Emphasis in Urban, Land Use and Environmental Law

UMKC law students can engage in a course of study within the J.D. degree with an emphasis in Urban and Land Use Law, Environmental Law or both. This program builds on a tradition of excellence in urban and land use law at the law school and on the UMKC law faculty and students' 35-year editorship of The Urban Lawyer, the national quarterly law journal of the American Bar Association Section of State and Local Government Law. Students in this specialized course of study will be able to choose from a variety of courses, seminars, internships, and externships in the law school and in other units and departments of the university including public administration, urban planning and architecture, geosciences, political science and economics. Students who choose to pursue this program will be prepared to enter the job market with specialized knowledge of the issues and law relevant to land use; real estate development; state, regional and local government and the environment.

Admission

Students in their second or third year may elect to specialize in the "Urban, Land Use and Environmental Law" curricular emphasis program. To do so, a student must apply no later than the end of the second year. Advice about compliance with the requirements is available from the Emphasis Faculty Advisors.

General Requirements

Minimum Total Hours Required
Students must complete seven of the listed courses: students must complete two courses in Group A, three courses from Group B, and two additional courses from Group A, B or C. All courses must be taken for a grade (with the exception of those courses for which a grade option is not available). Course work satisfying this requirement must total at least 15 hours. Depending on the array of courses selected, a student will graduate with expertise in Urban and Land Use Law, Environmental Law or both.

Writing Requirement
Students must complete an academic research paper of high professional quality concerning a topic within the emphasis field. They may fulfill this requirement in conjunction with any of the listed courses, or as part of the Research and Writing requirement, as part of an Independent Study option, through one of the Law School's journal offerings, or through a research project pursued at the Center for the City at UMKC. Unless written to meet the R&W requirement, the paper must be written for a grade. One of the Emphasis Faculty Advisors must approve the topic and the paper's faculty supervisor.

Practical Skills Component
Students must participate for at least one semester in a practical skills component. The following opportunities satisfy this requirement: the EPA Law Clinic, Region VII; the EPA Law Clinic, Agricultural Center; or a service placement with the Center for
the City at UMKC. Participation in the EPA Law Clinics can simultaneously be used to satisfy the minimum hours requirement.

*Ethics Component*
Ethical considerations will be incorporated into the listed program courses.

*Research Component*
All students must complete an advanced research offering which will provide advanced skills in research in the urban, land use and environmental law field. This may entail a separate course of study, a component of an existing course, or separate lecture, seminar or workshop offerings as designated by the program Faculty Advisors.

*Curriculum Requirement*

Students must take a total of at least seven courses (totaling at least 15 hours) as follows: Two from Group A, three from Group B, and two additional courses from Group A, B or C.

**Group A: Core Courses (must take two)**
- Administrative Law
- Environmental Law
- Land-Use Planning

**Group B: Specialized Courses (must take three)**
- Air & Water Regulation
- Cities and the Environment "J"
- Civil Rights Litigation
- Constitutional Law II
- Construction Law
- Current Issues in Property Law Seminar
- Environmental Law Seminar
- International Environmental Law
- Law and the American Indian “J”
- Natural Resources Law
- Preservation Law “J”
- Real Estate Finance
- Real Estate Transactions
- Seminar on Urbanization
- State & Local Government Law
- Toxic Torts
- Urban Lawyer Board
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Law Clinic: Region VII Headquarters
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Law Clinic: National Agricultural Compliance Assistance Center
- Water Law
Group C: Related Law Courses and Interdisciplinary Courses

- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Complex Litigation
- Economics & the Law "J"
- Federal Jurisdiction
- Legislation
- State and Local Government Tax
- Biogeography and Landscape Ecology (Department of Geosciences)
- Managing Urban Economic Development (Bloch School)
- Urban and Regional Planning for Urban Administrators (Bloch School)
- Urban Planning Theory and Practice (Department of Architecture)
- Urban Planning and Design (This course would have additional assignments for law students)

Graduation

To be recognized as having graduated with an emphasis in Urban, Land Use and Environmental Law, students must complete all requirements with an average grade of B or better (and no grade below a C). Students who have met the program requirements by the time of graduation will have this distinction noted at that time.