

**STUDENT MANUAL**

**School of Planning and Public Affairs**  
The University of Iowa

**2020-21 Academic Year**



## SELECTED DEADLINES

2020-21 Academic Year

August 24--30	Add, drop, or change existing registration on MyUI.
August 28	First semester course waiver requests due.
August 31	Change of Registration Forms must be processed at the Registrar's Service Center beginning today.
September 4	Last day for graduate students to register late, add courses, or change S-U status.
September 8	\$100 late registration fee charge in affect. Must have dean's approval to register.
October 1	Summer <b>internship papers</b> due to advisor for course credit in the fall semester.
October 1	Summer <b>internship evaluation</b> forms with employer's signature due to administrative services coordinator for fall credit.
October 2	Deadline for degree applications for December graduation.
October 13	Plans of Study Summary Form and final exam requests for Dec. graduates due in Graduate College.
November 1	<b>Plan of Study/MyPlan</b> and <b>Progress Self-Evaluation</b> must have been approved by advisor
November 1	Deadline for first-year students to submit Application for <b>Transportation Certificate</b> .
November 9-20	Spring early registration
November 10	Last day for graduate students to withdraw or drop courses. Last day to submit work to faculty for removal of incompletes.
November 30	All classes move to remote instruction
November 30	Final exam reports due in Graduate College.
December 7	Single thesis deposit due in Graduate College.
December 18	Deadline for advisors to put signed summer internship evaluations into the student electronic files.
January 19-25	Add, drop, or change existing registration on MyUI.
January 26	Change of Registration Forms must be processed at the Registrar's Service Center beginning today.
February 1	Fall and summer semester <b>internship papers</b> due to advisor for credit in the spring semester.
February 1	Fall and summer <b>internship evaluation</b> forms with employer's signature due to administrative services coordinator for spring credit.
February 1	Last day for graduate students to register late, add courses, or change S-U status.
February 2	\$100 late registration fee charge in affect. Must have dean's approval to register.
February 26	Deadline for degree applications for May graduation.
February 26	Deadline for second-year students to submit Transportation Certificate Completion form.
February 26	Two-page student paper for oral exam due to examining panel
March 1-12	Final oral examinations for May graduates.
March 9	Plans of Study Summary Form and final exam requests for May graduates due in Graduate College.
April 1	<b>Plan of Study/MyPlan</b> and <b>Progress Self-Evaluation</b> must have been approved by advisor (for students who began in Spring semester).
April 1	Deadline for advisors to put signed Fall and summer internship evaluations into the student's file
April 8-12	Fall early registration
April 13	Last day for graduate students to withdraw or drop courses. Last day to submit work to faculty for removal of incompletes.
April 15	Spring semester and academic year <b>internship papers</b> due to advisor (for May graduation).
April 15	Spring semester and academic year <b>internship evaluation</b> forms with employer's signature due to administrative services coordinator for spring credit.
April 20	Final exam reports due in Graduate College.
April 27	Single thesis deposit due in Graduate College.
May 7	Deadline for advisors to put signed spring semester and academic year internship evaluations into the student files.
May 14	Graduate College Commencement - 7:00 p.m. at Carver Hawkeye Arena



## PREFACE

The purpose of this student manual is to provide answers to questions that could arise during a student's period of study in The School of Planning and Public Affairs at the University of Iowa. An attempt has been made to include information on a wide range of student concerns and to provide a detailed explanation of program requirements and applicable policies. This manual should be consulted whenever questions on these matters arise.

The school's faculty hope this manual will help allay any doubts and prevent possible misconceptions about students' obligations and rights. Any questions not answered by the manual should be referred to a student's advisor or to the director. The faculty stand ready to assist in any way we can.

### EFFECTIVE DATE OF POLICIES

The policies contained in this manual are effective and binding for all students in the school who commence their studies during the 2020-21 academic year. Students who enrolled in a prior year are normally bound by the policies that were in effect at the time they entered the program. They should refer to the **Student Manual** for the year they entered the program, during their entire period of enrollment. All relevant versions of the Student Manual are available on the SPPA website under [Student Resources](#).

