Graduate Certificate in City Design

Introduction
The Graduate Certificate in City Design is a joint certificate program between the School of Architecture and the Department of Landscape Architecture in the College of Design at North Carolina State University.

The aim of this certificate program is to certify that students undertaking the program have had extensive exposure to the knowledge base and practice of design at an urban scale. This is accomplished through a 15-hour sequence of courses centrally focused on the design of cities, history and theories of urbanism, and city design methodologies, including a minimum of one advanced city design studio. Students are required to undertake a nine-hour course sequence comprised of a theory and skill-based workshop (3 hours) and a city design studio (6 hours). They will take a further six hours of elective courses, as described below.

Intent of Certificate Program
The certificate program is intended to promote design inquiry and application at the scale of the city, for students and practitioners of architecture, landscape architecture, and city and regional planning. The program's objectives are:

- to consider the human condition, particularly in making significant urban places;
- design integrated systems of movement, with increased accessibility;
- promote a greater mix of and association of uses and amenities within a well-scaled urban fabric, bringing a fuller sense of equity to the city;
- foster new opportunities for energy production, collection, and saving at the local scale;
- define new means of “greening” the city;
- capture greater senses of identity, meaning, and quality within the city fabric;
- promote interdisciplinary and inter-university studies between departments at NC State and between NC State and the Department of City and Regional Planning at UNC Chapel Hill.

Interdisciplinary Initiative
This certificate is an interdisciplinary, reflecting the nature of city design practice. It aims to bring together students and faculty from landscape architecture and architecture into an interactive and team-based learning context.

This is a joint proposal from the School of Architecture and the Department of Landscape Architecture.

Certificate Coordinator:
Robin Abrams
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Faculty Participants
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Robin Abrams, Professor and Head of School
Thomas Barrie, Professor
Georgia Bizios, Professor  
Kristen Schaffer, Associate Professor  
Patricia Morgado, Associate Professor  
Burak Erdim, Assistant Professor  
Sara Queen, Assistant Professor

DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
Gene Bressler, Professor and Head of Department  
Art Rice, Professor and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies  
Kofi Boone, Assistant Professor  
Robin Moore, Professor  
Nilda Cosco, Education Specialist  
Celen Pasalar, Assistant Dean for Research, Assistant Professor

COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
Perver Baran, Research Associate Professor
Academic Requirements for Participants

Certificate students are expected to complete a total of 15 hours of coursework. This coursework can be completed within the existing curricula of the Master of Architecture (Tracks 1, 2, and 3) and the Master of Landscape Architecture. Additionally, it is possible to earn this certificate as a post baccalaureate, non-degree seeking student (PBS, NDS).

There are three methods of fulfilling this requirement: 1 studio option; 2 studio option; no studio option. Studios must be approved by the certificate coordinator in advance, as to whether they fulfill all, or a majority of the intentions of the certificate program, as stated on the first page of this document.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Single Studio Option for M.Arch Tracks 1, 2, and 3 &amp; MLA Students</th>
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<th>Non-Studio Option for Practicing Professionals and Graduate Students in Approved Alternative Programs (PBS, NDS, MCRP)</th>
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**Required Coursework**

**ARC 590 Experiencing Cities**
A morphological investigation of cities throughout urban history, with emphasis on formal principles of spatial organization. This course covers the history of city form, 20th century city design history and theory, examination of current urban issues, design of public spaces, and designing city futures.

**ARC 503/LAR 500 Graduate Studio**
This is an advanced design studio focusing on projects of an urban scale, that require team approaches to real life problem solving, focus on urban futures, and also provide opportunity to explore the integration of smaller scale architecture, landscape architecture, and physical planning projects within the larger design context.

**Required Electives Menu (6 hours)**

**SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, NC STATE**
(Note – not all courses are taught every year)
ARC 548 Vernacular Architecture
ARC 571 Urban House
ARC 574 Place and Placemaking
ARC 575 Participatory Design in Architecture
ARC 576 Community Design
ARC 577 Sustainable Communities
ARC 578 Ecological Design
ARC 590* Special Topics (topics vary by approval of certificate coordinator)
* these are courses that have been taught once and for which CAFs will be filed

**DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, NC STATE**
LAR 511 Community Design Policy
LAR 576 Community Design
LAR 577 Sustainable Communities
LAR 579 Human Use of the Urban Landscape
LAR 582 Special Topics (topics vary, by approval of certificate coordinator)

**Additional Opportunities**

Students in the City Design Certificate Program will join an academic and professional community that offers a broad range of extracurricular activities. These include the College of Design annual Urban Design Conference and the Housing Conference, visiting lecturers, colloquia, and City Forum, a regularly scheduled series of brown bag discussions.

Additionally, with permission of the certificate coordinator, students may take up to six credits from another provider of graduate level coursework in city design. For example, the following courses in the Department of City & Regional Planning at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill would qualify:

PLAN 741 Land Use and Environmental Planning
PLAN 550 Evolution of the American Urban Landscape
PLAN 636 Urban Transportation Planning
PLAN 637 Public Transportation
PLAN 651 Urban Form and the Design of Cities
PLAN 738 Transportation Policy and Planning
PLAN 744 Development and Environmental Management
PLAN 745 Development Impact Assessment
Application Process
Students must apply on line to participate in the certificate program at this website:
http://www.ncsu.edu/grad/programs/program-profile/?id=c29

To qualify for admission to the Certificate in City Design, students must be enrolled in, or have
completed, a professional program in architecture, landscape architecture, or urban planning. Students must have at the time of application a 3.00 grade point average in their professional
degree program. Practicing Professionals and Graduate Students in Approved Alternative Programs

Certificate Completion
Students must apply to graduate from the certificate at the same time they apply to graduate from
their degree program; it is a separate application process but completed in the same way.

