Carol,

The college has approved the following change in curriculum:

MA Degree in Urban and Regional Planning

Packets will be delivered to your office. Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks.

Lisa Avari-Cooper

College of Arts and Sciences
Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Studies
4202 East Fowler Avenue, BEH 201
Tampa, Florida 33620-8460
(813) 974-6927
(813) 974-4075 - fax
cooper@cas.usf.edu
Graduate Curriculum Approval Form
Changes to Degree Programs

Degree (i.e. M.A., Ph.D., etc.): MA
Name of Program (i.e. Biology) Urban and Regional Planning
Program CIP or X code
Name of Concentration (i.e. Botany) Fall 2009
Proposed Effective Term (i.e. Spring 2006)

Faculty Contact
Email: estrom@cas.usf.edu
College: CAS
Dept and Mail Code: Geography, NES 107

Changes to a Degree Program

1. Follow the guidelines outlined by the Graduate Council at: http://www.grad.usf.edu/coursepro.asp. For Graduate Council Review submit:
   - the Graduate Curriculum Approval form (this form)
   - in three distinct sections, a summary of the following:
     - list/describe what the old requirements were,
     - list/describe what the new requirements will be
     - why the changes are necessary
   - The Catalog Copy showing the changes that will be needed if the proposal is approved

2. Submit the signed original and 1 electronic copy of the complete packet to the Graduate School by the deadline posted online http://www.grad.usf.edu/coursepro.asp. For questions, contact Carol Hines-Cobb at chinescobb@grad.usf.edu or 813-974-4239.

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<th>Signature</th>
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<td>Tom Pluckthahn</td>
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<td>College Dean/ Associate Dean</td>
<td>Robert Potter</td>
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*Concurrence - Consultation with units and departments providing related offerings or expertise is expected and encouraged.
Request to modify exit requirements for the Masters in Urban and Regional Planning

We would like to modify the exit requirements listed in the approved proposal for the Masters in Urban and Regional Planning.

**Original requirements:**

The original exit requirements were the following:

- All students will complete 3 – 6 hours of thesis or exit project research; students can chose a traditional, scholarly thesis, which would address a question in the planning literature, or a more applied final project, which would address a planning or policy problem, written with the cooperation of a community partner or client.

**Proposed change:**

The new requirements will give students the option of a traditional 6-credit academic thesis, or a comprehensive exam taken in the semester in which they plan to graduate. Thesis students would complete 42 credit hours of course work plus 6 thesis hours; non-thesis students would complete 48 credit hours of course work and pass a comprehensive exam.

**Rationale for changes:**

- The new exit requirement is consistent with the exit requirements in the Geography and the Environmental Science and Policy masters programs run by our department. Of course the programs differ in length and core course requirements, but we believe there is value having consistent exit requirements, certainly at the outset, as the same faculty members will serve as advisors for students in all three programs.

- Furthermore, the incoming program director prefers these options for their greater academic rigor. Whereas URP is in many regards a professional program, Urban Planning is also field with a long and rich academic tradition, one in which scholarly research is valued and encouraged. Our survey of the country’s highest ranked masters programs shows that all have the scholarly thesis as the main or one of several exit options. Applied, project-based exit exercises can be valuable if properly supervised by faculty with experience in the applied aspects of the field. As we are at present mostly reliant on faculty from traditional academic disciplines, we are concerned that these non-thesis projects would not have appropriate supervision, and would therefore suffer in quality.

Students will have many opportunities to undertake client-based, applied projects through their internships and course work, so this aspect of the planning curriculum will not be neglected.

Students who do not wish to pursue a thesis can take a comprehensive exam based on the required and elective courses offered. Exit exams are also common in the field, and may be an attractive option for students who intend to take the planning certification exam (AICP) sometime after graduation.
The program has not yet begun (the first students will start in Fall 2009). Changes in requirements at the juncture therefore have little cost – no students have begun the program under the original requirements. Adopting these changes in a timely manner will allow us to begin the program with our exit requirements clearly articulated.
Name of Program/Concentration: Urban And Regional Planning

Degree: M.A. (i.e. M.A.)

DEGREE INFORMATION

Degree Offered: M.A.
Degree Program: Urban And Regional Planning
Concentrations: Active
Program Status: Masters
Program Level: Masters
Admission Deadlines:
   Fall: Same As University
   Spring:
   Summer:

CONTACT INFORMATION

Program Director: Elizabeth Strom
Other Contact:
Phone: 974-3439
Fax: 974-4808
Email: Estrom@Cas.Usf.Edu
Web Address: Www.Cas.Usf.Edu/Geography
Mailing Address:
   University of South Florida
   Nes 107
   Tampa, FL 33620

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Description: Urban And Regional Planning

Accreditation

Major Research Areas: Urban Development, Growth Management, Regional Development,
Community Development, Environmental Planning, Transportation Planning

ADMISSION INFORMATION
Same As University, Plus Two Letters Of Recommendation (At Least One From A Faculty Member), Transcripts, And A Letter Of Intent

Program Admission Requirements (GRE, Interviews, GPA, etc.)