It is the school's position that when changes in policies involving students are made, students already enrolled have the option to continue under the previous policies or to follow the new ones. Such policies include those pertaining to areas of concentration, final examinations, theses, and academic performance. Any questions about which policies are applicable, or what options exist for a student entering the school at any specific time, should be addressed to the student's advisor or to the director.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>SELECTED DEADLINES .....</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>PREFACE.....</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE OF POLICIES .....</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS.....</b>	<b>II</b>
<b>DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION .....</b>	<b>5</b>
NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT .....	5
UNIVERSITY OF IOWA POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS.....	5
BRINGING A COMPLAINT .....	5
<b>POLICY ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL MISCONDUCT .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>SCHOOL OF PLANNING AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS MISSION STATEMENT .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>ORIENTATION, PLAN OF STUDY/MYPLAN AND ADVISING .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>BEST PRACTICES FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS AND THEIR ADVISORS.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>CREDIT FOR COURSES TAKEN PRIOR TO ENROLLMENT .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>UNDERGRADUATE COURSES TAKEN FOR GRADUATE CREDIT .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>FINAL EXAMINATION.....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>GRADING AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE .....</b>	<b>21</b>
GRADING.....	21
MINIMUM GRADES .....	21
INCOMPLETE COURSES .....	21
COMMITTEE ON PROGRESS .....	22
CONDITIONAL STATUS .....	22
<b>ASSISTANTSHIPS .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>JIM HARRIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD.....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM.....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>STUDENT APPEALS PROCEDURE.....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>COPING WITH GRADUATE STUDY .....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>COMPUTER FACILITIES.....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>STUDENT USE OF EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES AND DRAFTING ROOM.....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>EVALUATIONS OF COURSES BY STUDENTS.....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>EXIT SURVEY.....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>SPPA SUPPORT FOR STUDENT TRAVEL.....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>UI SOURCES OF SUPPORT FOR TRAVEL.....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>SCHOOL OF PLANNING AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS STUDENT ASSOCIATION.....</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES .....</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>POLICY ON SMOKING.....</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>PERSONAL EFFECTS .....</b>	<b>40</b>

<b>MASTER OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING.....</b>	<b>41</b>
URP VISION/MISSION STATEMENT .....	42
THE PLANNING PROGRAM.....	43
DEGREE OBJECTIVE, GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS, AND CURRICULUM .....	44
REQUIRED COURSES .....	45
<i>Sequence of Required Courses.....</i>	<i>45</i>
<i>Waiver of Core Course Requirements .....</i>	<i>46</i>
<i>Grades in Required Courses.....</i>	<i>46</i>
ELECTIVES OUTSIDE OF AREAS OF CONCENTRATION .....	48
AREAS OF CONCENTRATION.....	49
<i>Economic Development .....</i>	<i>50</i>
<i>Geographic Information Systems.....</i>	<i>51</i>
<i>Housing and Community Development.....</i>	<i>52</i>
<i>Land Use and Environmental Planning.....</i>	<i>53</i>
<i>Transportation .....</i>	<i>55</i>
COMBINED-DEGREE PROGRAMS .....	57
GRADUATE-TO-GRADUATE DEGREES .....	59
<i>Law .....</i>	<i>59</i>
<i>Sustainable Water Development.....</i>	<i>62</i>
<i>Social Work.....</i>	<i>64</i>
<i>Higher Education and Student Affairs .....</i>	<i>65</i>
<i>Occupational and Environmental Health .....</i>	<i>67</i>
UNDERGRADUATE-TO-GRADUATE (U2G) DEGREES .....	68
<i>Civil and Environmental Engineering .....</i>	<i>68</i>
<i>Environmental Policy and Planning.....</i>	<i>70</i>
FIELD PROBLEMS .....	72
THESIS .....	74
MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECT .....	76
ESSENTIAL QUALITIES FOR A PLANNER .....	78
CAREER ASSISTANCE .....	80
INTERNSHIPS.....	82
PRACTICUM.....	84
<i>Practicum for Those in Combined Program with Social Work .....</i>	<i>85</i>
AICP OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD .....	86

<b>MASTER OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS .....</b>	<b>87</b>
MASTER OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS VISION/MISSION STATEMENT .....	88
THE MPA PROGRAM .....	89
DEGREE OBJECTIVE, GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS, AND CURRICULUM .....	91
REQUIRED COURSES .....	92
<i>Required Courses</i> .....	92
<i>Core Curriculum</i> .....	92
<i>Waiver of Core Course Requirements</i> .....	93
<i>Grades in Required Courses</i> .....	93
AREAS OF CONCENTRATION.....	94
<i>Public and Nonprofit Management</i> .....	95
<i>Public Policy</i> .....	96
COMBINED DEGREE PROGRAMS.....	98
<i>Graduate-to-graduate options with other disciplines</i> .....	98
CAPSTONE .....	99
CAREER ASSISTANCE .....	101
INTERNSHIPS.....	103



## DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

### Nondiscrimination Statement

The University of Iowa prohibits discrimination in employment, educational programs, and activities on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy, disability, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran, service in the U.S. military, sexual orientation, gender identity, associational preferences, or any other classification that deprives the person of consideration as an individual. The university also affirms its commitment to providing equal opportunities and equal access to university facilities. For additional information on nondiscrimination policies, contact the Director, Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, the University of Iowa, 202 Jessup Hall, Iowa City, IA 52242-1316, 319-335-0705 (voice), 319-335-0697 (TDD), [diversity@uiowa.edu](mailto:diversity@uiowa.edu).

### University of Iowa Policy on Human Rights

*The University of Iowa brings together in common pursuit of its educational goals persons of many nations, races, and creeds. The University is guided by the precepts that in no aspect of its programs shall there be differences in the treatment of persons because of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy, disability, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran, service in the U.S. military, sexual orientation, gender identity, associational preferences, or any other classification that deprives the person of consideration as an individual, and that equal opportunity and access to facilities shall be available to all. These principles are expected to be observed in the internal policies and practices of the University; specifically in the admission, housing, and education of students; in policies governing programs of extracurricular life and activities; and in the employment of faculty and staff personnel. Consistent with state and federal law, reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities and to accommodate religious practices. The University shall work cooperatively with the community in furthering these principles. For additional information on nondiscrimination policies, contact the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity (EOD), The University of Iowa, 202 Jessup Hall, the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, 52242-1316; telephone (319) 335-0705.*

### Bringing a Complaint

**If you believe you have been discriminated against in violation of the University's policy on human rights <https://opsmanual.uiowa.edu/community-policies/human-rights#3.1> ) you have three options:**

1. Contact the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at <https://diversity.uiowa.edu/discrimination-complaint-procedures> or
2. Contact the Office of the Ombudsperson at <https://ombudsperson.org.uiowa.edu/> or
3. Contact the Campus Inclusion Team at <https://inclusionteam.uiowa.edu/about/>

For Option 1, an individual has the option of filing an informal or a formal complaint. If informal, ODEI attempts to reach a resolution, but does not reveal the identity of the complainant to the individual accused of discrimination. No action may be taken against the accused party. A formal complaint entails an investigation by the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity and the accused party is informed of the allegation and the identity of the complainant. If the complaint is upheld, the University may sanction the accused party.

For Option 2, the Ombudsperson provides a confidential (with limited exceptions) resource to help an individual problem solve as well as to mediate, if both parties agree to mediation. The Ombudsperson office essentially provides an additional, informal source of assistance.

Finally, Option 3 provides individuals with an opportunity to file a report on an incident of discrimination. Members of the Campus Inclusion Team will advise the individual and make suggestions and referrals. It does not conduct investigations or impose discipline.

Viewed as a whole, Option 1 has both an informal and a formal option, while Options 2 and 3 are strictly informal. Because Option 1 has a formal option, it also has the authority to lead to a sanctioning while the other two options do not.

## POLICY ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

The university community seeks to eliminate sexual harassment and sexual misconduct through education and accountability. Everyone is encouraged to report concerns or make complaints, including third parties when the respondent is a member of the university community or a visitor. The university is committed to stopping sexual harassment and sexual misconduct, preventing its recurrence, eliminating any hostile environment, and remedying its discriminatory effects. In accordance with regulatory requirements and institutional values, this policy defines expectations for the university community and establishes mechanisms for determining when those expectations have been violated.

Several University of Iowa policies can come into play when there is a complaint of sexual misconduct, dating/domestic violence, and/or stalking. It is not unusual that someone might make a complaint or simply inquire about making a complaint without understanding the policies involved. To review the 2020 interim Policy on Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct, please see <https://osmrc.uiowa.edu/interim-policy-sexual-harassment-and-sexual-misconduct>. Guidelines for involved parties are also on this page.

