



# Graduate Curriculum Approval Form Changes to Graduate Majors

**Degree Program CIP Code**  
**Degree (i.e. M.A., Ph.D., etc.):**  
**Name of Major (e.g. Biology)**  
**Name of affected Concentration(s) (e.g. Botany)**  
**Proposed Effective Term (e.g. Fall 2017)**  
**Faculty Contact**  
**Email**

CIP 04.0301 (M)  
 MURP  
 Urban & Regional Planning  
 Urban & Regional Planning  
 Fall 2018  
 Mark R. Hafen  
 mhafen@usf.edu

APPROVALS	Name	Signature	Action	Date
Dept. Chair	Ron Sanders	<i>Ron Sanders</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve <input type="checkbox"/> Not approved <input type="checkbox"/> Comments attached	4/16/18
School Committee Chair (if applicable)			<input type="checkbox"/> Approve <input type="checkbox"/> Not approved <input type="checkbox"/> Comments attached	
College Committee Chair			<input type="checkbox"/> Approve <input type="checkbox"/> Not approved <input type="checkbox"/> Comments attached	
College Dean/ Associate Dean	Robert Potter	<i>Robert Potter</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve <input type="checkbox"/> Not approved <input type="checkbox"/> Comments attached	4/16/18
Concurrence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Needed	Dept Chair:		<input type="checkbox"/> Concur <input type="checkbox"/> Doesn't concur <input type="checkbox"/> Comments attached	
Grad Council	<input type="checkbox"/> Approve <input type="checkbox"/> Not approved <input type="checkbox"/> Tabled <input type="checkbox"/> Comments	Graduate Studies	<input type="checkbox"/> Approve <input type="checkbox"/> Disapprove	

**Summary of Changes – Select all that apply:**

**Admissions Section:**

- Change Priority Admission Deadlines
  - Fall: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Spring: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Summer: \_\_\_\_\_
  - To "fall admissions only"
- From Regular to Direct Receipt Admissions
- From Direct Receipt to Regular Admission
- Admission Requirements

**Curriculum Requirements**

- Current Curriculum Requirements
  - Core
  - Add New Concentration, Specialization, or Track\*
  - Delete Concentration, Specialization, or Track
  - Thesis/Dissertation
  - Comprehensive/Qualifying Exam
- Other: \_\_Non-substantive changes, Internship as separate rather than core requirement

\*Requires submission to APAC for comment/clearance

**Why are these changes necessary?**

**To clarify the degree requirements, particularly the internship and waiver criteria, and to clarify the focus areas of electives to match faculty expertise and course offerings.**

Attach the current Catalog Copy, with the requested revisions shown using Track Changes. Catalog copy is not required for changes to the Admission Deadline. All other changes require Catalog Copy. To obtain the most current catalog, email [cdh@usf.edu](mailto:cdh@usf.edu).

Once College has approved, scan and email this Approval Form, and the revised Catalog Copy In Word to Graduate Studies by the deadline posted online <http://www.grad.usf.edu/graduate-council.php>. For questions, contact [cdh@usf.edu](mailto:cdh@usf.edu)

## URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

### Master of Urban and Regional Planning (M.U.R.P.) Degree

#### DEGREE INFORMATION

Priority Admission Application Deadlines:  
 Fall: March 1  
 Spring: October 15

International applicant deadlines:  
<http://www.usf.edu/admissions/international/admission-information/graduate/requirements-and-deadlines.aspx>  
<http://www.grad.usf.edu/majors>  
[http://www.grad.usf.edu/policies\\_Sect4\\_full.php#deadlines](http://www.grad.usf.edu/policies_Sect4_full.php#deadlines)

Minimum Total Hours: 48  
 Level: Masters  
 CIP Code: 04.0301  
 Dept. Code: SPF  
 Major/College Codes: URP AS  
 Approved: 2008

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

College: Arts and Sciences  
 Department: School of Public Affairs

Contact Information: [www.grad.usf.edu](http://www.grad.usf.edu)  
[www.spa.usf.edu](http://www.spa.usf.edu)

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#### MAJOR INFORMATION

The goal of the major is to train students to become planning practitioners capable of working in a variety of public, nonprofit, and private sector environments in a number of different fields. We prepare leaders in the field of urban and regional planning to meet community, national and global needs. Graduates of this major will go on to play a vital role addressing the planning and public policy challenges in our region and beyond.

