



## BACHELOR OF COMMUNITY DESIGN

The Faculty of Architecture and Planning offers unique programs in community design, environmental design studies, architecture, and planning. The undergraduate program in community design offers degrees for those with an interest in the form and development of communities.

### Why study community design?

The Community Design program will interest students who care about the character and the future of our communities, who are committed to sustainable approaches to the environment, and who want to learn design and communication skills that will allow them to make a difference in how we build cities and alter landscapes. The Bachelor of Community Design draws on the knowledge base of the natural and social sciences, and brings that understanding together with the creative engagement and problem-solving abilities of the design professions. If you believe that we need to design better living environments, preserve culturally-important and environmentally-sensitive landscapes, and give communities the tools to make their own choices, then this program can equip you to achieve your aspirations.

Community design pays attention to the shape, patterns, processes, and issues in human and natural communities. It sees the world as a system of interconnected and mutually-embedded communities linked by cultural and natural processes. It explores interventions by which people can help to ensure healthy communities and sustainable environments. The program gives students an opportunity to study human and natural communities and the interactions between them. You will learn to design strategies for helping communities explore issues and select courses of action. In the honours program, you will gain practical experience in a work placement internship, and participate in community-based planning and design projects.

The program is distinguished by

- an emphasis on design and physical planning.

The program recognizes the importance of visual and spatial information and understanding, and introduces design as a method of learning, analysing, and resolving problems. Design is comprehensive,

integrative, context-sensitive, and synthetic. It seeks to enhance community and environmental resilience.

- a focus on reasoned, creative, and practical outcomes.

The program will attract students eager to make changes in the world they inhabit. They will develop the knowledge and skills to allow them to analyse community issues, to test policy proposals, and to implement appropriate courses of action to achieve desired outcomes.

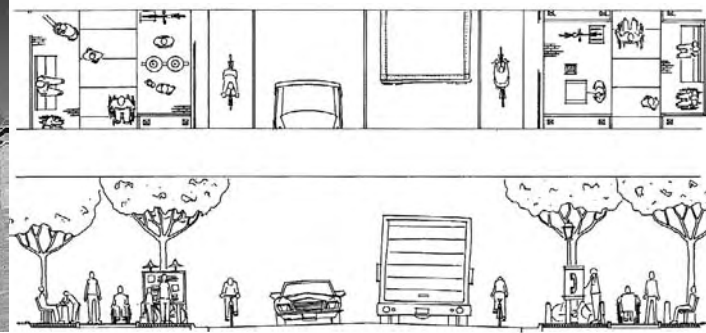
- interdisciplinary studies.

The program is interdisciplinary, but with a sharp focus. It draws on an extensive range of expertise in environmental science, environmental studies, urban history, community analysis, and policy and management. Community design involves simultaneously applying scientific, humanistic, and creative approaches in the search for sustainable outcomes.

### What can a community designer do?

Community designers work with community members to find development options that creatively accommodate people's needs and aspirations while respecting and protecting the environment.

Graduates from the Bachelor of Community Design or Bachelor of Community Design Double Major in Community Design and Sustainability degrees may find work with housing agencies, land development firms, municipal development control authorities, urban revitalization projects, non-profit environmental organizations, or other related groups. In the last decades, the community building sector has been a strong segment of the economy. Governments increasingly recognize that our cities need to build social capital and cannot keep sprawling into the countryside. To protect habitats, resources, and options for our future we need visionary planning. The economy needs competent community designers to help people make appropriate decisions about the choices they face in dealing with change in a sustainable fashion.



Recent graduates of the BCD program have found jobs across Canada and abroad. They work as junior planners, planning assistants, urban designers, realtors, development officers, research assistants, municipal interns, and planning consultants.

### What majors are available?

Students who seek the Honours degree credential may choose from four approved Majors within the Bachelor of Community Design:

- Honours Major in Environmental Planning
- Honours Double Major in Environmental Planning and Sustainability
- Honours Major in Urban Design Studies
- Honours Double Major in Urban Design Studies and Sustainability.

The honours year allows students who excelled in the first three years of the BCD program to deepen their knowledge and refine their skills in either environmental planning or urban design. The fourth year studios typically involve real projects undertaken in cooperation with community partners. Thus students gain practical experience to add to their portfolio. An internship with a community design firm or organization enhances the practical experience and helps students develop workplace skills. Honours majors degrees are recognized as first professional degrees by the Canadian Institute of Planners. (Note: CIP Recognition of the double majors with sustainability is pending.)

