



THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

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Master of Science in Planning (MSP)

Latin American and the Caribbean Region

FSU Campus at the City of Knowledge, Clayton, Panamá



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I- Introduction

The Latin American and Caribbean Region is experiencing increasing urban challenges where planning is expected to play a crucial and positive role. Cities and entire regions have become more aware of the need to effectively harmonize the social, economic and environmental dimension of development in order to improve people's quality of life.

Other challenges include accomplishing national agendas on improving the life of slum dwellers which is related to international agendas such as Target 4 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG): "By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers". The "Favelas" in Brasil, "Pueblos Jóvenes" in Perú, and "Barriadas Brujas" in Panamá, are among other, human settlements in need of scientific tools to overcome the threats of poverty and social exclusion.

These developments urge higher education institutions specializing in planning to contribute to such endeavor. Within the College of Social Sciences and Public Policy, the Department of Urban and Regional Planning have a long tradition of academic and professional excellence and it offers the following degree programs: Master of Science in Planning (MSP), Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), and joint degrees in planning and law (MSP/JD), planning and public administration (MSP/MPA), planning and international affairs (MSP/MA), and planning and public health (MSP/MPH).

In accordance with the existing guidelines and core curriculum established at DURP, the MSP for the Latin America and the Caribbean Regions (MSP-LAC) will initially offer two specializations: Planning for Developing Areas and Housing and Community Development. Students interested in other specialization areas will have the option of pursuing the required course work during two consecutive semesters in Tallahassee.

In addition, following the existing guidelines and core curriculum established in the MSP at DURP, the MSP-LAC program will offer certificate programs in Real Estate and Urban Design. Credits acquired through both certificate programs, under the revision and approval of DURP, will be considered toward the MSP. In addition, Ph.D. candidates from DURP working in their dissertation on topics related to Latin American and the Caribbean will find in Ph.D. faculty at MSP-LAC professional guidance and senior advice.



II- MSP-LAC: Specializations

In accordance with the existing guidelines and core curriculum established in the MSP at DURP, the MSP-LAC will offer two specializations: Planning for Developing Areas and Housing and Community Development. Students interested in other specialization areas will have the option of pursuing the required course work during two consecutive semesters in Tallahassee.

Planning for Developing Areas

The specialization prepares students for the challenges of guiding economic and social development in the context of increasing globalization, commonly defined as the increasing interconnectedness of people, places, and institutions worldwide. Development planners work in urban and rural developing areas around the world. For example, they may facilitate community participation in development projects, work to strengthen the capacities of non-governmental organizations to deliver services and mobilize resources, implement the decentralization of government services to medium and small towns, help shape donor policies and practices in the area of gender and development, or design sustainable development strategies at the international, national, regional, or local levels.

Coursework in the specialization is tailored to build the capacity of each student to investigate various development situations and to identify critical opportunities to influence the development process. Courses address cross-cutting issues such as globalization, democratization, gender and development, and sustainable development. They provide students with an understanding of the legal and institutional context within which planners operate and of sector-specific issues and strategies. The latter include regional economic development, microenterprise development, housing and infrastructure, capacity-building particularly among non-governmental organizations, and the role and impact of population growth and distribution. Students also develop skills in the preparation of development plans, in the design, management and implementation of development projects, and in participatory planning and research.

Coursework

The specialization consists of two required and two elective courses. The required courses are:

- URP 5610: Introduction to Development Planning
- URP 5616: Project Planning in Developing Countries

Two elective courses should be chosen from the following list:

- URP 5424: Sustainable Development Planning in the Americas
- URP 5540: State and Local Economic Development Planning
- URP 5541: Gender and Development
- URP 5611: Strategies for Urban and Regional Development
- URP 5612: Planning for Urbanization in Less Developed Countries
- URP 5613: Rural Development Planning
- URP 5614: Population and Development
- URP 5615: Infrastructure and Housing Issues in Less Developed Areas
- URP 5619: Special Topics in Development Planning





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Courses which may be used as electives with permission of the advisor include:

- ECO 5015: Economic Development
- EDF 5625: Education and Economic Development
- ECO 5025: Economic Development Policy and Programming
- INR 5507: International Organizations
- INR 5037: Development, Dependence, and Inequality
- PAD 6838: Government Administration in Developing Nations
- SYD 5425: Urbanization and Population Distribution
- SYP 5446: Sociology of National Development

Concentrations

Students are encouraged to select a concentration in a particular issue area of development. Concentrations can be in one of the other Department specializations (such as Environmental Planning and Natural Resource Management or Housing and Community Development) or can consist of two thematically selected courses from the list of electives, plus two additional related electives from within, or outside the Department. Examples of appropriate concentrations include national development, development administration and finance, and others. Students should consult with an advisor from the specialization for the coursework appropriate to different concentrations.

