professional degree program with the term “Environmental” and not “City.”

**Curriculum:**

58-hour minimum required

**1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR**

**FALL:**

EDES 6270, Environmental Design Uses of Geographic Information Systems (3 hours)

EDES(PLAN) 6650, City Planning (3 hours)

PLAN 6000, Orientation in Environmental Planning and Design (1 hour)

PLAN 6210, Graphic Representation in Planning and Design (3 hours)

PLAN 6560, Urban Planning and Design Studio I (4 hours)

**SPRING:**

EDES 6540, Ideas of Community and Place (2 hours)

PLAN 6540, Urban Planning and Design Studio II (4 hours)

PLAN 6640, History of Urban Planning (3 hours)

PLAN 6950, Research Strategies (3 hours)

Elective (3 hours)

**2<sup>nd</sup> YEAR**

**FALL:**

PLAN 6124, Ethics, Justice and Professional Practice (3 hours)

PLAN 6200, Environmental Planning Law (3 hours)

PLAN 6520, Urban Planning and Design Studio I (5 hours)

Elective (3 hours)

**SPRING:**

PLAN 7300, Master's Thesis or PLAN 7200, Environmental Planning and Design Practicum (9 hours)

Elective (3 hours)

Elective (3 hours)

## Approvals on File

**Proposal:** Major Name Change from Master of Environmental Planning and Design (M.E.P.D., Thesis and Non-Thesis) to Master of Urban Planning and Design (M.U.P.D., Thesis and Non-Thesis)

**College:** College of Environment and Design

**Department:** College of Environment and Design

**Proposed Effective Term:** Fall 2020

School/College:

- College of Environment and Design Associate Dean David Spooner, 8/19/19

Graduate School:

- Graduate School Dean Dr. Suzanne Barbour, 8/22/19