



News

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Philadelphia University To Offer M.S. in Sustainable Design To Teach Green Design and Building Practices

The new program, designed to promote environmentally friendly design, materials and construction, is the first of its kind on the East Coast.

PHILADELPHIA, March 2007 – Philadelphia University this fall will offer a new M.S. in Sustainable Design, an innovative program designed to educate professionals in the fields of architecture, design and construction to design and build environmentally friendly buildings.

The program, part of Philadelphia University's School of Architecture, is one of only a small number of sustainable design degree programs nationwide and the only graduate program of its kind on the East Coast.

The new M.S. in Sustainable Design puts Philadelphia University on the cutting edge of architectural and design programs. Sustainability, green design and environmentally friendly construction are among the hottest buzzwords in the industry today, as more and more architects, designers and builders respond to the growing demand for buildings made from recycled or renewable resources and that require less energy to operate than traditionally constructed buildings.

“The principle of sustainability is reshaping the way we think about our homes, our communities and the world and encouraging us to improve the way we design, build and live in the 21st century,” said Rob Fleming, M.Arch., associate professor of architecture and director of the Sustainable Design Program.

A leader in the green building and design movement for the past decade, Fleming also is co-director of Philadelphia University's Engineering and Design Institute, a state-of-the-art educational and research facility focused on green materials, sustainable design and community outreach. Fleming is a founding board member of the Delaware Valley Green Building Council and a member of Montgomery County's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Task Force.

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The Sustainable Design Program will offer students the opportunity to explore avenues of study ranging from design exploration to applied research and will foster collaboration in the fields of architecture, construction management and engineering. The program features special laboratory and design-build courses focusing on green materials and includes real-world, funded research projects that allow students to connect their theoretical knowledge with important environmental and energy-efficiency challenges.

The new program is designed primarily for those with undergraduate degrees in architecture, landscape architecture, interior design, engineering and construction management. Interested applicants in other fields also are encouraged to apply and, if accepted, will need to successfully complete a summer preparatory course before starting the program.

The M.S. in Sustainable Design is a 27-month, part-time program based at the Engineering and Design Institute, which is housed at the Philadelphia University Research Center in Manayunk. For more information, visit www.PhilaU.edu/Green.

Philadelphia University, founded in 1884, is a private university with 3,200 full- and part-time students enrolled in more than 50 undergraduate and graduate programs. The University includes Schools of Architecture, Business Administration, Design and Media, Engineering and Textiles, Liberal Arts and Science and Health.