The Urbanism Concentration in the Master of Architecture Program at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign provides students with the opportunity to develop an in depth understanding of the issues facing cities and urban residents in the 21st century. With complex environmental, political, technological and economic factors and accelerating urbanization, architects will increasingly be called on to understand and solve urban problems at a variety of scales, from the building to the region. These solutions require understanding across a breadth of issues as well as competency in the appropriate tactics and strategies that can lead to such solutions. The Urbanism Concentration provides students with the opportunity to develop these skills across a range of scales.

Students declaring the Urbanism Concentration are required to submit, at the end of their first semester of study and not later that the first day of classes of the second semester, a plan schedule that outlines their coursework for the next three semesters. This plan must be signed by the student and the Advisor and submitted to the Chair of the Program Area and the Director of Graduate Programs and Studies not later than the second week of classes of the student’s second semester of study.

This Concentration can be completed within the normal timeframe of the M.Arch degree. Successful completion of the Concentration will be noted on the student’s official transcript.

Admission
The admission grade point average for full standing in the Graduate College and the school must be at least 3.0 (A = 4.0). For applicants who meet the other requirements but have an admission GPA under 3.0, admission with limited standing may be permitted if evidence of exceptional qualification is presented.

Applicants are selected for admission on the basis of undergraduate academic performance and profession-related experience. Application material is evaluated by faculty members. The faculty’s recommendations are based upon an appraisal of the admission grade point average determined from official transcripts, a portfolio or brochure of applicant’s past work in architecture, a statement of objectives, three letters of recommendation, and relevant professional work experience.

Application forms for graduate admission and financial aid may be obtained from the Web site above. Application may be made on-line. Completed applications for the Masters or Doctoral programs must reach the Graduate Programs Office by January 15; students are admitted in the fall semester only. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores are not required for School of Architecture Masters Degree applicants; the GRE is required for all Doctor of Philosophy applicants.

All applicants whose native language is not English must submit Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores. A minimum score of 590 on the paper-based test or 243 on the computer-based test or 96 on the internet-based test is required. The University of Illinois also accepts IELTS (academic exam) score in lieu of TOEFL, with a minimum score of 6.5 and 6.5 in all sub-sections required.