REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MASTER OF URBAN PLANNING DEGREE

URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING DEPARTMENT
SAN JOSÉ 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 seven required courses (26 units total) that, collectively, provide a comprehensive background in the theories, methods, and practices underpinning contemporary planning practice. These required classes are URBP 200, 201 (8 units), 204, 225, 236, 275G (1 unit) and 297P (1 unit, prerequisite for enrolling in URBP 298A).

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

Planning Report or Thesis

Students enroll in URBP 298A (3 units) and 298B (3 units) 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 four elective courses (16 units) in conference with their advisor. Students are strongly encouraged to take at least three from within a single specialization (see below). Electives (upper-division undergraduate or graduate courses) from outside the Urban & Regional Planning Department may be taken, but must first be approved by the Graduate Advisor. Students are reminded that they must complete a minimum of 16 units of elective courses.

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 URBP 236, and URBP 298A, 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.)

1 For students entering the program Fall 2012 or after. For information about program requirements prior to this date, please contact the department graduate advisor.

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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

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
*URBP 276  Social Media & Planning (recommended additional 1 unit course)

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
This specialization provides students with knowledge and skills that planners use to 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 103  Local Politics (3 units)
URBP 203  Collaborative Neighborhood Planning
URBP 223A  Housing I
URBP 228  Urban Community Development
URBP 233  Social Issues in Planning
URBP 250  Urban Planning Public Finance
URBP 275E  Historic Preservation Planning
URBP 275F  Private Development & Urban Planning

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING
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 240  Environmental Planning
URBP 260  Environmental Planning Topics
ENVS 190  Advanced Environmental Impact Analysis

TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE PLANNING
Students in this specialization 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

URBAN DESIGN
This specialization provides students with knowledge and skills that planners use to enhance the design of the physical environment. Elective courses in this concentration are:

URBP 231  Urban Design in Planning
URBP 232  Urban Design Studio
URBP 248  Computers in Urban Design
URBP 231  Urban Design (3 units)