**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.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)

**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.

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 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, 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 (59th percentile) and 144 Quantitative (18th 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.

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.

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 – 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

**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

**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 these credits to be 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; in lieu of the internship, an additional elective will be completed.

**COURSES**

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