

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

SUBJECT: New graduate degree program in Taubman College
of Architecture & Urban Planning

ACTION REQUESTED: Approval to offer a new Master of Urban Technology degree program,
Taubman College of Architecture & Urban Planning

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 2026

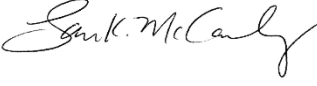
Taubman College of Architecture & Urban Planning proposes a new Master of Urban Technology (MUT) degree program. This degree would be used to grant formal academic recognition by the Taubman College of Architecture & Urban Planning to students who successfully complete and demonstrate competency in a new one-year degree that is being proposed to launch at University of Michigan Center for Innovation in Detroit (UMCI) in Fall of 2027.

This new degree leverages Taubman College's deep disciplinary and technical expertise to address a growing area of professional practice critical to improving the affordability, prosperity, health, and sustainability of American communities. MUT students will apply data- and technology-based approaches to the planning, development, and design of the built environment, complementing existing offerings at Taubman College while also deepening our connection to entrepreneurship. The MUT degree will recognize students' demonstrated competence with the interdisciplinary array of knowledge and skills that integrate design, entrepreneurship, systems thinking, and data science within the specialized domain of the built environment. As a result, the MUT stands apart from related master's degrees. Urban analytics programs generally provide deep technical skills but little preparation to translate those skills into viable startups, products, and services. Conversely, traditional business management programs do not delve into the regulatory complexity, local specificity, and fragmented supply chains that shape the built environment sector. For these reasons, a MUT is the appropriate degree because the proposed degree program is applied and professionally-oriented rather than being research-based.

The proposed degree received approval by the governing faculty at Taubman College in February 2026. We request that the Regents approve the new graduate degree, Master of Urban Technology, which will be the first of its kind in the nation. The program will be implemented upon approval from the Michigan Association of State Universities, pending Board of Regents approval.

RECOMMENDED BY:


Jonathan Massey
Dean, Taubman College



Laurie K. McCauley
Provost and Executive Vice President
for Academic Affairs