Urban ecology involves the study of the relationships between humans and nature in urban environments. If you're interested in enhancing the vitality and sustainability of various communities by exploring the interrelationships among social, environmental, and economic systems, then a degree in Urban Ecology at the U is for you! It is designed to respond to problems and opportunities that exist in cities, suburbs, small towns, and rural places. These include environmental management, fragile landscape protection, recreation and tourism, public lands planning, rapid population growth, regional transportation, energy production, and sprawl.

As a student of the Urban Ecology program, you will take classes in planning, field studies, economics, law, and social justice. Explore a variety of electives topics such as green infrastructure, sustainable development, community leadership, and cities in literature. In your senior year, you will take the Ecological Planning Workshop, which involves tackling real world problems through completing an internship. The undergraduate program in Urban Ecology will prepare you for a professional career in environmental and sustainability planning, public health, public policy, or community development and planning. U graduates have used analytical and technical skills to pursue work as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analysts, planning consultants, conservationists, community organizers, environmental outreach, and project engineers. With further education, Urban Ecology graduates can pursue a career in architecture, law, real estate development, social work, urban design, and urban & regional planning.

- Explore the relationships between social, environmental, and economic systems and grasp their role in shaping and managing human settlements.
- Analyze spacial, qualitative, and quantitative data to address real world problems.
- Gain competence in written, visual, and oral presentation skills.
- Examine the scientific basis of the environmental challenges and opportunities of human settlements in the 21st Century.
- Collaborate effectively across multiple planning, design, and scientific disciplines.
- Understand the history, form, and theory of human settlements.

At the U, we plan for our students to have an Exceptional Educational Experience identified by four broad categories we call the Learning Framework: Community, Knowledge & Skills, Transformation, and Impact. This major map will help you envision, explore, design, and plan your personalized Exceptional Educational Experience with the Learning Framework at the core. In addition to assisting you in planning your coursework and navigating the requirements of your major, this map will help you incorporate other kinds of experiences to expand your knowledge, support your development, and prepare you for the future you want.

Get started today
- Schedule an appointment with an advisor advising.utah.edu
- Visit ugs.utah.edu
- Learn more about the Learning Framework ugs.utah.edu/learning-framework

“The University of Utah’s Urban Ecology program gave me the theoretical and technical skills that I apply daily to my work at the intersection of planning and conservation.”

Christa Cassidy
Program Associate at The Nature Conservancy
WHERE CAN I GO

Attend Plazafest
Conduct an informational interview
Rural Development
Take a music, art, or dance class
Take a CEL
Internal Development
Join a team in the Journalism
Public Services
Architecture
Conduct an informational interview
Landscape Architecture
Run for ASUU
Download and try out the Adobe Suite
Public Land Management
Public Administration
Attend a Green Bag Lecture at the Public Interest Law
Develop an academic plan
Buy some veggies at the Parks & Recreation
Attend a MUSE
Apply for a DF externship
Go to the Utah Bike Summit
Cap off your degree with CMP 4280 - Ecological Planning Workshop, CMP 4954 - Internship in Urban Ecology, & CMP 4600 - The Just City

FINISHING UP

- Cap off your degree with CMP 4280 - Ecological Planning Workshop, CMP 4954 - Internship in Urban Ecology, & CMP 4600 - The Just City
- Lead a Jane’s Walk tour of your neighborhood
- Run for ASUU
- Go to a concert at Gardner Hall

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

- Meet with a CA+P³ Student Success Advisor
- Complete a personality profile
- Take DF-related Gen Ed courses
- Join SCAPE or Point B
- Volunteer at one of the campus edible gardens
- Go on a Jane’s Walk
- Join the Planning Department’s social media feeds
- Attend a Green Bag Lecture at the Wallace Stegner Center
- Observe a city planning commission meeting
- Go to the Utah Bike Summit
- Go to a GCSC⁴ seminar
- Meet with a professor to talk about careers
- Check out the U’s Capstone Program
- Present a project at the Undergraduate Research Symposium
- Sign up to work on a GCSC research project
- Write an honors thesis

TRANSFORMATION

- Conduct an informational interview with a professor
- Look into minors
- Take a music, art, or dance class
- Attend Plazafest
- Study another language
- Spend a semester at our campus in Songdo, South Korea
- Visit the Utah Museum of Fine Arts
- Become a Community Engaged Scholar
- Spend a semester in Volterra, Italy
- Propose a project to the U’s SCIF³ sustainability program
- Go on an alternative fall/spring break
- Get involved with a neighborhood council
- Join a team in the Real Estate Challenge
- Finish an e-portfolio
- Take a yoga class
- Become a DF Peer Mentor
- Volunteer with Red Butte Garden
- Go on a Career Trek trip

IMPACT

- Volunteer with the Bennion Center
- Mentor students from your old High School
- Develop an academic plan
- Apply for an internship through the Hindshley Institute
- Take a CEL³ course
- Attend a MUSE⁵ Casual Friday
- Propose a project to the U’s SCIF³ sustainability program
- Go on an alternative fall/spring break
- Get involved with a neighborhood council
- Become a DF Peer Mentor
- Volunteer with Red Butte Garden
- Go on a Career Trek trip

CAREER

- Meet with a Career Services Coach
- Activate & customize your Handshake account
- Apply for a DF externship
- Go to a CA+P special lecture
- Go to the U’s Annual Career Fair
- Meet with a Career Coach
- Create/update a LinkedIn profile
- Talk with employers at the CA+P Firm Fair
- Conduct an informational interview with a local professional
- Attend the state APA conference
- Check out grad schools at the U’s Grad School Fair
- Attend the National APA² Conference
- Complete an internship with an organization or firm

1Design Foundations 2City & Metropolitan Planning 3College of Architecture & Planning 4Global Change & Sustainability Center 5Community Engaged Learning 6My U Signature Experience 7Sustainable Campus Initiative Fund 8American Planning Association