

Community and Regional Planning (MCRP)

The master of community and regional planning (MCRP) program trains policy-oriented planners for leadership positions in planning and planning-related organizations. The field of planning is concerned with rational and sensitive guidance of community and regional change. Planners are responsible for identifying and clarifying the nature and effect of planning problems, formulating potential solutions to these problems, and assisting in the implementation of alternative policies.

To realize these objectives, the planner must draw on the skills and insights of many professions and disciplines. The planner must have a basic understanding of the cultural, economic, social, political, and physical characteristics of a community.

Entering students should be prepared to become involved in and committed to resolving important social, economic, environmental, political, and cultural problems. Courses in and outside the school provide students with an integrated understanding of planning, public policy, and public management as well as specific skills needed for a chosen professional area.

Oregon is an especially fruitful location in which to study planning. The state has an international reputation as a source of innovative approaches to addressing planning issues.

Students select a set of courses in consultation with their advisors that focus their elective work on an area of special interest. The program has exceptional strengths in sustainable cities and transportation, land use and built environment, access and equity (community development) and environmental planning. In addition, the school's strengths in nonprofit management, local government management, and budget and finance are of interest to many students in the field of planning.

The program has strong ties with other programs on campus. Students often pursue concurrent degrees in planning and environmental studies, landscape architecture, business, economics, geography, international studies, or public administration. See Concurrent Master's Degrees in this section.

Preparation

Students are strongly encouraged to complete a thorough social science undergraduate program including courses in economics, sociology, geography, and history. Work experience, particularly if related to planning, is valuable, as are writing and public speaking skills. Courses in the natural sciences, policy sciences, environmental design, or analytic methods are helpful as background for advanced graduate work in a concentration area of interest to the student.

Students must complete either an advanced undergraduate or a graduate-level introductory course in statistics as a pre- or corequisite to Planning Analysis I (PPPM 613). No credit toward the MCRP degree is allowed for the statistics course. The requirement is waived for students with equivalent courses or work experience. Entering students are urged to satisfy this requirement before enrolling in the program.

Students may file petitions to transfer up to 15 graduate credits taken prior to admission to the planning program.

Careers

Graduates with an MCRP degree find employment in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Graduates work in the public sector at the local, state, regional and federal levels. In the private sector, graduates are typically employed by consulting firms, private developers, and other firms requiring research and analysis skills. Graduates are also employed by such nonprofit organizations as environmental and advocacy groups, community development organizations, and research firms. Positions span a broad variety of sectors including land use, housing, social services, parks, transportation, economic development and natural resources.

Application Procedures

Importance is placed on the student's preference for and ability to undertake self-directed educational activity.

The admissions committee emphasizes the selection of candidates who present clear and specific reasons for choosing to pursue their graduate work in planning at the University of Oregon.

Application Materials

Interested applicants begin the application process by creating an account at https://gradweb.uoregon.edu/online_app/application/guidelines1.asp. The application process includes submission of each of the following components:

1. A résumé summarizing education and professional experience.
2. A statement, organized into four questions related to: interest in Why are studying community and regional planning, interest in the University of Oregon, professional goals, and what you hope to accomplish. There is an optional prompt to share any personal challenges, barriers, or hardships you faced.
3. At least three letters of recommendation from people familiar with the applicant's ability to pursue graduate-level studies in planning unofficial transcripts from all prior undergraduate and graduate institutions in your online application.
4. You must have official transcripts from all colleges or universities where you received a bachelor's degree and all subsequent degrees. Find more information at <https://gradschool.uoregon.edu/admissions/how-to-apply/transcripts>. Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) scores are optional. If submitted, they are considered along with other application materials.
5. Demonstration of English language proficiency. International students should visit <https://gradschool.uoregon.edu/admissions/how-to-apply/english-proficiency> to review the options to demonstrate proficiency.

Applications are accepted beginning late September for admission the following fall term. The priority deadline for receipt of the application to the program is February 1. Applicants are notified of admission decisions in late February. Applicants may be accepted later in spring as space permits.

Program Learning Outcomes

The MCRP Program is accredited by the Planning Accreditation Board (PAB). The program learning outcomes relate to three key areas of knowledge, skills, and values in these eight categories:

- Planning knowledge: Describe and explain the purpose and meaning of planning, planning theories, principles, and practices. Students should be able to synthesize planning knowledge for the purpose of evaluating and describing, explaining, and arguing for different approaches in their future professional practice.
- Application of planning knowledge: Select relevant theory and knowledge to inform planning practice and tailor the application to the appropriate context by working with external clients on real-world projects.
- Substantive knowledge: Illustrate substantive and technical expertise in a specific field of interest.
- Methods: Apply appropriate quantitative and qualitative research methods to collect, analyze, and interpret data relevant to planning, and use the information to make informed decisions and recommendations.
- Communication: Demonstrate ability to communicate with expert and non-expert audiences through written, oral, and graphic methods.
- Teamwork: Collaborate effectively with interdisciplinary teams in planning and implementation processes.
- Ethics: Analyze, reflect, and develop a personal code of ethics or values system related to the ethical principles of the planning profession (AICP Code of Ethics).
- Planning impact: Recognize and assess power structures within institutions and policies that intersect with planning. Develop and test strategies for changing these institutions and policies to lead to more socially, economically, and environmentally just outcomes.