Students Must Have A Minimum Grade Point Of 3.0 (On The Four Point Scale) For The Last 60 Credits Taken As An Undergraduate, And A GRE Score Of At Least 500 On The Verbal Portion Of The Exam And 500 On The Quantitative Portion. The GRE Must Be Taken Within Five Years Preceding The Application And The Score Submitted Regardless Of The Grade Point Average.

DEGREE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (Total hours, Comps, Thesis/dissertation, etc.)

The Program Offers An MA With Both A Thesis And A Nonthesis Option. The Thesis Option Requires 42 Credit Hours Of Graduate Level Coursework With A Six Credit Hour Thesis. The Nonthesis Option Requires 48 Credit Hours Of Coursework Followed By A Comprehensive Examination. Coursework Includes A 6-Course (18 Credit) Core; Completion Of 3-6 Internship Credits (With Students Already Working The Field Exempt Upon Approval) Students Must Maintain A 3.0 Average.

Course Requirements: (List all required courses)

URP 6xx: Planning Theory And History. This Course Will Review The Key Texts In The Field Of Planning, The Development Of The Field Of Practice And The Scholarly Discipline. The Course Will Also Cover Normative And Ethical Concerns Of Planning.

URP 6xx: Politics And Policymaking For Planning. This Course Will Provide An Overview Of The Major Policy-Making Institutions And Practices In The US As They Relate To Urban And Regional Planning.

URP 6xx: Political Economy And The Urban And Regional Environment. This Course Will Offer An Introduction To The Political Economy Of Cities And Regions; The Fundamentals Of Economic Development Policy; And The Economic Constraints Conditioning Planning Practice.


URP 6xx: Statistical Methods For Planners: This Course Teaches The Fundamentals Of Quantitative Analysis, And Applies Them To Planning Research Problems.

URP 6xx: Spatial Methods For Planners: This Course Teaches The Fundamentals Spatial Analysis As These Relate To Planning Research And Practice.
OTHER REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the required core courses listed above, all students will:
- Complete between 3 - 6 credits of internship (students currently working in the field of planning can be exempt from this requirement with approval of the program director).
- Nonthesis students will complete an additional 24 - 30 course credits, drawn from electives listed below.
- Thesis students will complete an additional 18 - 24 course credits, drawn from electives listed below.

Anthropology:
- Ang 5486 Quantitative Methods in Applied Anthropology (as space allows, with permission of department)
- Ang 6447 Selected Topics in Urban Anthropology (as appropriate, depending on topic)
  - Ang 6448 Regional Problems in Urban Anthropology
  - Ang 6465 Regional Problems in Medical Anthropology
  - Ang 6766 Research Methods in Applied Anthropology (as space allows, with permission of department)

Architecture and Community Design:
- Arc 6397 Introduction to Urban Design
- Arc 5931 The City

Economics:
- Eco 6505 Public Finance
- Eco 6525 Public Sector Economics
- Ecp 6614 Urban Economics
- Ecp 6624 Regional Economics

Geography:
- Geo 5177 GIS for Non-Majors
- Geo 6166 Perspectives on Environmental Thought
- Geo 6159 GIS Seminar
- Geo 6178 Environmental Applications of GIS
- Geo 6345 Technological Hazards and Environmental Justice
- Geo 6305 Contemporary Urban Issues
- Geo 6704 Advanced Transportation Geography

Public Administration/Political Science

- Poe 5159 Urban Policy Analysis
- Pad 5333 Concepts and Issues in Public
- Pad 5807 Urban and Local Government Administration
- Pad 6336 Community Development Programs and Strategies
- Pad 6338 Urban Land Use and Policy Administration
- Pad 6339 Housing and Public Policy
- Pad 6355 Urban Growth Management

Public Health
- Phc 6120 Community Partnership Advocacy

Sociology
- Sya 6475 Community Analysis
- Sya 6440 SPSS and Social Research
- Sya 6315 Qualitative Research
- Sya 6655 Evaluation Research

Transportation Engineering
- Tte 5501 Transportation Planning and Economics
Tte 6651 Public Transportation
Tte 6655 Transportation And Land Use
Cgn 8933 Land Use And Transportation

Other information you want to submit:

Once completed, submit with New or Changed Program/Concentration Proposals. For questions, contact Carol Hines-Cobb at 974-4239 or chines-cobb@grad.usf.edu