The Office of the Sexual Misconduct Response Coordinator (OSMRC) coordinates the university's response to reports of sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking when those reports involve members of or visitors to the university community. Formal complaints about sexual misconduct by University students, faculty, or staff should be made to the [UI Office of the Sexual Misconduct Response Coordinator](#). This person can assist in locating resources. You are not alone in facing these matters. You can find numerous ways to [access support](#) on their website. For assistance in making a report during business hours, contact the Office of Sexual Misconduct Response Coordinator at 319-335-6200.

The University and the school have established procedures to respond to questions, complaints, or concerns. Research suggests that impacted parties who work with a counselor or advocate heal more quickly and experience less postsecondary trauma. The [Resource and Referral Guide](#), with options for impacted parties, is available in English, Mandarin and Arabic. Students who would like to discuss their situations in a private environment, and share or seek information about a sexual misconduct issue *without* making a formal complaint should contact one of the [confidential](#) resources below.

- Rape Victim Advocacy Program, 24-hour line 335-6000, (for faculty, staff, or students)
- Monsoon Asian and Pacific Islanders in Solidarity, answered 24 hours 515-288-0881 (for faculty, staff, or students)
- Domestic Violence Intervention Program, 24-hour line 800-373-1043 (for faculty, staff, or students)
- Nisaa African Family Service, 338-7617 (for faculty, staff, or students)
- Women's Resource and Action Center, 335-1486 (for faculty, staff, or students)
- University Counseling Service, 335-7294 (for students)
- Office of the Ombudsperson, 335-3608 (for faculty, staff, or students)
- Faculty and Staff Services, Employee Assistance Program, 335-2085 (for faculty or staff)

## COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES

All students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the university's plan for campus health and distancing practices (<https://coronavirus.uiowa.edu/students-and-parents>). [Detailed information for graduate students can be found at https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/coronavirus/faqs](https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/coronavirus/faqs)

Students are required to take a training for making the transition to a return to campus. This course will be available on ICON beginning Monday, Aug. 3. In order for students to be prepared to return to campus for the fall semester, the deadline for course completion will be Friday, Aug. 21. The course takes 30 to 45 minutes to complete and can be completed over multiple sessions.

Comprehensive information, including updates, can be found at <https://coronavirus.uiowa.edu/>

A July 8, 2020 webinar on the student experience this fall in the pandemic can be found at <https://coronavirus.uiowa.edu/news/2020/07/virtual-campus-update-student-experience-july-8>

The most recent message to students from the university was sent on July 29 and can be found at <https://coronavirus.uiowa.edu/news/2020/07/campus-update-message-hawkeye-students-and-families-mental-health-panel-reminder>

Resources for information on the pandemic are posted on the university's coronavirus website and are shown below:

### Updates on COVID-19

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)

[Iowa Department of Public Health \(IDPH\)](#)

### 24/7 COVID-19 Helpline from UI Hospitals & Clinics

[319-384-8819](tel:319-384-8819)

### Student Health Nurseline

[319-335-9704](tel:319-335-9704)

### UI Hospitals & Clinics appointment questions

[800-777-8442](tel:800-777-8442) (toll free) or send a message through [MyChart](#)

### Travel Advisories

[CDC](#) and [U.S. Department of State](#)

### UI Hospitals & Clinics

[COVID-19 Preparedness](#)

### University Counseling Service

[319-335-7294](tel:319-335-7294)

### UI Employee Assistance Program

[319-335-2085](tel:319-335-2085)

News of a widespread public health concern like COVID-19 can cause feelings of uncertainty and anxiety. As COVID-19 spreads, it not only creates stress but can add to existing anxieties. See section on Coping with Graduate Study for support resources. Also, the services shown above can be of help.

### Basic requirements

- Unless otherwise indicated, applicable face coverings (cloth covering, disposable or cloth mask, face shield) must be worn by all building occupants unless they are alone in a private office. They must be worn in all face to face classes as well as during any field trips, such as in Field Problems.
- Shared spaces should allow for 6 feet (or 2 meters) of social distancing. In spaces where this is not feasible, additional barriers (plexiglass, cubicle walls) should be installed.
- Restrooms will be configured to support increased hand washing as well as adequate fixture count to support occupancy and code requirements. Restrooms will be configured to allow for social distancing, with appropriate signage.
- Students should use hand sanitizer whenever they touch any surfaces in Jessup Hall (or anywhere else for that matter).
- Surfaces or equipment used by the general public (example, ITC countertops, keyboards and chairs, and meeting tables and chairs) will be cleaned **by the user after each use**.
- Items such as keys, pens and pencils should be sanitized before handing them to others.