Community and Regional Planning Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Core Courses ¹		
PPPM 611	Introduction to Planning Practice	4
PPPM 612	Legal Issues in Planning	4
PPPM 614	Urban Design Workshop	2
PPPM 615	Foundations of Applied Analysis	4
PPPM 616	Planning Theory and Ethics	4
PPPM 617	History of Planning and Urbanization	4
PPPM 534	Urban Geographic Information Systems	4
PPPM 630	Visual Design for Applied Practice	4
Research Methods ¹		4
Select one of the following:		
PPPM 513	Statistics for Public Decision-Making	
PPPM 520	Practical Surveys for Public Service	
PPPM 521	Qualitative Analysis for Public Decision-Making	
Land Use ¹		4
Select one of the following:		
PPPM 541	Planning for Growth and Housing	
PPPM 547	Development Process	
Participation Processes ¹		4
Select one of the following:		
PPPM 550	Community Organizing	
PPPM 548	Collaboration	
PPPM 647	Designing Community Engagement	
Experiential Learning		

PPPM 623	Professional Development	1
PPPM 663	Professional Development II	1
PPPM 625	Community Planning Workshop	5
PPPM 626	Community Planning Workshop	5
Electives		18
Graduate level courses from following subject codes: PPPM, ARCH, LA, GEOG, EC, ENVIS, PS.		
Total Credits		72

¹ Courses must be taken for a letter grade unless offered Pass/No Pass ONLY.

Restrictions

You may apply no more than:

- 9 credits from PPPM 503.
- 9 credits from PPPM 604.
- 6 total credits from the following courses: PPPM 601, PPPM 605, PPPM 606, and PPPM 609.

Accelerated Masters in Community and Regional Planning

Courses used to fulfill the requirements must be taken for a letter grade and passed with a grade of B- or better.

Code	Title	Credits
Undergraduate 4th Year		
PPPM 611	Introduction to Planning Practice	4
PPPM 612	Legal Issues in Planning	4
PPPM 614	Urban Design Workshop	2
PPPM 617	History of Planning and Urbanization	4
PPPM 630	Visual Design for Applied Practice	4
Summer prior to Master's year		
PPPM 534	Urban Geographic Information Systems	4
MCRP Coursework		
PPPM 616	Planning Theory and Ethics	4
PPPM 623	Professional Development	1
PPPM 625	Community Planning Workshop	5
PPPM 626	Community Planning Workshop	5
PPPM 663	Professional Development II	1
Electives		20
Total Credits		58

Additional Requirements

- 38 credits must be taken at UO.
- **Prerequisite courses.** A grade of A- or higher is required in all 400-level prerequisites to waive graduate level equivalent course in the MCRP. If PPPM graduates have not completed the prerequisites or did not receive an A- or better in those courses, they will be required to take the equivalent graduate course or a similar course (identified by their faculty advisor) at the UO. This may delay their MCRP degree for one to two terms.

Code	Title	Credits
Prerequisite Courses		
To be completed before applying:		
PPPM 205	Introduction to City Planning	4
PPPM 315	Foundations of Applied Analysis	4
To be completed in the 3rd year:		
PPPM 404	Internship: [Topic]	2
PPPM 412	Internship and Professional Development	2
PPPM 434	Urban Geographic Information Systems	4
PPPM 440	Land-Use Planning and Policy	4
PPPM 466	Local Solutions Studio	4
May be completed by end of 4th year:		
Pick one of the following		4
PPPM 413	Statistics for Public Decision-Making	
PPPM 420	Practical Surveys for Public Service	
PPPM 421	Qualitative Analysis for Public Decision-Making	
Select one of the following:		4
PPPM 441	Planning for Growth and Housing	
PPPM 447	Development Process	
Select one of the following:		4
PPPM 448	Collaboration	
PPPM 450	Community Organizing	
PPPM 647	Designing Community Engagement	
Total Credits		36

Restrictions

You may apply no more than:

- 9 credits from PPPM 503.
- 9 credits from PPPM 604.
- 6 total credits from the following courses: PPPM 601, PPPM 605, PPPM 606, and PPPM 609.