Introducing the Master of Arts degree program in

Community Planning, Policy, and Design

Empowering graduates to become community builders and placemakers
Pushing traditional design forward by making it more culturally diverse,
Socially inclusive, sustainable and beautiful

Learn the lessons of Charleston, for the benefit of the world.

Apply Now
go.cofc.edu/cpad
SPECIALIZED GENERALISTS

The Graduate School of the University of Charleston, South Carolina at the College of Charleston proudly offers a unique urban design MA degree program in Community Planning, Policy, and Design (CPAD). This program blends architecture and urban design studio courses with classes in public policy, infrastructure planning, architectural history and real estate. This interdisciplinary curriculum empowers graduates to succeed as skilled practitioners in today’s complex development field. CPAD graduates are trained to speak the language of law, know the realities of business, and wield the design skills needed to create and enhance inclusive, sustainable, beautiful places.
CPAD CURRICULUM

SEMESTER ONE
CPAD 605 Drawing Charleston
CPAD 615 Introduction to Urban Design (studio course)
ARTH 565 The City as a Work of Art

SEMESTER TWO
PUBA 611 Urban Policy
CPAD 619 Architectural Design (studio course)
ARTH 535 American Architecture

SUMMER
CPAD 790 Independent Urban Design Field Study (online course)

SEMESTER THREE
PUBA 517 Urban Transportation: Problems and Prospects
CPAD 830 Sustainable Design and Adaptive Reuse (studio course)
CPAD 631 Introduction to Real Estate

SEMESTER FOUR
CPAD 895 Urban Design Graduate Thesis (studio course)

ELECTIVES
Two electives are also required. These can be selected from CPAD special topics courses or approved PUBA urban planning courses.
The placemaking skills of our students are strengthened by the second unique feature of the CPAD program: its “progressive traditional” design ethos. Our students are taught to understand and appreciate traditional design from a global, pluralistic perspective. They can draw upon specific forms and details of local sites in their work, and will become capable of engaging with traditions to serve diverse populations. CPAD students are encouraged to work with modern ideas, materials and aesthetic innovations, to aid them in their quest to make places that are classically beautiful and sustainable.
At the core of CPAD's progressive traditional philosophy is a conviction that all cultures in every part of the globe have made valuable contributions to design. We celebrate the truth that all human beings are bound together by commonalities, many of which have been etched in the history of architecture. We also acknowledge the present and growing need for people to work together and use every tool in the box to build a more functional, resilient and thoughtful world.

Lower right-hand photo by Jack Gardner Photography, courtesy of Khoury/Vogt Architects; all other photos in this brochure courtesy Nathaniel Robert Walker unless otherwise indicated
THE PERFECT CLASSROOM

Charleston is one of the best places to teach walkable, mixed-use urban design, and our historic downtown campus puts students right in the heart of the action. The city’s world-renowned historic center grew out of European, Caribbean and West African crafts and aesthetics, creating a city that is powerfully diverse in both heritage and population. As a popular coastal city, Charleston is on the front lines of many pressing global issues, including gentrification and sea level rise. Real improvement was made in the social, economic and physical fabric of Charleston during the four decades of innovative and inclusive governance by the famous Mayor Joe Riley, whose legacy and support is part of CPAD’s foundation.
A HOST OF OPPORTUNITIES

A deep engagement with the major components of modern public policy via the Joseph P. Riley, Jr. Center for Livable Communities

A broad commitment to the issues of sustainability and resilience

A unique “progressive traditional” design ethos drawing upon the vibrant, multicultural classical architecture of Charleston

A dedication to incorporating the economic realities of urban development into design education

Engagement with leading voices in the design field including David M. Schwarz, Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, Peter Pennoyer, Andres Duany, and Robert A.M. Stern

A choice of electives dedicated to contemporary issues, such as ameliorating the social costs of gentrification, or designing neighborhoods for automated vehicles

Internship opportunities with the City of Charleston and a variety of world-class design and development firms

Opportunities for fellowships and awards