There is an assessment process associated with completion of the degree requirements, which is
detailed on the following page. For the City Design Certificate, this includes submission of a portfolio
containing the work from studios/seminars that comprise the 15 hours of coursework. This includes the
syllabus and examples of the student's work.

To receive a Graduate Certificate, a student must complete 15 hours of coursework, and have a
minimum 3.00 grade point average (GPA) on all certificate course work. All grades on courses
taken towards the certificate program in courses numbered 400 and above are included in the
GPA. Courses at the 300 level and below are not eligible for certificate credit and subsequently
do not affect the graduate GPA.

The minimum grade to receive certificate credit can be no lower than a grade of B-. GCP
students who take letter-graded 400-, 500- and 700-level courses do not have the option of taking
the courses for "credit only" if they intend for the course to be part of their GCP. Transfer credit
from other institutions is not allowed for GCP. All course work must be registered for through NC
State University. All GCP requirements must be completed within four (4) calendar years,
beginning with the date the student commences courses applicable to the GCP, unless a more
restrictive time limit has been established by the program or academic college/school. A student
may obtain more than one certificate. Each certificate must have at least nine (9) credit hours that
are unique to it.

Note: Academic success might have a strong bearing on admission to a degree program, but
completion of a certificate program in no way guarantees entry into a graduate degree program,
which is done through a separate application process.
Certificate in City Design
Outcomes Assessment Plan

Objectives

1. In this certificate program, students will develop an understanding of the complexity of large urban contexts, and develop an ability to design at the scale of the city, in ways that respond to issues of economy, ecology, and equity. For the purposes of this certificate program, a city is defined as a relatively large and permanent settlement with complex systems for sanitation, utilities, land usage, housing, and transportation. Such cities are usually associated with metropolitan areas and urban areas, creating numerous business commuters traveling to urban centers for employment.

2. The certificate program will provide an educational experience that satisfies the expectations of its graduates.

Objectives and Outcomes

Objective 1: By the time they complete this certificate program, graduates should be able to:

a. Describe the impact of the history of cities on urban form.

b. Possess awareness of the existence of the key 20th theoretical foundations of city design.

c. Apply research methods applicable to working within an urban context.

d. Demonstrate ability to produce a design at the scale of a city or district that addresses at least three of the following areas of concern:

   Multi-modal transportation issues, including human-powered
   Multi-family housing
   Inclusive zoning
   Urban ecology
   Brownfield restoration
   Equity
   Urban open space
   Mixed-use development
   Infill development
   Infrastructure
e. Demonstrate ability to design an interventional, site-specific project within a complex urban context that addresses at least three of the following:

- pedestrian environment
- public space
- streetscapes
- transit stations
- multi-family housing
- mixed-use buildings
- urban recreation facilities
- public markets
- civic buildings, such as performing arts, recreation centers, schools, etc., located on urban sites
- ecological landscapes
- infrastructure systems

Objective 2: At the time they complete this certificate program, graduates are expected to:

a. be satisfied with the usefulness of the certificate program in enabling them to achieve their professional goals

b. be sufficiently satisfied with the certificate program to recommend it to others with the same professional goals

c. be satisfied with the appropriateness of the courses in providing the knowledge or training they anticipate needing for their professional goals

d. be satisfied with the frequency and timeliness of courses offered for the certificate

e. be satisfied with the quality of teaching in certificate courses

f. be satisfied with the overall educational experience of the certificate program

Objective 1. Students will develop an understanding of the complexity of large urban contexts, and develop an ability to design at the scale of the city, in ways that respond to issues of economy, ecology, and equity.

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<th>Source of Evidence</th>
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<td>Portfolio of student work from required and elective courses</td>
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<td>Awareness of the existence of the key 20th theoretical foundations of city design</td>
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<td>Ability to apply <strong>research methods</strong> appropriate to working within an urban context.</td>
<td>Portfolio of student work from Advanced Studio and/or elective courses</td>
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| Ability to produce an advanced-level design at the scale of the city or district that addresses at least **three** of the following areas of concern:  
  - Site located in an urban context  
  - Multi-modal transportation issues, including human-powered  
  - Multi-family housing  
  - Urban ecology  
  - Brownfield restoration  
  - Equity  
  - Urban open space  
  - Mixed-use development  
  - Infill development  
  - Infrastructure | Portfolio of student work from Advanced Studio, design practice, and/or design competition | Students | Annually |
| Ability to produce an advanced-level design that is site-specific and within a complex urban setting that addresses at least three of the following:  
  - pedestrian environment  
  - public space  
  - streetscapes  
  - transit stations  
  - multi-family housing  
  - mixed-use buildings  
  - urban recreation facilities  
  - public markets  
  - civic buildings, such as performing arts, recreation centers, schools, etc., located on urban sites  
  - ecological landscapes  
  - infrastructure systems | Portfolio of student work from Advanced Studio, design practice, or design competition | Students | Annually |
**Objective 2.** The certificate program will provide an educational experience that satisfies the expectations of its graduates.

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