REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MASTER OF URBAN PLANNING DEGREE
(FOR STUDENTS ENTERING THE PROGRAM IN SPRING 2009)

URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING DEPARTMENT
SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY

The program leading to the degree of Master of Urban Planning (MUP) consists of 48 semester units of coursework, normally requiring the equivalent of two years full-time graduate study to complete. In addition, students without prior planning experience complete a professional work experience requirement.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Core Seminars and Laboratory/Fieldwork Courses

Students take a series of eight required courses that, collectively, provide a comprehensive background in the theories, methods, and practices underpinning contemporary planning practice. These required classes are URBP 200, 201 (6 units), 204A, 204B, 213, 225, 229, and 236.

Course descriptions and syllabi can be found at http://www.sjsu.edu/urbanplanning/courses/.

Planning Report or Thesis

Students enroll in URPB 298A and 298B (or 6 units of URPB 299) during the last two semesters of study. In these classes, students prepare a major planning report that represents an independent contribution to the field.

Electives

Students select a total of five elective courses in conference with their advisor. At least four of these courses must be taken from the list of courses offered by the department (see the catalogue), and students are strongly encouraged to take these all from within a single specialization (see reverse). The fifth elective may be chosen from graduate and upper division undergraduate courses within the department or elsewhere, if approved by the Graduate Advisor.

WRITING SKILLS TEST (WST) REQUIREMENT

The department requires students to take the WST before they begin the MUP program or during their first semester. Students must submit WST score reports to the urban planning department office during their first semester in the program. Students who fail the WST must take corrective action immediately to prepare to take the test again.

Proof of passage of the WST is required to enroll in URPB 236, URPB 298A, and URPB 299, and for graduation. (This WST requirement is waived only for students who have completed a bachelors or masters degree from a California State University campus.)

The WST is administered at the SJSU campus. For information on registration and test dates, visit the Testing and Evaluation office website at https://testing.sjsu.edu/ or call (408) 924-5980.

PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENT

To graduate, students must have at least 180 hours of professional work experience in urban and regional planning or a closely related field. Students fulfill the requirement with an internship or professional employment during their time in the program. (If the student has completed such work on a paid or voluntary basis within five years of entering the program, then additional professional experience is recommended but not required.)
AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

COMMUNITY DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT
This specialization provides students with knowledge and skills that planners use to enhance the quality of the physical environment and ensure that development in our communities addresses the needs of all residents. This area examines the interactions among social, economic, political, and cultural factors and the built environment. Elective courses in this concentration are:

- URBP 203 Collaborative Neighborhood Planning
- URBP 223A Housing I
- URBP 228 Urban Community Development
- URBP 231 Urban Design in Planning
- URBP 232 Urban Design Studio
- URBP 233 Social Issues in Planning
- URBP 250 Urban Planning Public Finance
- URBP 275 Urban Planning Topics: Facilitation and Conflict Resolution
- URBP 275D Seminar in Real Estate and Urban Planning
- URBP 275E Historic Preservation Planning

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND LAND USE
The linkage between the built environment and the natural environment is a subject of growing concern to planners at the local, regional, and national levels. This concentration prepares graduates to understand the linkages between land use patterns and the natural environment, as well as the policy tools that planners use to promote sustainable urban development. Elective courses in this concentration are:

- URBP 185 Environmental Impact Analysis
- URBP 211 Regional Analysis and Planning
- URBP 240 Environmental Planning
- URBP 255 Urban Growth Management
- URBP 256 Local Transportation Planning
- URBP 260 Environmental Planning Topics
- URBP 275 Urban Planning Topics: Facilitation and Conflict Resolution
- URBP 278 Geographic Information Systems Planning Applications

TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE PLANNING
Students in this program learn the principles of transportation and land-use planning at the local and regional levels. In today’s rapidly growing regions, planners recognize that transportation and land use planning are intricately connected and must be planned together to allow residents and freight carriers to access destinations quickly and efficiently, improve accessibility options for residents who cannot or choose not to drive, and build economically and environmentally sustainable communities. Elective courses in this concentration are:

- URBP 211 Regional Analysis and Planning
- URBP 226 Regional Transportation Planning
- URBP 255 Urban Growth Management
- URBP 256 Local Transportation Planning
- URBP 275 Urban Planning Topics: Facilitation and Conflict Resolution
- URBP 278 Geographic Information Systems Planning Applications

APPLICATIONS OF TECHNOLOGY IN PLANNING
This specialization enables students to develop knowledge and skills for using computer technology in the planning process. Classes and studies draw on the rich agglomeration of technical applications and skills available in the Silicon Valley region. Elective courses in this concentration are:

- URBP 248 Computers in Urban Design
- URBP 278 Geographic Information Systems Planning Applications
- URBP 279 Advanced GIS Planning Applications
- GEOG 170 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems
- GEOG 172 Cartography: Compilation and Presentation
- GEOG 175 Geog Info Systems Project Development

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