Students who graduate with a major in Environmental Planning may find work as environmental planners with municipal or provincial government, or in private consulting practice. Government commitment to meeting environmental standards has increased job opportunities for environmental planners. Graduates with a Major in Urban Design Studies could work as urban design advisors for local government or in private practice. With many communities adopting urban design guidelines, those who appreciate urban design are in increasing demand.

Honours students also have the option of earning a Minor in Environmental Studies. (Students within the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science programs may earn a Minor in Community Design.)

### What courses are required?

First year study in the BCD program includes courses to total 30 credit hours, or five full courses. PLAN 1001.03 and 1002.03 Introduction to Community Design 1 and 2, and EARTH 1030.03 Physical Geography are mandatory. Students also select either ENVS 1000.06 Introduction to Environmental Studies, or ARCH 1000.06 Introduction to Architecture; you may take both of these courses if you wish. You need a course to meet the University's writing requirement: check online to see which courses are eligible. Students in the Bachelor of Community Design Double Major in Community Design and Sustainability also take SUST 1000.06 Introduction to Environment, Sustainability and Society, and SUST 1001.06. (SUST 1000 meets the writing requirement.) *Visit our web site at [dal.ca/planning](http://dal.ca/planning) and the Undergraduate Calendar online at [ug.cal.dal.ca/index.html](http://ug.cal.dal.ca/index.html) for further information about your options and requirements for first year study.*

### Why study community design at Dalhousie?

Dalhousie University's program in Community Design is unique in its subject matter and approach. The School of Planning is one of two schools in the Faculty of Architecture and Planning. Our strength lies in understanding urban and environmental systems, and the relationships between them. The teaching faculty members are committed to planning, designing, and managing meaningful communities within a context of healthy and life-sustaining environments. The School of Planning seeks to provide rigorous education in community design; to nurture a community of scholars and practitioners; and to advance the academic discipline and professional practice of planning through teaching, research, and professional and community service.

Community design at Dalhousie draws together several important themes. Dalhousie has strong programs in environmental science, environmental engineering, and environmental studies. It also has a vibrant School of Architecture, educating innovative designers who make a difference in our communities. The University offers a wealth of courses in community, urban, and sustainability studies. The community design program brings these strengths together through core courses offered in the School of Planning to develop a framework in which students will learn the fundamentals and the skills to make a difference in their communities.



Informed by key principles that reflect our shared commitment to learning, teaching, and research, the work of the School of Planning is

- community-centred
- design-based
- focussed generally on settlements in the Atlantic region

While the program explores community design throughout history and across the globe, the main focus of our investigations involves communities close to the university or within the Atlantic region. The skills and approaches learned in Halifax can be applied in any context.

#### **Why come to Halifax?**

Halifax is a “small town” big city. It enjoys the friendly and safe atmosphere of a smaller city, where you meet acquaintances wherever you travel. It boasts an active night-life, award-winning music scene, and lively social spaces with something for everyone’s taste and budget.

As an historic port on the Atlantic Ocean, Halifax has diversity and character. It is a vibrant city with a relaxed pace. The city is walkable: beautiful ocean scenery makes walking and biking a pleasure. Just a short distance from the city, our coastal landscapes, wilderness areas, and small communities offer scenic tourist destinations.

The academic, political, and economic heart of the region, Halifax has a population of 370,000. Nova Scotia’s capital, it has the level of amenities common in large cities, but with a lower cost of living than most large Canadian cities. Direct flights are available to many cities in North America and Europe.

Dalhousie University is the largest university in the Maritimes, with a comprehensive range of disciplines. The Faculty of Architecture and Planning offers several other programs: Bachelor of Environmental Design Studies; Master of Architecture (Professional); a post professional Masters in Architecture; Master of Environmental Design Studies; Master of Planning; combined Master of Engineering / Master of Planning; combined Master of Applied Science / Master of Planning; and a post-professional Master of Planning Studies degree.

#### **Where do BCD graduates work?**

Recent graduates from the program work in municipal planning departments, planning consulting firms, development companies, federal departments or crown corporations, real estate companies, and non-governmental agencies. They work across Canada, in the US, the Caribbean, and beyond. About 10% of graduates go on to further study.

A recent graduate of the BCD program wrote from northern Alberta in February 2010. *“I am finally doing some real planning: real community design, just like the title of my degree. I am part of a planning team from our department, along with consultants from Stantec, who have been planning a whole new community called Parsons Creek that will eventually include 24,000 people and 8,000 buildings by 2012. It’s been a flashback to my experience in Urban Design Studio with us planners huddled around a large table drawing out a master plan, with colored markers, for the first phase of the community.”*

#### **How do students apply?**

Students applying to the undergraduate program must have completed Nova Scotia grade 12 (or equivalent) with an average of 70% or greater. Grade 12 level courses must include English with at least 70%, Math, and one science. Recommended grade 12 courses include Geography and Biology. A background in art or design is an asset.

