

# REGIONAL PLANNING, PHD

*for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Regional Planning*

Students, together with their faculty adviser and program committee, select theory, methods, and specialization courses to meet the Ph.D. requirements and prepare for a successful career of advanced research and teaching.

A successful dissertation in planning reports original research on a subject appropriate to the field, the results of which produce significant advances in knowledge. Each student takes a Preliminary Examination, which is an oral examination based on the dissertation proposal and is administered by the student's dissertation committee. Upon approval of the dissertation proposal, the candidate can proceed with the research, written analysis, and findings. When the candidate and the supervisor agree that the research and writing are complete, the candidate is ready for the final examination, which is a defense of the dissertation before the committee.

Please consult the department's website (<https://urban.illinois.edu/>) for additional information about doctoral requirements.

The Department of Urban and Regional Planning offers graduate programs leading to the degrees of Master of Urban Planning and Doctor of Philosophy in Regional Planning. Students can also apply to obtain a joint degree with another graduate degree simultaneously. The most popular joint degrees are with Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Law and Agricultural and Applied Economics. Joint degrees with any related field are possible. In addition, a small number of the department's Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies and Planning (B.A.U.S.P.) students participate in the highly selective 4+1 program (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/faa/urban-studies-planning-ba-mup/>) to complete the B.A.U.S.P. and M.U.P. in five years.

## Admission

We welcome applications from people from a wide variety of backgrounds who have demonstrated potential for extraordinary professional achievement. Students seeking a graduate degree in planning come from a diverse range of academic backgrounds. The most frequent are sociology, economics, political science, geography, environmental sciences, architecture, engineering, public administration, urban planning, and public policy, but the natural sciences, humanities, and other fields also provide excellent foundations for graduate study in planning. Prospective students must have a grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 computed from the last 60 hours of undergraduate work and any subsequent graduate study, but the average GPA of admitted students is considerably higher. International applicants must meet additional minimum requirements (<http://www.grad.illinois.edu/admissions/countries/>) based on their country of origin, including the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

We place particular emphasis on each applicant's statement of purpose. Applicants should use the statement to convey information about their backgrounds, professional and personal experience, and intellectual perspectives, in the context of articulating why a Master's in Urban Planning or Ph.D. in Regional Planning from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign will help them achieve their professional goals. We seek an applicant pool that represents a mix of racial and ethnic populations, a range of social and economic backgrounds, different

philosophies and perspectives, and a variety of life experiences. We are especially interested in applicants with professional experience, though that experience need not be in planning or closely related fields.

Applicants to the Ph.D. program are admitted when they meet the standards of the Department and have a faculty member prepared to serve as their mentor and, if necessary, primary source of financial support. Students interested in pursuing a Ph.D. in Regional Planning should communicate with the Director of the Ph.D. Program and faculty most closely aligned with their interests, in addition to completing the formal application process.

Consult the M.U.P. admissions (<https://urban.illinois.edu/programs-applying/master-urban-planning/>) and Ph.D. admissions (<https://urban.illinois.edu/programs-applying/phd-regional-planning/>) web pages for more information.

## Graduate Teaching Experience

Although teaching is not a general Graduate College requirement, experience in teaching is considered an important part of the doctoral experience in this program and is strongly encouraged for those intending to pursue an academic career.

## Faculty Research Interests

The mission of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning is to teach and conduct research to improve understanding of human settlements and of planning situations. The department's faculty studies the ecological, economic, social, and institutional aspects of urban and regional development, and the theory and practice of planning processes. Planning is viewed as the achievement of outcomes based on interrelated actions over time and space, and close communication and collaboration with a wide range of disciplines and professions is inherent in the department's approach. The basis of that collaboration is a faculty whose academic training and degrees are in architecture, economics, geography, history, law, political science, regional science, and zoology, in addition to planning. Planning faculty and doctoral students pursue interdisciplinary research and make scholarly contributions to planning and fields closely allied with planning.

## Facilities and Resources

The Department of Urban and Regional Planning shares Temple Hoyne Buell Hall (TBH) with the Department of Landscape Architecture and the School of Architecture. The majority of urban planning classes are held in TBH. Doctoral student workspace is provided in the Architecture Building, near TBH.

The City Planning and Landscape Architecture Reference and Resource Center is located in Funk Library (<http://www.library.uiuc.edu/agx/>). The planning collection is one of the finest in the world, with books and reports gathered since the collection started over eighty years ago.

## Financial Aid

Students compete for departmental and Graduate College fellowships and departmental teaching and research assistantships. Selection is based on the academic achievement and qualifications of the student.

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For additional details and requirements refer to the department's website (<https://urban.illinois.edu/>) and the Graduate College Handbook (<http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook/>).

## Entering with approved Master's Degree

Code	Title	Hours
Planning theory (UP 501 and UP 580; UP 501 may be waived for students with a PAB-accredited master's in planning)		4-8
Research design (min)		4
Research methods (min)		12
Electives including areas of specialization		28
UP 599	Thesis Research (min/max applied toward degree)	1-16
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>64</b>

### Other Requirements

Requirement	Description
Other requirements may overlap	
Master's Degree Required for Admission to PhD?	No
Plan of Study Required	Yes
Two Synthesis Papers Required	Yes
Qualifying Exam or Qualifying Research Paper Required	Yes
Preliminary Exam Required	Yes
Final Exam/Dissertation Defense Required	Yes
Dissertation Deposit Required	Yes
Minimum GPA:	3.0

## Entering with approved Bachelor's Degree

Code	Title	Hours
Planning theory (UP 501 and UP 580; UP 501 may be waived for students with a PAB-accredited master's in planning)		8
Research design (min)		4
Research methods (min)		12
Electives including areas of specialization		56
UP 599	Thesis Research (min/max applied toward degree)	1-16
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>96</b>

### Other Requirements

Requirement	Description
Other requirements may overlap	
Master's Degree Required for Admission to PhD?	No
Plan of Study Required	Yes
Two Synthesis Papers Required	Yes
Qualifying Exam or Qualifying Research Paper Required	Yes
Preliminary Exam Required	Yes
Final Exam/Dissertation Defense Required	Yes
Dissertation Deposit Required	Yes
Minimum GPA:	3.0

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Student who complete a degree in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a foundational knowledge of: planning history, theory, law and institutions; and theories, debates and practices surrounding current and past planning challenges.
2. Demonstrate expertise in chosen subject matter.
3. Be highly competent in research skills and have a deep understanding of a broad range of methodologies (including both quantitative and qualitative approaches).
4. Fully understand the research enterprise. This includes an ability to critique others' work and an ability to be a contributing scholar by producing original research.
5. Be prepared to teach courses and understand best practices for student engagement.
6. Be familiar with disciplinary norms and standards, including understanding issues related to ethical practices.

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## Urban & Regional Planning

Department Head: Marc Doussard

Director of Graduate Studies: Andrew Greenlee

Urban & Regional Planning Department website (<https://urban.illinois.edu/>)

Urban & Regional Planning Department faculty (<https://urban.illinois.edu/people/meet-our-faculty/>)

111 Temple Buell Hall, 611 Taft Drive, Champaign, IL 61820  
(217) 333-3890

Urban & Regional Planning email: [urbplan@illinois.edu](mailto:urbplan@illinois.edu)

## Admissions

Regional Planning, Ph.D. Admissions & Requirements (<https://urban.illinois.edu/programs-applying/phd-regional-planning/how-to-apply-phd/>)

Grad College Admissions & Requirements (<https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply/>)

## College of Fine & Applied Arts

Fine & Applied Arts (<https://faa.illinois.edu>)