

Urban and Regional Planning, MS

Requirements

The Master of Science in urban and regional planning requires a minimum of 45 s.h. of graduate credit. Students must maintain a Graduate College program grade-point average of at least 3.00.

The graduate curriculum is based on the philosophy that planners must develop the theoretical and analytic skills that will permit them to analyze social problems and evaluate public policies. Planners must also cultivate professional skills such as report writing, oral presentation, computer use, and team management in order to work effectively in various organizational and political environments.

Work for the master's degree includes core courses, an area of concentration, electives, and capstone courses. A final examination is required. A thesis is not required, although students may petition to write one. Students are encouraged to complete an approved internship or practicum.

The MS in urban and regional planning requires the following coursework.

Requirements	Hours
Core Curriculum	25
Concentration Area	9
Elective Courses	5
Capstone Courses	6

Core Curriculum

The core curriculum helps students develop an understanding of the institutions—social, economic, political, administrative, and legal systems—that provide the context for policy analysis and that constrain public choices. It also promotes developing the ability to identify social goals and normative criteria for evaluating public policies, as well as the analytic skills to perform such investigations.

The core requires a minimum of 25 s.h., including an advanced economic methods course. The advanced economics methods course usually is taken during the first three semesters. Early core courses are drawn primarily from traditional disciplines, particularly economics and statistics, and include an introduction to land use planning and to theories and practice of planning. As students proceed through the curriculum, increasing emphasis is placed on the development of critical judgment and insight, achieved through the application of theory and methods to realistic planning problems and case studies.

The core curriculum includes the following courses; students may request a substitution of selected core courses on the basis of previous coursework. Students must earn a grade of B-minus or higher in all core courses except PBAF:6208 Program Seminar.

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
URP:6200	Analytical Methods for Evidence-Based Policy	3
URP:6201	Data Science for Urban Analytics	3

URP:6202	Land Use Planning: Law and Practice	3
URP:6203	The Making of Cities: Histories and Theories of Planning	3
URP:6205	Economics for Policy Analysis	3
URP:6208	Program Seminar	1
URP:6225	Applied GIS for Planning and Policy Making	3
URP:6233	Public Finance and Budgeting	3
URP:6258	Systems and Scenario Thinking	3

Concentration Area

Beginning in the second semester, students choose a concentration area and develop it by applying the concepts and skills developed in the core. Currently, the school's faculty and course offerings support three concentration areas: housing, community, and economic development; land use and environmental planning; and transportation planning.

Each concentration area consists of one required course and two electives; at least one of the electives must be in a School of Planning and Public Affairs course (prefix PBAF or URP) numbered 5000 or above. Students must earn a grade of B-minus or higher in all concentration area courses.

Students may combine two concentration areas as approved by the student's advisor. Examples of combined areas are environmental and economic development planning, and transportation and community development planning. Students may also design other concentration areas, subject to faculty approval. For example, they may specialize in health services planning with appropriate coursework in the departments of Health Management and Policy or Occupational and Environmental Health, or in human services planning with courses in the School of Social Work.

Housing, Community, and Economic Development

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
URP:6295	Community and Economic Development Policy	3
URP:6271	Housing Policy	3
URP:6245	Growth Management	3
At least one of these:		
URP:6243	The Land Development Process	3
URP:6273	Creative Community and Economic Development	3
URP:6278	Nonprofit Organizational Effectiveness I	3
URP:6400	Sustainable Development: The Kerala Experience	3
One of these:		
URP:6266	Transportation, Urban Form, and Sustainability	3
PBAF:3570	Poverty Policy	3
PBAF:6241	Strategic Management of Public and Nonprofit Organizations	3

ECON:3350	Industry Analysis	3
ENTR:4200	Entrepreneurship: Business Consulting	3
ENTR:4400	Managing the Growth Business	3
FIN:4230	Real Estate Process	3
FIN:9230	Real Estate Finance and Investments	3
SSW:4843	Social Welfare Policy and Practice	3
SSW:6400	Theory and Skills for Working With Organizations and Communities	3
An additional course from this list		3

