Urban and Regional Planning

Director

• Charles E. Connerly

Graduate degree: M.S. in urban and regional planning
Faculty: https://www.urban.uiowa.edu/faculty-and-staff
Website: https://www.urban.uiowa.edu

Urban and regional planning encompasses the development and implementation of public policies that improve the quality of life in cities and regions.

Related Certificate

Transportation Studies

The Transportation Studies Program offers the Certificate in Transportation Studies. The program focuses on the varied and complex problems of transportation and on interdisciplinary approaches to addressing them. The Departments of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Industrial and Systems Engineering, Mechanical Engineering (College of Engineering), Economics (Tippie College of Business), and the School of Urban and Regional Planning (Graduate College) participate in the program.

The certificate is coordinated by the School of Urban and Regional Planning. See the Certificate in Transportation Studies (Graduate College) in the Catalog.

Programs

Graduate Program of Study

Major

• Master of Science in Urban and Regional Planning

Courses

Urban and Regional Planning Courses

URP:2013 Introduction to Sustainability 3 s.h.
Introduction to sustainability knowledge, skills, and habits as a means to shape one's vision of a sustainable citizen; emphasis on basic skills of literacy, applied math, and finding information; traditional sustainability knowledge areas related to society, economy, and environment; intersecting themes (e.g., informed consumerism, eco-economics, and livable environments). Same as BUS:2013, GEOG:2013.

URP:3001 Planning Livable Cities 3 s.h.
Development of livable cities in the United States; economic, physical, environmental, and political forces that shape their growth; impact of planning, how it shapes the future of cities.

URP:3134 Regional and Urban Economics 3 s.h.
Theory of location and regional development; central place theory; why cities exist and trade with one another; models of land use patterns, rents; empirical tests of models; policy applications. Prerequisites: ECON:1100. Same as ECON:3640.

URP:3135 Environmental and Natural Resource Economics 3 s.h.
Environmental and resource use problems; efficient mechanisms and other policies for environmental protection, management of common property resources. Prerequisites: ECON:1100. Same as ECON:3625.

URP:3217 Negotiation and Conflict Resolution 3 s.h.
Strategies of successful negotiation across a wide range of conflict situations; keys to success in peacefully resolving conflicts; personal, professional, legal, and political negotiations; apologizing; mediation as alternative to litigation; analysis of conflict characteristics to determine optimal negotiation strategies; development of negotiation interpersonal skills; practice negotiating under real world scenarios. Prerequisites: RHET:1030 or RHET:1040 or RHET:1060. Same as RHET:3009.

URP:3350 Transportation Economics 3 s.h.
Overview of transportation markets—intercity, rural, urban; transportation modes—rail, highway, air, water, pipeline, transit; issues in finance, policy, planning, management, physical distribution, and environmental, economic, and safety regulation. Recommendations: ECON:1100 and ECON:1200. Same as ECON:3750, GEOG:3940.

URP:3360 Urban Transportation 1-3 s.h.
Transportation in the urban market; urban transport modes, technologies, costs, pricing, and ways to develop and analyze urban policy in order to promote city livability and sustainability; development of urban transportation and transport operations in the U.S. and worldwide; urban transport policies, plans, and policy development processes; major urban transportation issues, investigation of possible means of attacking urban transportation issues. Prerequisites: ECON:1100. Same as ECON:3770.

URP:4170 Megacities Seminar 1-3 s.h.
Global historical, political, economic, urban, and cultural aspects of megacity development; planning methods to address contemporary and emerging issues; critical analysis of peer-reviewed literature and computational simulations; topics include urban sprawl, poverty and inequality, economies, food scarcity, population growth, governance models, environmental and health concerns, sustainability.

URP:4262 Transportation Demand Analysis 3 s.h.
City planning procedures and traffic engineering techniques applied to transportation problems; trip generation, distribution, assignment, mode choice models; travel surveys, data collection techniques; arterial flow, intersection performance, parking; transit system analysis. Same as CEE:4176.