### Kitchen area

- Communal areas will be reorganized to permit 6 feet of separation and the use of break rooms/areas should be minimized.
- Everyone accessing shared spaces in campus buildings (e.g. hallways, staircases, restrooms, breakrooms) must follow Facilities Management and building-specific guidelines for procedures and protocol. This includes wiping down handles to the coffee maker, refrigerator, microwave, sink, toaster, toaster oven and hot water pot after each use.
- Those using the kitchen should stagger their use to avoid congregating in the area.
- Everyone provides their own glasses, plates, silverware, storage containers, etc. There will be no shared items in the kitchen area.
- Personal eating and drinking utensils are to be either taken home for washing (preferred) or disposed of after use. Hot water in Jessup Hall does not reach a temperature to sterilize.

### ITC and library

- Students will sanitize all computer keyboards, mice, and other related surfaces both before and after use. Students should follow any additional guidelines distributed by ITS.
- Students are responsible for maintaining a distance of 6 feet when using computers/printers in the ITC.

### Student desks

- Cleaning and surface disinfecting for individually occupied, unit-assigned spaces (e.g., office suites, cubicles, student drafting tables) is required of individual occupants.
- Students are expected to wipe down their desks before using them and after they are done

### Health Response

- Anyone who is worried about potential exposure should first call health care professionals so they can assess symptoms and risk factors and help you make a plan. Do not walk in to QuickCare, Student Health, any UI Health Care clinic, the State Hygienic Lab, or any emergency room.
- Any students who are concerned they may have been exposed to the virus should **CALL** the [Student Health Nurseline](#) prior to visiting in person. They are also prepared to field questions from students and parents via the student health email.
- The UI strives to be a welcoming and inclusive campus, and it is important to avoid assumptions about who may or may not be carrying the virus based on their identity.

### Staying Informed

- Because the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve rapidly, it is important that all students, faculty, and staff **check their UI email daily**.
- Emails from the university or your college or unit, along with the [coronavirus.uiowa.edu website](https://coronavirus.uiowa.edu), are the best ways to stay informed.

**SCHOOL OF PLANNING AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS**  
**MISSION STATEMENT**

The School of Planning and Public Affairs' vision is to identify solutions and prepare leaders for the fulfillment of a just, equitable, prosperous, and sustainable world.

## ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The University of Iowa is committed to equality of educational opportunity for all students. The Office of Student Disability Services (SDS) facilitates academic accommodations and services for students with disabilities so that these students have equal access to university programs and activities and can participate fully in all aspects of university life.

SDS staff work with students currently enrolled at the university as well as with students who have recently decided to come to the university. In order to qualify for services, a student must provide general information as well as disability documentation from a healthcare professional. SDS reviews documentation to determine if a student has a qualifying disability and identifies reasonable accommodations based on functional limitations. Through academic and other accommodations, SDS helps level the academic playing field for qualified students with disabilities. SDS shares the faculty's commitment to maintaining academic standards for all students, with and without disabilities, from admissions through graduation. The office does not endorse giving students with disabilities a competitive advantage.

Some possible accommodations include:

- Alternative Exam Service
- Alternative Media Services
- Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing

If you believe you require an accommodation, during the first week of classes you should contact SDS and fill out the SDS Application for approval of your accommodation. Once it is approved you will have an SDS intake appointment and the approved accommodations will be outlined. Letters requesting these accommodations for specific classes can be completed by you and your Accommodations Coordinator. Each semester you will need to contact SDS to request your Letter of Accommodations (LOA). You will take this letter to the instructor for each class for which you will use accommodations and work with the instructor to determine how the accommodation will be provided.

The SDS office is in the lower level of Burge Hall. More information can be found on their website at <http://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu/>



## ORIENTATION, PLAN OF STUDY/MYPLAN AND ADVISING

### Orientation

Just before the beginning of classes, the school holds an orientation session with new students in the masters' programs. Curriculum structure, academic progress, course waivers, and other general requirements are explained. In addition, students are given instructions on the use of a variety of departmental facilities, and their responsibilities are explained regarding the student room, known as the drafting room.

