



The Urban Sustainability Department

Urban Sustainability Master of Arts

Urban Sustainability Master of Arts with Integrated GIS Certificate

Dual Urban Sustainability MA and MFA in Creative Writing

GIS Certificate

ANTIOCH UNIVERSITY

LOS ANGELES

About the Urban Sustainability Department

The Urban Sustainability programs educate and empower students to advocate for responsible, sustainable, and innovative communities.

At the heart of our programs is a systems thinking approach that reveals the interconnections between social, economic, and ecological issues. The problems we live, see and feel are as interrelated as the solutions should be. We believe that to teach this approach, we must embody it through our pedagogy, relationships and program design. For this reason, our low-residency, fieldwork-based and interdisciplinary programs are practice-based and highly collaborative.

Our low-residency and evening online classes make our programs particularly suited for working people who are looking to expand their horizons while maintaining their current employment.

Students study with the same cohort of peers throughout the programs. Many students name this as one of the most powerful

parts of our programs, as students form lasting friendships that assist them in their careers for the rest of their lives. In addition to moving through their program with a cohort, the residencies create many opportunities for cross-cohort collaboration.

Our urban centers can be just and sustainable places with effective educators, advocates, and agents of change leading the way. If you see yourself influencing how public policy is made; launching a disruptive, forward-thinking social enterprise; or working with urban communities to ensure access to clean air, fresh water, affordable renewable energy, food, education, healthcare, and housing, then one of our programs may be right for you.

The Urban Sustainability MA is our flagship program. We also offer an Urban Sustainability MA with a GIS Certification, a Dual Degree program with an MFA in Creative Writing and a stand-alone GIS Certification program.

"I was apprehensive as to how quickly I would acclimate to the complex concepts that are at the root of many sustainability discussions, but today I feel solidly grounded because the USMA program has given me such an excellent foundation. I am excited to continue my journey as a dual degree USMA/MFA student and confident that my knowledge will continue to flourish at Antioch, setting the stage for future success."

MARLENIA MYERS, DUAL URBAN SUSTAINABILITY MA AND MFA CREATIVE WRITING '17

MA

MASTER OF ARTS

Urban Sustainability Master of Arts

Fall/Winter semester begins in late October; Spring/Summer semester begins in late April. Students may enter the program in either semester.

Our MA in Urban Sustainability offers an educational home for diverse students, faculty, and community partners who work and learn together in a hybrid, hands-on, cutting-edge program.

In addition to in-person residencies, much of the coursework occurs in a high-touch online environment. Class discussions and collaborations range from online forums to real-time online classrooms. In the process, students become adept at working, communicating, and presenting online in much the same way that creative, dispersed groups solve urban sustainability problems together around the world.

We believe that the greatest learning takes place by doing and then reflecting on our work in order to transform communities. Through fieldwork placements students enhance their professional skills, develop meaningful relationships in the field, and build self-confidence in their ability to make change.

The program consists of 32 units and is offered over a 24-month period that is divided into four semesters.

Read more at antioch.edu/los-angeles/usma

We believe learning is best demonstrated through reflection, immersion, and experience, not standardized tests. In line with this belief, neither the GRE nor the GMAT is required for admission into the USMA program.

MA

CERT

MASTER OF ARTS + CERTIFICATE

Urban Sustainability Master of Arts with Integrated GIS Certificate

The Urban Sustainability Master of Arts (USMA) degree with an integrated certificate in Applied Spatial Analysis for Geographic Information Systems (GIS) affords students the opportunity to earn both the MA degree and an additional GIS certificate within four semesters. The GIS certificate is earned while satisfying several of the USMA program requirements. Students attend a total of seven residencies during the course of the program. The program consists of 36 units and is offered over a 24-month period that is divided into four semesters.

