URBAN STUDIES AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS at Levin.

The Ph.D. in Urban Studies and Public Affairs integrates knowledge from a number of academic disciplines, to prepare scholars for research, teaching, and reflective practice in positions related to urban studies and public affairs in universities or public policy organizations.

Urban Affairs is an interdisciplinary field dedicated to understanding urban communities, economies, environments, and governance. Doctoral students analyze, design, test, and evaluate strategies for urban policy making and management within the public and private sectors.

The program places strong emphasis on theory, research methods, and effective communication to scholarly, expert, and lay audiences. Students’ understanding is informed by political theory and philosophy, economics, statistical and mathematical model building, concentration in an important substantive domain of public concern, and real-world knowledge of specific circumstances, cases, and issues.

Students complete prerequisites, core classes, specialization, and elective courses. After coursework, students take a comprehensive exam, and then begin research for the dissertation.

Students select from two fields of study:
+ Urban Policy and Development
+ Public Administration

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Students are admitted to the Ph.D. program each fall semester. Students entering the program with a master’s degree are expected to have a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher. Both undergraduate and graduate grade-point averages are considered in determining eligibility for admission. Students with only bachelor’s degrees seeking admission must have at least a 3.5 grade-point average in their undergraduate work.

Applicants are expected to have a minimum combined 50th percentile on the quantitative and verbal sections of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), and at least a 4.0 on the analytical writing section. In addition to the application requirements of the College of Graduate Studies, an applicant must submit three letters of recommendation from faculty, a writing sample (preferably a recently graded research paper) and a statement of purpose with research interests for seeking a Ph.D. in Urban Studies and Public Affairs. The application deadline is January 31.

Non-native English speakers who do not have an earned bachelor’s degree or higher from an accredited U.S. institution must demonstrate proof of English-language proficiency.

For more information:
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