



# EASTERN UNIVERSITY

## MA IN URBAN STUDIES: YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONCENTRATION

### **PURPOSE**

- To produce professionals who are academically, theologically, and culturally competent to serve youth in an urban context
- To develop leaders who are committed to the task of transforming urban communities

### **PROGRAM**

- Only 39 credits: 21 in Urban Studies, 3 in professional seminars, 15 in Youth Leadership
- Completed in 2 years (full-time) or 3 years (part-time)
- Holistic approach. Youth Leadership courses available in the disciplines of social work, counseling, sociology, practical theology and missiology (missions and ministry)
- Preparation to work in secular and faith contexts
- Experiential learning

### **PERKS**

- Convenient for adults with full-time jobs
- Doable for those who live at a distance
- Able to gain field experience credit in your own employment or neighborhood context
- More marketable than a seminary degree
- Financial aid available

### **PEOPLE**

- Faculty have real-life experience
- Students represent diverse employment, ethnic and geographic affiliations
- Staff committed to advising and supporting students through the program

### **DELIVERY**

- Many courses offered over a period of 3-7 days
- Come to Philadelphia twice per year for approximately a week each time
- Intensive courses completed on site or started on site and completed at home

### **PROCESS**

- Apply online at [www.eastern.edu/urbanma](http://www.eastern.edu/urbanma)

**URBAN ISSUES IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT (3 credits)**

This foundational graduate course introduces transformational theories and concepts that form the basis for faith-based urban social change. Based on guest lectures and seminar discussions led by a team of faculty, students will explore major urban problems around the world, the foundational theories of academic disciplines, and integrate theory and practice from an interdisciplinary perspective.

**MODELS FOR URBAN SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION (3 credits)**

This culminating seminar course is taken at the beginning of the final year of the program. It requires students to study in-depth replicable models for social change.

**LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (3 credits)**

This is a course in the theory and application of leadership for effective administration of human resources in an urban context. The course examines various approaches to leadership, while upholding Jesus as the model of the quintessential leader. Though various theories of leadership are examined, Spiral Dynamics provides the theoretical foundation of the course. The course addresses the nature of leadership needed for dealing with the wild cards, turbulences, rapid changes and uncertainties in the world today. The seminar has a research component where students will compare and contrast different approaches to leadership in two organizations.

**CHRIST AND THE CITY (3 credits)**

This course analyzes the relationship of the life and ministry of Christ to the urban context both locally and globally. While taking a theological (Christological) approach, the seminar also examines social, historical, economic, and cultural factors within a human development framework for the formation of a "theology of the city." The purpose of the course is to enable students to develop their own theological foundation for a life engaged in leadership and service.

**RACE AND ETHNIC RELATIONS (3 credits)**

This course is an examination of the social, historical, economic, and cultural factors that influence society's treatment of members of various racial and ethnic groups. It acquaints the student with an understanding of how social structures are organized in terms of minority-majority relations, for the advantage of some at the expense of others. The course utilizes the comparative-historical method and a human development theoretical perspective, bolstered by structural power for the maintenance of dominance/subordination among groups.

**INTRODUCTION TO APPLIED RESEARCH (3 credits)**

This course focuses on basic approaches to qualitative and quantitative social research: experimentation, survey research, field research and the use of available data.

**GRADUATE RESEARCH PROJECT OR THESIS (3 credits) (to be taken in final year)**

This is the culminating core research project or thesis for all graduate students. It is a culminating scholarly process demonstrating the student's academic studies. The final determination of the form to be selected must be decided in consultation with the director(s) of the student's study. A culminating oral presentation of the project will be presented at the Annual Graduate Research Symposium.

**PROFESSIONAL SEMINARS (3 required)**

Community-based Programming for Youth Development (1 credit)

Cross-Cultural Skills for Urban Service (1 credit)

Personal Strategic Planning (1 credit)

Faith & the Professions (1 credit)

Funding Resources (1 credit)

Special Topics (these change annually) (1 credit)

**YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONCENTRATION  
BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS OF URBAN  
YOUTH MINISTRY (3 credits)**

This course seeks to help students think biblically and theologically about the complex, multicultural challenges and issues related to urban youth ministry. This necessitates not only an ability to understand Scripture but the urban youth culture as well. This is an Applied Theology course, which means we will seek to understand the biblical/theological foundations for how we do youth ministry in urban settings and why it's done in those ways.

**URBAN YOUTH CULTURE (3 credits)**

This course examines the impact of popular culture on urban youth. The role of industry and its influence on youth culture, and the influence of urban youth culture on youth living outside of cities will be explored. Particular attention will be given to the values, attitudes, norms and rituals of sub-cultures within the urban youth culture. Students will be expected to engage in field research within an urban youth sub-culture. Prerequisite: Introduction to Applied Research

**LEADERSHIP PRACTICUM I: UYL PROGRAMMING (1.5 credits)**

This course is a practicum emphasizing the implementation of the basic philosophy and methodology of youth outreach. The development of personal relationships, community relationships and youth development experiences with urban young people through relevant forms of outreach is essential. Anyone graduating from this program must demonstrate a high level of ability in the formation of youth development programs. This practicum includes the implementation of leadership skills including: the principles of recruitment, training, and the ongoing empowerment of volunteers (community, adult, and youth) for outreach ministry. Students will complete regularly scheduled supervisory dialogues with a youth outreach mentor (from a church, para-church or community organization). Additionally, each student will be required to conduct weekly, supervised outreach to youth. A combination of leadership experiences based on the student's learning goals for ministry function and written reflective evaluations of these experiences are required. (Placement: 115 hours minimum). Prerequisites: Biblical & Theological Foundations of Urban Youth Ministry, Leadership Development

**LEADERSHIP PRACTICUM II: UYL INNOVATION &  
ADMINISTRATION (3 credits)**

This course is a practicum emphasizing the formation and oversight of new urban youth development programs or endeavors. Students are expected to work collaboratively with community, church or para-church organizations. Anyone graduating from this program must demonstrate a high level of ability in the development of new initiatives that meet the needs of urban youth. Students will complete regularly scheduled supervisory dialogues with a youth development supervisor (from a church, para-church or community organization) over the course of the semester. Additionally, each student will be required to conduct weekly, supervised outreach to urban youth based upon ministry goals. This outreach will be developed based upon the student's field research of a particular neighborhood. Students are expected to complete a minimum of 115 hours, including field research, supervisory meetings and project implementation time. To be completed in the semester immediately following Leadership Practicum I. (Placement: 115 hours minimum). Prerequisites: Foundations of Urban Youth Ministry, Leadership Development, Leadership Practicum I, Introduction to Applied Research, (Community-based Programming recommended)

**ELECTIVES for the Urban Youth Ministry Concentration (2 required).**

Advocacy for Youth in the Systems (3 credits)

Apologetics for the Urban Youth Context (3 credits)

Psychosocial Assessment: Understanding Urban Youth (3 credits)

Community Organizing (3 credits).