Spatial analysis and geospatial technologies (including GIS) are increasingly used for policy-making, scientific, administrative, educational and recreational purposes. Proficiency with spatial concepts and data is sought-after by employers and necessary for effective environmental and policy leadership. The goal of this certificate program is to equip you with analytical tools which will enhance your academic career, as well as your capacity for engagement in real world decision-making.



▲ USMA students take a tour of the LA River to learn about its changes and challenges.

“In the MA in Urban Sustainability program, we get into the community and walk in the shoes we want to be in as soon as we start the program. I’ve gotten a huge jumpstart in my career because of the skills I’ve gained and the connections I’ve made here.”

DANIELLE TREIBER, URBAN SUSTAINABILITY MA '13

MA

MFA

MASTER OF ARTS + MASTER OF FINE ARTS

Dual Urban Sustainability MA and MFA Creative Writing

As the world's only MFA program specifically devoted to literature and the pursuit of social justice, this dual degree combines the curriculum of our MFA in Creative Writing and the Urban Sustainability MA. By pairing these two degrees you'll explore communication skills while applying creative and complex solutions to the challenges of our time. Learn the art of articulation and the nuances of social and environmental justice to become a voice in the global community's conversation about challenges of ecology and inequality.

GRADUATES EARN BOTH an Urban Sustainability MA and an MFA in Creative Writing within a three-year period, reducing the time and costs of completing these degrees separately. Ideally, students begin working toward their USMA first, adding in the components of the creative writing program in parallel with intensive capstone work as urban problem solvers.

Designed as a six-semester endeavor, specializations are offered in fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry and/or writing for young people--creating pathways to effectively communicate issues and empower individuals and communities to solve them.

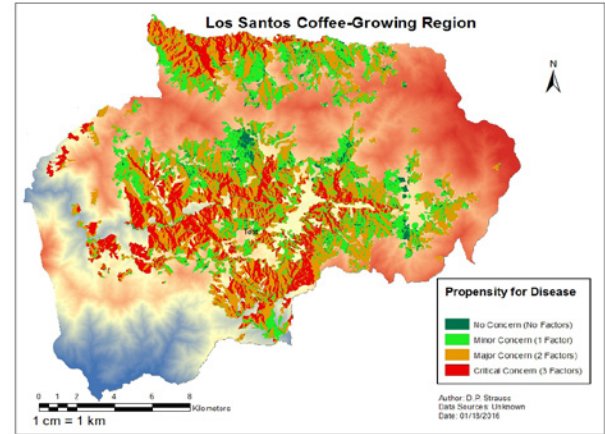


Certificate in Applied Spatial Analysis for Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are increasingly used for policy-making, scientific, administrative, educational, and recreational purposes. As GIS has become a vital decision support tool, the national and international need for qualified professionals has grown at an unprecedented rate.

This 9-credit 1-year GIS Certificate is designed for graduate students, educators and professionals working in various sectors. It focuses on developing the skills and knowledge needed to work in any field that involves GIS-related spatial analysis.

Read more at antioch.edu/los-angeles/gis



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“One of the biggest things I’ve taken away from the Urban Sustainability program is that there are other people who share similar values, who want to look at the root cause of a problem as opposed to applying some engineered solution. Having that sort of camaraderie has been really valuable for me. Through my fieldwork experiences...I was able to find a job at a farmer’s market, organizing urban farmers. And that’s sort of a dream come true.”

ELIZABETH BOWMAN, URBAN SUSTAINABILITY MA '12

Our Community

Our Faculty

Our distinguished faculty is made up of practitioners and academics from a wide array of backgrounds throughout the region and the country. All of our faculty are actively engaged in diverse fields related to Urban Sustainability, including Mobility Justice, Climate Justice, Environmental Education, Zero Waste, Technology Assessment, Participatory Community Planning, and much more. We take great pride in a faculty that combines theory with practical work in the world.

Each student in the program is assigned a faculty mentor, who provides advising, feedback and other support to create a successful educational experience over the course of the program. In addition to mentors, all of the program faculty are accessible to students, along with a host of student services, from counseling to writing support.