The major recognizes the need for effective planners to possess diverse skills in the planning and management of human settlements. Accordingly, the MURP core coursework includes thematically-related courses in land use planning, research methods, quantitative analysis, planning theory and history, planning ~~politics and policies~~ policy and politics, community and economic development, and geographic information systems (GIS). Students have the option of enrolling in electives that focus on housing & community development, land use planning, local economic development, GIS, ~~international development~~, coastal zone management, housing & community development, environmental and natural resources planning, natural hazards and resilience planning, and transportation planning. These areas of specialization build on the strengths of existing faculty in our sister-major in Public Administration, as well as with colleagues and facilities across the university. The major is thus distinct in its flexibility. Graduates of the major will be able to:

1. Engage in policy-related research relevant to urban and regional issues.
2. Assume positions of leadership in public, private and nonprofit organizations engaged in planning, land use, and public policy.
3. Further public discourse on the problems confronting cities and regions.
4. Utilize communications and technical skills to become successful at all levels of the planning profession.

## ADMISSION INFORMATION

Must meet University requirements (see Graduate Admissions), as well as requirements for admission to the major, listed below.

- BA/BS in any field with a GPA of 3.00 or higher on a 4-point scale (overall or on last 60 hours of undergraduate work);
- Two letters of recommendation (one from a faculty member if BS/BA, in last 5 years);
- A "letter of intent" explaining your background and interest in Urban and Regional Planning;
- GRE is required with preferred minimum scores of 153 Verbal (59<sup>th</sup> percentile) and 144 Quantitative (18<sup>th</sup> percentile.)  
However, the MURP major will waive the GRE requirement if the student meets at least one of the following criteria:
  - A completed master's degree from a regionally accredited institution.
  - A 3.25 or higher GPA in upper division undergraduate work from a regionally accredited institution.
  - A doctorate (including professional degrees such as the JD and MD) from a regionally accredited institution.
- All Students not meeting one of the above criteria will be considered for conditional admission based on the following criteria:
  - A preferred minimum score of 153 Verbal and 144 Quantitative) on the GRE.
  - An academic writing sample.
  - Three written letters of recommendation, with at least one from a faculty member familiar with the applicant's academic performance and potential. Should the applicant be unable to provide the letter from a former professor, with the Director's approval, letters from other sources will be accepted.

Conditional admission status will be converted to regular status upon completion of three courses from the MURP core requirements with a GPA of 3.50 or above.

1. A satisfactory score on the TOEFL (79 on the Internet-based test and 550 on the paper-based test) may be required for the natives of non-English speaking countries.
2. All applicants are required to write a statement describing their purpose and goals in the MURP statements.

## CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

Total Minimum Hours: 48 hours

[Core – 24 hours](#)

[Electives – 15-21 hours](#)

[Thesis option – 6 hours](#)

[Internship or Additional Elective – 3 hours](#)

Core Requirement – ~~27-24~~ hours

### Foundational Core Courses

URP 6058	3	Community Development Planning
URP 6100	3	Planning, Theory, and History
URP 6115	3	Planning, Policy, and Politics
URP 6316	3	Land Use Planning
URP 6549	3	Urban and Metropolitan Economic Development

### Analytical Methods Core Courses

URP 6232	3	Research Methods for Urban and Regional Planning
PAD 6703	3	Quantitative Aids for Public Managers

### Planning Practice & Techniques Core Courses

GIS 5049 3 GIS for non-majors

~~URP 6940 3\* Urban Planning Internship~~

~~\*required for students without 5 or more years of relevant planning experience~~

Electives - 15-21 hours minimum

(21 hours required for non-thesis option; 15 hours for thesis option)

The rest of the required coursework allows the URP student an opportunity to explore one or more fields of urban & regional planning through approved electives within and outside the School of Public Affairs. Depending on personal interest, students may choose course work in the following areas:

- Land Use and Comprehensive Planning
- Community Development and Engagement
- Economic Development
- Environmental and Natural Resources Planning
- Hazard Mitigation and Resiliency Planning
- Housing & Community Development;
- Environmental & Natural Resource Policy;
- Geographic Information Sciences;
- Globalization & International Development Planning;
- Transportation Planning.

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#### Comprehensive Exam

This is the default option for the MURP major. All MURP Students are required to take this examination at the end of, or during, the last semester of the major coursework. The examination is waived for students who elect, with the approval of the Graduate Director, to pursue the thesis option. (See below for more on the thesis option)

#### Non-thesis

Non-thesis students must complete all of the 27 hour core, 21 elective credits.

#### Thesis - 6 hours minimum

URP 6971 6 Thesis

Students approved to pursue this option must complete all of the 24 core credits, 15 elective credits, 3 credits of internship, and a minimum of 6 credit hours of thesis. The thesis must be completed and approved for ~~the~~ these credit credits to be ~~received~~ applied.

#### Internship or Additional Elective - 3 hours

URP 6940 3 Internship in Urban and Regional Planning

All MURP students are required to complete at least 180 hours of work in a planning agency to earn the 3 credit hours stipulated as part of the core requirements above. ~~–~~ This requirement is waived for students with at least 5 years of relevant planning experience; i-n lieu of the internship, an additional elective will be completed.

#### COURSES

See <http://www.ugs.usf.edu/course-inventory/>