Students may also transfer from other degree programs, and from other universities or colleges. Transferring students’ transcripts will be assessed for possible transfer of elective or required credits (up to 50% of degree requirements). Transfer students must fulfill all degree requirements: transfer students should contact the Undergraduate Coordinator for appropriate advice on their course selection prior to registration.

Students apply online or through the Admissions Office. Visit [Discover.DAL.ca](http://Discover.DAL.ca)

Admissions, Registrar’s Office,  
Dalhousie University,  
Halifax, NS Canada B3H 4H6,  
email: [admissions@dal.ca](mailto:admissions@dal.ca)

The Admissions Office can provide current information on fees and deadlines.



#### **What about further studies in Architecture at Dalhousie?**

Students who wish to study architecture, have completed at least two years of the Community Design program with not less than a B- average, and have completed other requirements as set out by the School of Architecture, may apply to the Bachelor of Environmental Design Studies program within the Faculty. *(Please see the Architecture brochure or web site for full details of the application procedure and requirements for that program. Note that the competition for places in Architecture is considerable, and is not limited to Dalhousie students. Meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission.)*

#### **What graduate studies options will students have?**

Honours graduates may consider further specialized study at the graduate level in disciplines such as architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, planning, public administration, environmental studies, coastal zone planning, business management, development economics, and marine management.

#### **Who are the Faculty?**

The core group of faculty members come from a range of backgrounds. They bring diverse experience to the program. They are active practitioners, researchers, and educators with a strong commitment to planning and design education. Most are members of the Canadian Institute of Planners and Licensed Professional Planners Association of Nova Scotia. Several are professional architects or landscape architects.

*Jill Grant*, BA, MA, MA, PhD. Background in anthropology and regional planning. Jill has studied and worked in Japan, Papua New Guinea, and northern Canada. Her research focuses on community design, with a special interest in urban development trends, creative cities, and health and the built environment.

*Susan Guppy*, BSc, MSc, PhD, M.Arch. Studied chemistry, limnology, and architecture. Susan has worked in the UK, US, and several parts of Canada. Her research involves issues of time management, food production, and urban ecology.

*Muhammad Ahsanul Habib*, BURP, MURP, PhD. Background in planning and civil engineering. Ahsan has worked and studied in Canada and Bangladesh. His research area is transportation planning, with special interest in travel demand forecasting and transportation policy analysis.

*Patricia Manuel*, BA, MSc, PhD. Earned degrees in geography and interdisciplinary studies. Patricia has studied and worked in Germany, Iceland, and Canada. Her research reflects a passion for wetlands, and a concern about issues of climate change, community participation and public health.

*Frank Palermo*, BArch, MArch (urban design). Studied architecture and urban design. Frank practised as a planner in Calgary, and led a major research project in Brazil. His Cities and Environment Unit has become a leading force working with First Nations on community planning issues.

*Eric Rapaport*, BLA, MSc, PhD. Studied landscape architecture, environmental engineering, and regional planning. Eric has worked and studied in the US, Sweden, and Canada. His research expertise is in environmental planning, sustainable infrastructure, and transportation-related environmental impacts.

*John Zuck*, BA, BD, MLA. Studied history, environmental planning, and landscape architecture. John studied and worked in the US, Trinidad, and Canada. His research interests include environmental analysis, site planning, and design education. He maintains a professional practice in environmental planning and landscape architecture.

*Part-time instructors:* Local planning and design professionals contribute to the program by teaching courses and participating in project work.

#### **QUESTIONS?**

For further details on the program, or to arrange an interview with a faculty member, please contact the School of Planning.

email: [plan.office@dal.ca](mailto:plan.office@dal.ca)

voice: 902 494 3260

You can also visit the School web site at [www.dal.ca/planning](http://www.dal.ca/planning). The Faculty web site is at [archplan.dal.ca](http://archplan.dal.ca). Visit DalOnline at the Dalhousie University web site [www.registrar.dal.ca/calendar](http://www.registrar.dal.ca/calendar) to find the Undergraduate Calendar which explains degree requirements and course descriptions. The current Academic Timetable online lists courses offered for current semesters.

We are located at 5410 Spring Garden Road, Halifax, NS.