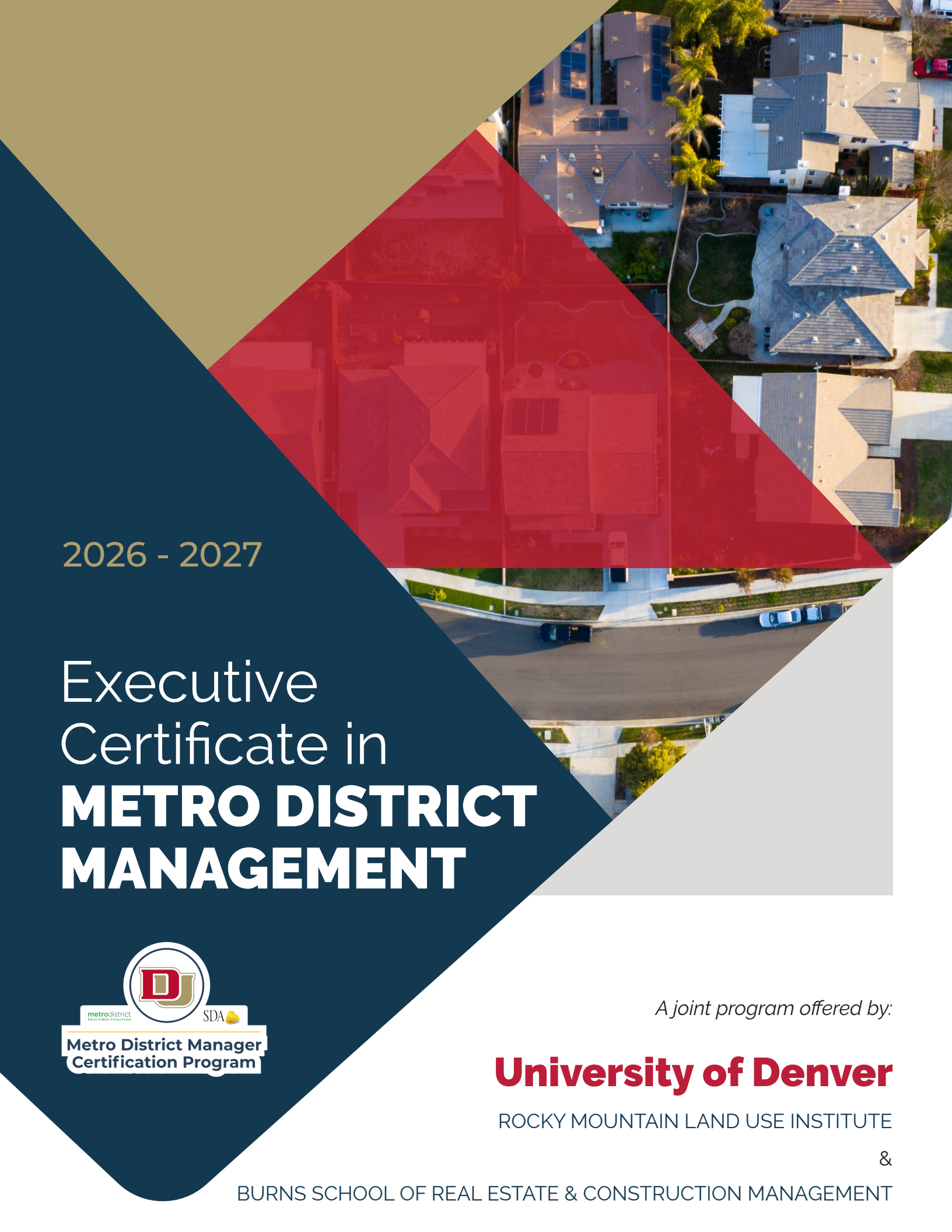




2026 - 2027

Executive Certificate in **METRO DISTRICT MANAGEMENT**



A joint program offered by:

University of Denver

ROCKY MOUNTAIN LAND USE INSTITUTE

&

BURNS SCHOOL OF REAL ESTATE & CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

About the Program

The **DU Metro District Manager Certification Program** is a collaborative program offered by the Burns School of Real Estate & Construction Management at the University of Denver's Daniels College of Business, the Metro District Education Coalition, and the Special District Association. This rigorous 12-week professional development initiative is designed specifically for Colorado's metro district leaders. This program equips current and aspiring district managers with the advanced competencies, ethical framework, and strategic mindset

required to lead modern metropolitan districts effectively.