URP:4750 Environmental Impact Analysis 3 s.h.
In-depth exposure to the history and evolution of the U.S. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process; discussion of major court cases; ecological, economic, and political aspects of current environmental controversies; exposure to real-world scenarios that are crucial to understanding the EIA process in action; field trips to six or seven environmental control facilities in Iowa City and neighboring areas. Prerequisites: GEOG:1070. Same as GEOG:4770.
URP:4752 Eight Generational Planning: Envisioning Cities for Year 2228 3 s.h.
Star Trek tells us that Captain Kirk will be born in Iowa in 2228, what should cities look like in that year? Students envision and design great regenerative cities in the age of Anthropocene—the period we are in which features substantial human influence on climate and the environment; exploration of contemporary philosophies and urban strategies for sustainability, resilience, post-scarcity abundance, human well-being, social inclusiveness, and justice in an era of rapid changes in society, technology, climate, and environment.

URP:4760 Sustainable Urban Development: The Hong Kong Experience 3 s.h.
Today about 52 percent of the world’s population lives in urban areas; by 2050 almost 70 percent will be living in cities and towns; how the shape, size, and form of urban areas and how people live in them have significant impact on the environment; students explore theories and practices pertaining to sustainable urban development and learn about urban environmental issues around the world and significant socioeconomic problems arising from current patterns of urban development that are, on the whole, not sustainable; introduction to many innovative approaches for making cities more sustainable.

URP:5678 Application Simulation to Transportation 3 s.h.
Transportation system management and traffic engineering; application of real-time simulation and visualization. Prerequisites: CEE:3763 or CEE:4763. Same as CEE:5678.

URP:5800 Environmental Economics and Policy 3 s.h.
Reasons why markets fail in environmental realm (e.g., externality, common pool resources, club goods, public goods); ecosystem services and techniques used for their valuation; revealed and stated preferences; cost-benefit analysis and role in policy-making process; tools to address environmental market failures, particularly command and control, taxes and subsidies, and mitigation markets; focus on air pollution, climate change, and water-related policies. Same as GEOG:5800.

URP:6200 Analytic Methods I 1-3 s.h.
Methods used in planning and policy analysis; emphasis on application of statistical techniques and quantitative reasoning to planning problems; use of computers and data systems in planning analysis.

URP:6201 Analytic Methods II 3 s.h.
Integration of methods with the planning process; application of multiple regression, population estimation and projection, survey methods, time series analysis, industrial growth and change; presentation of results to decision makers and the public. Prerequisites: URP:6200.

URP:6202 Land Use Planning: Law and Practice 4 s.h.
Legal, social foundations of land use planning; comprehensive planning, zoning and subdivision review; legal aspects of land use, environmental planning; ordinance drafting; staff report writing; citizen participation.

URP:6203 History and Theories of Planning 3 s.h.
History of urban planning in America as a reflection of social and economic forces; alternative planning philosophies, roles, and ethical choices open to planners. Same as HIST:6203.

URP:6205 Economics for Policy Analysis 3 s.h.
Principles of economics for planners; concepts and techniques of microeconomic analysis; income inequality; the role of government in the economy; tax and pricing policy; project evaluation; externalities.

URP:6208 Program Seminar in Planning Practice 1 s.h.
Planning process, roles of planners, professional ethics and standards.

URP:6209 Field Problems in Planning I 3 s.h.
Experience working on a two-semester project involving a current planning issue, usually for a client. Requirements: urban and regional planning graduate standing.

URP:6210 Field Problems in Planning II 3 s.h.
Continuation of URP:6209. Prerequisites: URP:6209. Requirements: urban and regional planning graduate standing.

URP:6211 Community Outreach Practicum 1-3 s.h.
Application of planning skills to community work by nonprofit organizations in local area; urban planners contributing to their communities; community outreach.

URP:6225 Applied GIS for Planners 3 s.h.
Analysis of Census of Population data using GIS software; data and analytical needs of urban planners; coverage of GIS topics to plan functions of GIS and spatial analysis, varied GIS software in a planning organization; structure of the Census.

URP:6227 Spatial Analysis in Planning and Policy Making 3 s.h.
Databases, GIS, planning support systems; spatial model building and use of spatial statistics; applications to substantive problems in transportation, environment, housing, economic development. Recommendations: completion of an introductory GIS course.

