

BACHELOR OF COMMUNITY DESIGN



The Faculty of Architecture and Planning offers unique programs in community design, environmental design studies, architecture and planning. The undergraduate program in community design offers degrees for those with an interest in the form and development of communities.

WHY STUDY COMMUNITY DESIGN?

The Community Design program will interest students who care about the character and the future of our communities, who are committed to sustainable approaches to the environment, and who want to learn design, planning and communication skills that will allow them to make a difference in how we build cities and alter landscapes. The Bachelor of Community Design (BCD) draws on the knowledge base of the natural and social sciences, and brings that understanding together with the creative engagement and problem-based abilities of the planning and design professions. If you believe that we need to design better living environments, preserve culturally-important and environmentally-sensitive

landscapes, and help communities shape their own futures, then this program can equip you to achieve your aspirations.

Community designers study the shape, patterns, processes and issues in human and natural communities. They see the world as a system of interconnected and embedded communities linked by cultural and natural processes. They also explore interventions to promote healthy communities and sustainable environments. The program gives students an opportunity to study human and natural communities and the interactions between them. You will learn to help communities design strategies to explore issues and select courses of action.



WHAT CAN COMMUNITY DESIGNERS AND PLANNERS DO?

The economy needs competent community designers and planners to help people make appropriate decisions about the choices they face in dealing with change in a sustainable fashion. Community designers and planners work with community members to find development options that creatively accommodate people's needs and aspirations while respecting and protecting the environment.

Our graduates find design or planning work with municipal planning offices, municipal development control authorities, planning and design consulting firms, land development companies, federal or provincial government agencies with roles in planning and land use, housing agencies, urban revitalization projects, non-profit environmental organizations or other related groups. They work across Canada, in the US, the Caribbean and beyond.

Students who graduate with the first professional (accredited) Bachelor of Community Design, Honours (4-year) degree with a major in Environmental Planning or Urban Design and Planning (or with a combined honours major in Sustainability), may seek certification as professional planners. They typically work as community planners, or in other specialized planning areas within municipal government, or

in private consulting practice, providing planning services to a range of clients. Graduates with the four year degrees may also consider specialized study at the graduate level in disciplines such as architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, planning, public administration, environmental studies, geography, coastal management and planning, business management, and development economics.

WHAT MAJORS ARE AVAILABLE?

Community Design students may complete non-honours or honours degrees, including:

Bachelor of Community Design: a three year, non-honours degree;

Bachelor of Community Design, Double Major in Community

Design and Sustainability: a four year non-honours degree requiring additional courses in Sustainability in the fourth year; and

Bachelor of Community Design, Honours with the following approved majors:

- Honours Major in Environmental Planning
- Honours Double Major in Environmental Planning and Sustainability
- Honours Major in Urban Design and Planning
- Honours Double Major in Urban Design and Planning, and Sustainability



The honours year allows students who excelled in the first three years of the BCD program to deepen their knowledge and refine their skills in either environmental planning or urban planning and design. The fourth-year studios typically involve real projects undertaken in cooperation with community partners. Thus students gain practical experience to add to their portfolios. An internship with a community planning or design firm, or organization enhances the practical experience and helps students develop workplace skills.

Honours major degrees are recognized as first **professional degrees**, accredited by the Professional Standards Board for the Planning Profession in Canada. Spaces in the honours, professional degree program are limited and the admission process is competitive. Students apply for admission near the end of their third year.

Honours and double major students have the option of earning a minor selected from among a variety of disciplines. Minors with strong connections to Community Design include Geography, Environmental Science, Environmental Studies, International Development Studies, or Canadian Studies. Students within the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science programs may earn a Minor in Community Design. Additionally, science students may earn a Bachelor of Science, Double Major in Environmental Science and Community Design.

HOW DO STUDENTS APPLY?

Students applying to the undergraduate program must have completed Nova Scotia grade 12 (or equivalent) with an average of at least 70%. Grade 12 level courses must include English, math, and one science, with at least 70% in each. Recommended grade 12 courses include geography and biology. A background in art or design is an asset.

Students may also transfer from other degree programs, and from other universities or colleges. Transferring students' transcripts will be assessed for possible transfer of elective or required credits (up to 50% of degree requirements). Transfer students must fulfill all degree requirements: transfer students should contact the School for appropriate advice on their course selection prior to registration.

Students apply online or through the Admissions Office.

Admissions, Registrar's Office

Dalhousie University
Halifax, NS, Canada B3H 4H6
email: admissions@dal.ca

The Admissions Office can provide current information on fees and deadlines.



WHAT ABOUT FURTHER STUDIES IN ARCHITECTURE AT DALHOUSIE?

Students who wish to study architecture, have completed at least two years of the Community Design program with not less than a B- average, and have completed other requirements as set out by the School of Architecture, may apply to the Bachelor of Environmental Design Studies (BEDS) program within the Faculty. (Please see the Architecture web site for full details of the application procedure and requirements for that program. Note that the competition for places in Architecture is considerable, and is not limited to Dalhousie students. Meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission.)

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Visit the School web site at dal.ca/planning, and the Faculty web site at archplan.dal.ca.

Review the ***Undergraduate Calendar*** at academiccalendar.dal.ca for degree requirements and course descriptions.

The current Academic Timetable at dal.ca/academics/academic_timetable.html lists courses offered for current semesters.

Email us at planning@dal.ca