Housing and Community Development

Housing is the predominant land use in urban areas and a major focus of the planning field. Concern with housing covers the general issues of providing decent, safe, and affordable housing for all members of the community, in locations that promote the well-being of households and the community. Community development concerned with the creation, preservation and revitalization of healthy neighborhoods, and commercial and public areas that serve resident populations. Community developers are also increasingly being called upon to assist public officials and planning agencies in their pursuit of economic development.

Housing and community development planners are employed in a variety of contexts, both public and private, dealing with the formulation and implementation of housing and development policies and plans, both for special population groups (the young, elderly, poor, minorities), as well as mainstream populations. The courses in the specialization cover the variety of subjects necessary for practice within the field, including the study and critical evaluation of past and current housing, community development, and economic development policies. Students are also taught the basic methods needed for undertaking community development and promoting community mobilization.

Coursework

The specialization consists of three required and one elective course. The required courses are:

- URP 5743: Neighborhood Planning (Offered Fall Semesters)
- URP 5749: Community Development Systems (Offered Spring Semesters)
- URP 5540: State and Local Economic Development Planning (Offered Fall Semesters)





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One elective course should be chosen from among the following:

- URP 5122: Planning Dispute Resolution
- URP 5316: Land Use Planning
- URP 5530: Policy and Planning for the Aged
- URP 5615: Infrastructure and Housing in Less Developed Countries
- URP 5742: Problems and Issues in Housing and Community Development
- URP 5749r: Special Topics in Housing and Community Development
- URP 5873: Site Design and Land Use Analysis
- REE 5305: Real Estate Feasibility Analysis (Prereq. REE 5935)
- REE 5045: The Real Estate Process
- HIS 5083: Historic Sites Identification and Preservation
- SOW 5334: Organizational and Community Systems Change
- SOW 5938: Homelessness in America

Concentrations

A concentration consists of a focused program involving the two specialty electives and two additional electives. A variety of concentrations are possible, focusing on specialized housing problems, the needs of special housing consumers, or aspects of the analysis, policy and delivery process. Examples include housing for the elderly, community economic development, historic preservation, neighborhood planning, housing and real estate development, community organization, and others. Coursework in other departments is available. Students should consult with a specialty advisor in formulating a concentration.

III- Certificate Programs

Real Estate Certificate

Urban planners need to have extensive knowledge of real estate development in order to adequately and efficiently regulate and work with real estate developers. In turn, developers must be able to operate in an environment in which land use and environmental planning and regulation are critical to the success of their projects. Together, planners and developers must have a joint understanding of the real estate development process and the role that planning plays in shaping and regulating that process.

To complete the certificate, students are required to complete 18 hours of class work in the following areas:

- comprehensive planning and growth management,
- real estate tools,
- land use and real estate law,
- design and development,
- market analysis, and
- investment and development.

A project seminar in real estate investment serves as the capstone course for the certificate. The project seminar class will be the capstone class for the Certificate. It will not serve as the capstone for Urban and





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Regional Planning's MSP degree. Information on coursework and specific requirements may be obtained by contacting the Department of Urban and Regional Planning.

Program Overview

Students will have to complete 18 credit hours. The student's advisor must approve the student's program of study. Transfer credits will not be accepted. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA in certificate classes in order to receive the certificate. Please see the Program of Study below for a list of required and elective courses.

Program of Study

FOUNDATION COURSES (3 credits required)

URP 5312: Comprehensive Planning and Growth Management (3 cr.)

REAL ESTATE TOOLS COURSES (at least 3 credits required)

REE 5935: Real Estate Finance (3 cr.)

LAND USE AND REAL ESTATE LAW (at least 3 credits required)

URP 5125: Plan Implementation (3 cr.)