Our Graduates

The Urban Sustainability MA degrees will equip you with essential knowledge, skills, and practical experience that could lead to a career in the many diverse fields of social and environmental sustainability.

Graduates of the program have found meaningful careers in positions such as:

- ▶ Policymakers and Community Planners
- ▶ Community Activists and Advocates
- ▶ Sustainability Educators
- ▶ Community Organizers
- ▶ Directors in Non-Profit Organizations
- ▶ Sustainability Officers
- ▶ Environmental Program Coordinators in the Public and Private Sectors
- ▶ Social and Environmentally Responsible Green Business Entrepreneurs/Consultants

“AULA has given me a deeper understanding of the world around me that I didn’t have before. It’s not just about the system. It’s about people. I’ve gained an understanding of what happens to people when they’re marginalized, what happens to the environment when we aren’t concerned about it. So when I’m going out into communities that are trying to improve their conditions, I can be a leader.”

Some of what makes our programs special

Fieldwork

A major component of our MA programs is practical fieldwork placements. Each student does two semesters of fieldwork under the supervision of a faculty member and community partner. Students and faculty work together to find the best possible match for each student. Fieldwork is an opportunity to become involved in a variety of nonprofit, community-based, and public sector organizations, providing professional experience and career opportunities.

Big Question Lab

A central component of the first week residency that begins every semester is the Big Question Lab (BQL). This involves an intensive engagement with community-based organizations around an important urban sustainability question. These engagements allow students to gain practical, real-world experiences that expand their understanding of urban problems and solutions while building their resumes of professional experience. Residencies take shape through months of planning by program faculty and staff, who work with designated community partners to design a set of engagements and collaborative assignments. The work produced in the Big Question Lab has made its way into policy papers; appearances before the Los Angeles City Council; campaigns for social, economic, and environmental justice; organizing strategies; as well as the hearts and minds of residents in our immediate geographic area and beyond. Through the BQL, students develop their skills at collaboration and presentation, as well as learning to develop policies, do research, engage in planning and advocacy, and exhibit a host of other skills related to diverse fields in Urban Sustainability.

"I would call my experience in the Urban Sustainability program transformative. It's given me the opportunity to re-evaluate how I want to relate to the world. I've learned a lot about the way the world works, as well as tools to help make change happen... What I like about this program is that it approaches the educational experience from the perspective of 'what is a problem that we're trying to solve?'"

JEREMY DRAKE, URBAN SUSTAINABILITY MA '12

Past partner organizations and topics have included:

STRATEGIC CONCEPTS IN ORGANIZATION AND POLICY EDUCATION (SCOPE)

Students, working in three teams, devised three separate progressive taxation strategies designed to increase the City of Los Angeles' General Fund allocations to under-resourced communities in two Council Districts

THE LOS ANGELES NEIGHBORHOOD LAND TRUST (LANLT)

Students developed collaborative networking strategies for LANLT's 30+ park stewards; designed a leadership academy for the development of future stewards; developed an internal infrastructure plan for LANLT.

LOS ANGELES BLACK WORKER CENTER

Students worked with the BWC in teams to develop targeted narrative strategies to recruit diverse audiences to support their "Do You See Me Now?" campaign to prioritize qualified African American workers in construction jobs and contracts with the City and County of LA.

PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY-LOS ANGELES (PSR-LA) and PARAMOUNT COMMUNITY COALITION AGAINST TOXICS (PCCAT)

Students worked with PSR-LA and PCCAT over two residencies to develop a vision and set of strategies for a Just Transition out of the Toxic Metals Industry in LA, and to specifically apply both Power Analysis and Narrative Strategy to support the Paramount Community's campaign to clean up toxic facilities.



