

CUPS: What & Why

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Collaborative Urban Problem-Solving:

Community-Based Studio

The UofM's PhD in Urban Affairs program is designed to prepare graduates with the necessary skills in research, evaluation, and policy design to address the kinds of socioeconomic challenges that face Memphis and other cities like it. By providing training in evidence-based practice to local and regional professionals, the program will increase capacity to address urban challenges in Memphis and the Midsouth.

The Ph.D. Program in Urban Affairs uses a two-course sequence, **Collaborative Urban Problem Solving I and II**, that allows doctoral students to engage with a community partner to collaboratively address community problems with interdisciplinary knowledge and expertise.

Organizations that are selected to work alongside students in this capacity will benefit from having a team of dedicated doctoral-level researchers working to solve a critical issue. The course(s) will have a led faculty member who will work with the students and the organization to ensure that the final product provided to the organization meets their needs.

The year-long studio sequence serves as the synthesis mechanism for the Urban Affairs and Public Policy PhD program, which is 1) interdisciplinary, 2) geared at preparing researchers to address urban or metropolitan issues, and 3) designed to give students the clearn through engaging in local research that benefits the greater Memphis community.

QUALIFICATIONS: Organizations who apply must have the capacity to provide necessary workspace, data, and furation of the academic year. Organizations must also have a significantly sized project or idea that have a significantly sized project or idea that

- Timeframe: Academic Year (late-August-early May)
- Courses: UAPP 8012 fall semester & UAPP 8013 spring
- Required for PhD to meet 3 goals:
 - Provide an interdisciplinary research opportunity for students and community organizations;
 - Designed to allow students to learn and engage in local research that benefits the Memphis community;
 - Prepare doctoral students to address urban or metropolitan issues
 - Contribute to capacity of community organizations to use evidence-based programs, policies, and practices.

What to expect



Proposed projects should be in-depth and require 6-7 months of work.



Organizations should communicate a clear research issue/need and question



Proposed projects should rely on data that organization has, and data organization wishes to discover during the inquiry process.



Faculty and Organization work closely together prior to the semester to transform needs & question into a research design



Organizational Point person should be available throughout AY 2024-25 for consultation, classroom visits, and review of student progress.

Deliverables to Organizations

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At the conclusion of the year, students will be required to present findings of their inquiry to the organization in the form of a policy report.

Organizations (and students) are required to complete a post-experience evaluation to allow for improvement to the course.

If the organization would like to request data used to develop the policy report, they can make the request to course instructor.

CUPS Timeline

- Apply: opens January 1st and the deadline is Feb 8th.
- Select: Organizational Partner will be chosen by the end of February.
- Plan: Faculty member & Organization partner will meet and begin planning in Summer.
- Start: Project starts late August and ends in April.
- Complete: Deliverables and Presentations in May.



Link to Online Application

https://memphis.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b2W5k6wmCzykf1Y

FAQs

Q: How many projects do the students work on?

A: 1 project will be chosen and students in CUPs course work on it as a team for the academic year.

Q: Is there a particular theme or challenge that makes for a more competitive application?

A: The issue and questions that are in the proposal should clearly have a clear connection to urban development. However, the specific focus or challenge is open.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Information:

Dr. Lambert-Pennington

Director, School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy

Phone: 901-678-5023

Email: almbrtpn@memphis.edu

https://www.memphis.edu/suapp/urban-affairs/cups.php