Through a balanced blend of technical training, policy alignment, ethical leadership, and practical application, participants will gain the skills necessary to manage complex metro district operations while upholding the highest standards of transparency, equity, and community responsiveness.

Program Schedule

This 12-week program is designed with working industry professionals in mind. Coursework will primarily be offered online, with two in-person sessions at the beginning and end of the program.

This program is designed for

- Current Metro District Managers in Colorado
- Aspiring district leaders and senior operations professionals
- Public administration professionals seeking to transition into metro district leadership roles

Orientation Workshop: Title 32 & Metro Districts 101

February 19, 2027 -- In-person at DU Campus

Board Member Conflicts of Interest, Public Records, & Customer Service

February 24, 2027 -- Online

Board Meetings & Legal Agreements

March 3, 2027 -- Online

The Service Plan & Other Legal Requirements

March 10, 2027 -- Online

Boundary Issues & Property Issues

March 17, 2027 -- Online

Liability and Risk Management & Audits

March 24, 2027 -- Online

Managing Sustainable Communities & Communications Training

March 31, 2027 -- Online

Financial Matters & TABOR

April 7, 2027 -- Online

Public Financing & Contracting

April 14, 2027 -- Online

Elections & Dissolution of a District

April 21, 2027 -- Online

Facilitating Turnover to a Resident-Controlled Board & Ethics in Public Service

April 28, 2027 -- Online

Capstone Project

May 7, 2027 -- In-person at DU Campus

Online course modules will last 10 weeks

Participants can expect a total time commitment of 4-5 hours/week.

2-hours of live, online classes, plus 2-3 hours of preparation and homework

Online classes will be on Wednesdays from 12-2 p.m.

Program Faculty

For a complete list of faculty and instructors, please visit the program website at:
www.du.edu/metrodistrictmanager

Vivek Sah, PhD

Director

Burns School of Real Estate &
Construction Management
Daniels College of Business
University of Denver

Eric A. Holt, PhD

Professor of the Practice

Burns School of Real Estate &
Construction Management
Daniels College of Business
University of Denver

Todd A. Johnson, P.E.

Adjunct Faculty; President,
Terra Forma Solutions, Inc.
Burns School of Real Estate &
Construction Management
Daniels College of Business
University of Denver

Program Enrollment

FEES & APPLICATION

Total program cost: \$3,500 plus a \$50 application fee

Need-based scholarships are available.

For more information or to apply, visit:
www.du.edu/metrodistrictmanager

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

Participants completing the program will receive a certificate designating them as Certified Metro District Managers (CMDM)

Completion of the program will require:

- In-person participation at both the February and May in-person modules on campus at the University of Denver
- Substantial participation (80% attendance) at each of the remaining online modules.

IMPORTANT DATES

Program Registration Opens: **September 15, 2026**

Deadline to Apply: **November 1, 2026**

Acceptance Notifications Sent: **December 18, 2026**

Program Start Date: **February 19, 2027**

Key Topics Covered

Metro district governance structures and legal frameworks in Colorado

Financial management, budgeting, and fiscal responsibility

Administrative best practices and operational efficiency

Ethical decision-making and fiduciary duty

Legal compliance, risk management, and transparency

Inclusive leadership and equitable community engagement

Strategic planning and sustainable district development

Alignment with state and local policy goals

Data-driven decision making and performance measurement

Crisis management and organizational resilience

Building high-performing teams and succession planning

Capstone Project: Metro District Strategic Leadership Plan

Preparation for serving as future mentors and instructors

WHY DU?

1

Learn from Leading Industry Experts and Experts in Interdisciplinary Fields:

With expertise in metro district management, special districts, finance, accounting, engineering, public policy, and more, DU is well-positioned to offer a first-in-class Metro District Manager Certification Program.

2

Small Class Sizes to Maximize Engagement & Instruction:

Limited cohorts of 30 students allow for maximum learning.

3

Flexible Online Learning, Coupled with Face-to-Face Networking:

Online programming provides flexibility for busy professionals from across the state to participate. The in-person sessions allow for networking with peers and key industry stakeholders.

Thank You to our Program Partners

The Metro District Manager Certification Program has been made possible through the support and collaboration of the Metro District Education Coalition and the Special District Association.



Questions? Contact us.

 metrodistricteducation@gmail.com

Want to learn more? Visit:

 www.du.edu/metrodistrictmanager