URP:6228 GIS for Local Government 1 s.h.
Development, maintenance, and operation of an enterprise-wide Geographic Information System (GIS); implementation of a parcel-based data system model common to government entities; practical experience using data for land-use planning analysis.

URP:6229 Practicum 1-5 s.h.
Full-time internship of at least five months with a planning-related organization. Requirements: urban and regional planning graduate standing.

URP:6233 Public Finance and Budgeting 3 s.h.
Local budgeting process and revenue instruments available for local governments to finance their infrastructure; local budgeting process, mechanics of property tax and other revenue sources, connection between taxation and land use, economic development, growth management, and transportation; issues regarding financing K-12 public schools. Prerequisites: URP:6205.

URP:6235 Geodatabases and GIS 1 s.h.
Geodatabase implementation in the management of large GIS data sets. Prerequisites: URP:6225.

URP:6242 Planning and City Administration 1 s.h.
Relationship of planners and other local government personnel; how planning fits into city management; city management view of local political process, provision of city services, finance and budgeting, human resources, intergovernmental relations, how meetings are run, dealing with the public.
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<td>URP:6243</td>
<td>The Land Development Process</td>
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<td>URP:6245</td>
<td>Growth Management</td>
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<td>URP:6249</td>
<td>Sustainability Seminar</td>
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<td>URP:6253</td>
<td>Designing Sustainable and Healthy Cities</td>
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<td>URP:6256</td>
<td>Environmental Policy</td>
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<td>URP:6257</td>
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<tr>
<td>URP:6258</td>
<td>Modeling Dynamic Systems</td>
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<td>Transportation Program Seminar</td>
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<td>URP:6264</td>
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<td>URP:6265</td>
<td>Planning Sustainable Transportation</td>
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<td>Transportation and Land Use Planning</td>
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<td>URP:6273</td>
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<td>URP:6277</td>
<td>Affordable Housing Finance</td>
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<td>URP:6278</td>
<td>Nonprofit Organizational Effectiveness I</td>
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<tr>
<td>URP:6279</td>
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<td>URP:6280</td>
<td>Planning for Disaster Mitigation and Recovery</td>
<td>2-3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>URP:6282</td>
<td>Grant Writing</td>
<td>1-2 s.h.</td>
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*Note: The above courses are part of the Urban and Regional Planning program.*
URP:6290 Economic Impact Assessment 3 s.h.
Economic impact and growth analysis, including economic base, income expenditure, input-output analysis; use of economic impact analysis in a cost-benefit context; industrial location and mobility theory with statistics applications. Prerequisites: URP:6205.

URP:6295 Economic Development Policy 3 s.h.
Analysis of policies and programs at national, regional, state, and local levels that address problems of economic growth, development, decline.

URP:6297 Economic Development Finance 3 s.h.
Business financial statements and evaluation of loan proposals; small business finance including financing working capital, fixed assets, and real estate; economic development agencies and institutions; and case studies of economic development financing. Prerequisites: URP:6205.

URP:6305 Readings arr.

URP:6315 Independent Study in Planning 1-6 s.h.
Research and analysis of a special planning problem; opportunity to apply knowledge in area of specialization.

URP:6320 Introduction to Graphic Communications 2 s.h.
Visual communication techniques through use of print and digital media; how to graphically convey concepts and information to a variety of audiences; basic design principles to build a foundation in graphic communication; relationships between various software packages; advantages and shortcomings of various digital tools; development of professional graphic media that is beautiful and effective.


URP:6330 Developing Graphic Content 1 s.h.
Skills necessary to develop graphic content utilized by professionals in the field of urban and regional planning; students learn to use programs such as SketchUp, LayOut, Google Earth, and Lumion; produce maps, diagrams, experiential perspectives, renderings, and other visuals; and convey a variety of ideas pertaining to the urban environment.

URP:6335 Internship 2 s.h.
Work in a planning or related agency or nonprofit organization.

URP:6400 Sustainable Development: The Kerala Experience 3 s.h.
Exploration of student interests in social entrepreneurship, global health, microfinance, cultural production, environmental sustainability, or other development issues in India; varied disciplinary perspectives (i.e., public health, business, social work, geography, art); student work with Indian NGOs employing a diverse variety of techniques to address social problems such as child labor, health care for the poor, illiteracy, and disability services. Winter session.