Land Use and Environmental Planning

Course #	Title	Hours
This course:		
URP:6256	Environmental Policy	3
At least one of these:		
URP:5310	Informatics for Sustainable Systems	3
URP:5800	Environmental Policy: Theory and Practice	3
URP:6243	The Land Development Process	3
URP:6245	Growth Management	3
URP:6253	Designing Sustainable and Healthy Cities	3
URP:6266	Transportation, Urban Form, and Sustainability	3
URP:6280	Planning for Disaster Mitigation and Recovery	3
URP:6400	Sustainable Development: The Kerala Experience	3
One of these:		
CEE:3790	Resilient Infrastructure and Emergency Response	3
CEE:4107	Sustainable Systems	3
CEE:4158	Solid and Hazardous Wastes	3
CEE:4159	Air Pollution Control Technology	3
CEE:5410	Politics and Economics of the Food, Energy, Water Nexus	3
JMC:5266	Risk Communication	3
OEH:4240	Global Environmental Health	3
OEH:4260	Global Water and Health	3
SEES:3340	Ecosystem Services	3
SEES:3350	Urban Ecology	3
SEES:3390	Integrated Watershed Analysis	3
SEES:3500	Introduction to Environmental Remote Sensing	3
SEES:3760	Hazards and Society	3
SEES:4150	Health and Environment: GIS Applications	3
SEES:4210	Sustainability as a System Science	3

SEES:4500	Advanced Remote Sensing	4
SEES:4770	Environmental Justice	3
SEES:6300	Seminar in Environment, Conservation, and Land Use	3
An additional course from this list		3

Transportation Planning

Course #	Title	Hours
This course:		
URP:6266	Transportation, Urban Form, and Sustainability	3
At least one of these:		
URP:6260	Transportation Policy and Planning	3
URP:6263	Special Topics in Transportation Planning	3
One of these:		
URP:3350	Transportation Economics	3
URP:4262	Transportation Research Methods and Analysis	3
CEE:3763	Principles of Transportation Engineering	3
CEE:4730	Transportation Infrastructure Construction and Management	3
CEE:4762	Design of Transportation Systems	3
CEE:4763	Traffic Engineering	3
CEE:5998	Individual Investigations: Civil and Environmental Engineering	3
CPH:4220	Global Road Safety	3
An additional course from this list		3

Elective Courses

Students complete an additional 5 s.h. of elective courses; a minimum of 3 s.h. must be completed in School of Planning and Public Affairs courses (prefix URP or PBAF) numbered 5000 and above. With the permission of the program, courses not listed below may supplement those offered by the School of Planning and Public Affairs.

Students are encouraged but not required to complete an internship in a planning agency or related organization by taking URP:6335 Internship. To earn 2 s.h. of credit for the internship, students must submit a brief paper summarizing and evaluating their experience. Internships are usually paid staff positions and are completed during the summer between the first and second years or during the academic year.

Course #	Title	Hours
At least 5 s.h. from these:		
CEE:3003	Project Management Skills	1
EPLS:5240	Topics in Education	arr.
EPLS:6217	Theory for Scholar Practitioners	2-3
IS:3910	Approaches to Advocacy: From Theory to Practice	3

School of Planning and Public Affairs courses (prefix URP or PBAF) numbered 4000 or above

Non-School of Planning and Public Affairs courses (prefix URP or PBAF) approved for a concentration area; consult "Concentration Area" above

Thesis

A thesis is not required, although students may petition to write one. Up to 5 s.h. of credit from URP:6305 Readings and URP:6325 Thesis: Urban and Regional Planning may apply toward the elective requirement.

Capstone Courses

Students complete the following two capstone courses, usually during the third and fourth semesters. A grade of B-minus or higher is required for both courses.

Course #	Title	Hours
Both of these:		
URP:6209	Sustainable Communities Lab I	3
URP:6210	Sustainable Communities Lab II	3

Alternatively, an extended internship, consisting of at least five months of full-time employment in a planning-related organization, may qualify as a practicum. The practicum course URP:6229 Practicum generally takes place during the summer after the first year and fall semester of the second year. Students register for the practicum course in two consecutive sessions for a total of at least 6 s.h.

Final Exam

A final exam is required for all students. Thesis students are required to pass an oral defense of their thesis in place of the final exam. An oral and written examination constitutes the final exam for students who do not write a thesis. Students who do not write a thesis do not enroll in any course to prepare for the final exam. If the oral examination is passed, then the written examination does not need to be taken.