Admissions Process

Our Admissions team is here to assist you with every step of the admissions process, providing each applicant with the individualized attention that is central to the Antioch experience. Our goal is to make the application process as straightforward as possible. Applying online is easy. Visit antioch.edu/los-angles and click on "Apply" to get started.

Admissions Checklist

- Online application form
- Application fee or fee waiver
- Admissions essay
- Official transcripts

International Students

Leaving your home country to study in the United States is a life altering decision. At AULA we pride ourselves on the individual attention that we provide to our international students. We offer a close, nurturing environment where you will build lifelong relationships with peers and professors. Learn more at antioch.edu/los-angeles/international.



We encourage you to come and visit or attend part of a residency. Email the Urban Sustainability Program Office urbansustainabilityla@antioch.edu for scheduling.

"I am a very proud alum of the MA in Urban Sustainability program. I feel like everything came full circle. The program first introduced me to Frogtown through the LA River residency and now here I am in the LA-Más office. It's definitely the right place for me. I am so grateful and I couldn't have done it without the education and support from Antioch."

AVITAL ABOODY, URBAN SUSTAINABILITY MA '17

Financing Your Education

After you've been accepted into our Master of Arts in Urban Sustainability program, finding a way to finance your education will probably become a top priority. While some students are able to pay for their education out of their own pocket, the majority of AULA students rely on other means of financial support including scholarships, grants, work-study opportunities, and student loans. In many cases, graduate students rely on more than one type of financial aid.

Figuring out how to pay for your education can feel overwhelming. The Financial Aid office at AULA is committed to assisting students in fully understanding the resources and options available to them. Contact us at finaid.aula@antioch.edu.

We help veterans maximize their educational benefits

We proudly welcome student veterans as vital members of our community and are proud to participate in the Post-9/11 GI Bill® Education Enhancement Program, also known as the Yellow Ribbon Program. We are committed to helping you pay for your education through Veterans Educational Benefits or through federal, state and institutional aid. Learn more visit antioch.edu/los-angeles/veteran or email studentservices.aula@antioch.edu.



To learn more about your financial aid options, please visit antioch.edu/los-angeles/financial

"My experience in the Urban Sustainability program has reaffirmed my conviction that we live in truly challenging times, as our current political and economic systems are proving themselves inept to deal with the ecological and social crises that we face. It's inspiring to know that, as complex as these problems may seem, the solutions are only limited by our ability to imagine and act on them. The MA in Urban Sustainability program has provided me with the tools and resources to do just that."

DARYL BILANDZIJA, URBAN SUSTAINABILITY MA '13

About Antioch University

ANTIOCH UNIVERSITY LOS ANGELES PURPOSE STATEMENT

Antioch University Los Angeles provides rigorous progressive education to prepare students for the complexities of today's diverse societies. Combining dynamic scholarship and creative endeavor with experiential learning and reflective practice, AULA fosters personal and collective agency, global citizenship, and socially-conscious leadership.

ANTIOCH UNIVERSITY VISION

Antioch University aspires to be a leading university offering learners and communities transformative education, in a global context, that fosters innovation and inspires social action.

ANTIOCH UNIVERSITY

Antioch University provides learner-centered education to empower students with the knowledge and skills to lead meaningful lives and to advance social, economic, and environmental justice. With campuses in Keene, New Hampshire; Los Angeles; Santa Barbara; Seattle; and Yellow Springs, Ohio, Antioch University is a bold and enduring source of innovation in higher education. Inspired by the work of pioneering educator Horace Mann, Antioch University also includes the Graduate School of Leadership and Change, and Antioch Online. The University is a private, nonprofit, 501(c)3 institution and accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.

FRONT IMAGE: Students visit the Watts Labor Community Action Committee to discuss water issues during a recent residency.



antioch.edu/los-angeles | 1.800.726.8462

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Antioch University Los Angeles is committed to sustainability on our campus and within our community. We strive to print all materials on post-consumer recycled paper with soy-based inks.