REE 5435: Real Estate and Its Legal Environment (3 cr.)

DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT (at least 3 credits required)

URP 5873: Site Design and Land Use Analysis (3 cr.)

URP 5742: Housing and Community Development (3 cr.)

URP 5881: Urban Design (3 cr.)

MARKET ANALYSIS/TOOLS (at least 3 credits required)

URP 5272: Urban Information Systems (3 cr.)

URP 5939: Urban Economics (3 cr.)





Urban Design Certificate

The Department offers a graduate certificate in urban design that prepares planning professionals to be conversant in both design and planning languages and to be able to devise, implement and communicate physical plans and policy to a diverse group of stakeholders. The certificate provides students with instruction in the history and theory of urban design, visualization techniques, and physical planning skills and application. The certificate is not a substitute for professional design education or for people seeking licensure.

The certificate program is open to both FSU graduate matriculates and to non-matriculates studying under special graduate student status. Applicants may be, but are not required to be, currently pursuing the master's or Ph.D. degrees in urban and regional planning. Those pursuing the MSP or Ph.D. degrees --or other graduate degrees at FSU-- must be in good academic standing to be admitted. There are no requirements for current FSU graduate degree students other than good academic standing.

Non-matriculated applicants must satisfy the following requirements:

- Applicants must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher learning in the United States or the equivalent from an institution abroad. No specific major is required.
- The minimum criterion to be considered for admission is a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher for previous study or a combined verbal and quantitative score for the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) of 1000. The GRE is optional for applicants who meet the minimum GPA requirement.
- Applicants whose native language is not English and who have not received a degree from a college or university in an English-speaking nation also must submit an official transcript of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). A minimum TOEFL score of 213 (computer-based), 550 (paper-based), or 80 (internet-based) is required for an applicant to be considered for admission.

To complete the certificate, students are required to complete 18 hours of class work in required courses in urban design and visualization methods for urban design, as well as electives selected from a set of courses that includes site design and land use analysis land use planning, pedestrian oriented communities, transportation and land use, neighborhood planning, historic preservation, and other courses in urban and regional planning, landscape architecture, and geography. Students must also satisfy a capstone requirement by taking URP 5342 when done as an urban design studio, completing a directed independent research project in URP 5910 on an urban design topic, or completing the LAA 6658 studio in combination with one credit hour of URP 5910. More specific information on coursework and specific requirements may be obtained by contacting the Department.

Program of Studies

Students are required to complete 18 credit hours. The required classes are:

- URP 5881 Urban Design (3 credits)
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- URP 5885 Visualization Methods for Urban Design (3 credits; or demonstrated proficiency in visualization methods)

Additionally students must complete any three of the following classes:

- URP 5272 Urban and Regional Information Systems (3 credits)
- URP 5316 Land Use Planning (3 credits)
- URP 5350 Pedestrian Oriented Communities (3 credits)
- URP 5716 Transportation and Land Use (3 credits)
- URP 5743 Neighborhood Planning (3 credits)
- URP 5873 Site Design and Land Use Analysis (3 credits)

OR

- LAA 6423 Site Engineering (FAMU SOA) (3 credits)
- LAA 6370 Landscape Graphics (FAMU SOA) (3 credits)
- LAA 6371 Landscape Computer Graphics (FAMU SOA) (3 credits)
- GEO 5934 Place, Movement, Identity (3 credits)
- HIS 5083 Historic Sites Identification and Preservation (3 credits)

Finally, students must satisfy a capstone requirement integrating theory and practice either by participating in an urban design studio or completing directed independent research in Urban Design. To do so involves enrolling in one of the following:

- URP 5342 Advanced Planning Problems 3 credits (when done as an urban design studio)
- URP 5910 Directed Individual Research (3 credits)

OR

- LAA 6658 Advanced Landscape Architecture Design 2 (6 credits)
In combination with 1 Credit of URP 5910

Certificate Requirements

Students are required to complete 15 credit hours of course work plus a minimum of three credit hours to satisfy the capstone requirement as detailed above. The course of study may be completed simultaneously with the MSP degrees. Transfer credits will not be accepted. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA in certificate classes in order to receive the certificate.





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ADDENDUM 1: DURP-Graduate Program Guide, 2010-2011 Academic Year



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ADDENDUM 2: DURP-Teaching Manual