### Plan of Study/MyPlan

Each student is to develop and review with their advisor a **two-year plan of study** (referred to in MyUI as MyPlan) during their first semester in the school, using the process described below. The purpose of the plan of study/MyPlan is to ensure that the student satisfactorily completes all course requirements for graduation, including core courses and courses in an area of concentration (see your program's section on "Areas of Concentration"). MyPlan multi-semester plans of study are to be approved by advisors before becoming effective. This will be done directly on MAUI (the University's electronic repository for faculty to record student advising and related files) by the advisor, through taking a "snapshot" of the reviewed and agreed upon plan of study/MyPlan. "Snapshots" will be automatically stored under Advising Notes.

Video tutorials to supplement the instructions below for Sample Plan, MyPlan and Schedule Builder are available at <https://myui.uiowa.edu/my-ui/help/registration/academic-planning.page>.

Students may view/edit their plan and view advising notes in MyUI's Student Information section, through Advising Notes/Files.

MyUI serves as a hub for students to access several of the UI systems and tools they use most. A **Sample Plan** of study, showing requirements for the student's program, is uploaded for them in MyUI at the beginning of their first semester, found under Student Information, Advising. Planning students will find a non-thesis and thesis version. A Sample Plan is not yet available for public affairs students who should create and customize their Sample Plan according to the required core course, areas of concentration and electives in the student manual.

The Sample Plan is only an outline of the recommended coursework and sequence and should be exported into **MyPlan**. MyPlan is a multi-semester document, which must be created and customized as part of the student's official record. The student must include courses to complete at least one area of concentration. The student's advisor will be able to view MyPlans, but only the student is able to create, edit and save them.

Each semester, when the next semester's courses are available in MyUI, the student can export their desired courses from MyPlan into **Schedule Builder**. Schedule Builder is an unofficial document used as a road map for scheduling. Versions of Schedule Builder combinations can be saved, allowing the student to use one-click registration.

Before a student may register for the next semester, their MyPlan should be revised if necessary and they must meet with their advisor. Obtaining the advisor's approval serves as permission for course registration each semester. After the student's first semester, their course registration date and time can be found on MyUI on the Home tab. All previous versions of MyPlan will remain as part of the student's advising record (saved as "snapshots"). Revisions are subject to the same approval process. Students are encouraged to create sample plans in Schedule Builder ahead of all semesters to assist the school in planning for course offerings.

Students should be mindful that Sample Plans and MyPlan do not calculate if the student has met requirements for graduation.

### **Advising and Progress Self-Evaluation**

New students are assigned faculty advisors based on their stated areas of interest and advisors' availability. Students are asked to meet with their advisors during the first two weeks of the semester to introduce themselves, review class schedules, and make certain that each student understands school requirements. Students with combined degree program will be advised by the school's director.

The student is to reflect on their academic progress and provide a one-page evaluation of their first semester's experience by November 1st (for students whose first semester is a fall semester)<sup>1</sup>. That evaluation is to be submitted to the student's advisor for placement in the Advising section of the student's electronic record (MyUI for students and MAUI for faculty). Before the advisor authorizes registration for the spring semester, the advisor and student are to meet to discuss the statement and the preparation of a two-year plan of study/MyPlan (previously created on MyUI). Once a completed plan of study/MyPlan is reviewed by the student with the advisor, who is to take a snapshot of that plan, the advisor is to authorize the student to register for the spring semester.

Before April 1<sup>st</sup>, the student should provide a second one-page reflective evaluation of his/her progress and hold another meeting with the advisor. This second student evaluation is to be deposited on MyUI/MAUI, registration authorized, and any necessary revisions to the plan of study/MyPlan saved on MyUI/MAUI. In this meeting with his/her advisor, the student is to be reminded of internship requirements, and if the student knows they are taking an internship, the internship [approval form](#) should be approved at this time by the advisor and placed on MAUI. See your program's "Internship" section for details on internship requirements.

By November 1st in the third semester of study, a third and final evaluation of academic progress should be provided by the student, a discussion held with the advisor (to include calculations to ensure all graduation requirements will be met and that final-semester registration is consistent with the plan of study/MyPlan), and, if necessary, a revised plan of study/MyPlan agreed to by the advisor and an approved snapshot saved in MyUI/MAUI. Progress towards passing the final examination should be discussed at this time.

No further student progress self-evaluation is needed for students in a two-year plan of study/MyPlan. The exit survey will serve as a final evaluation. Students in combined programs or in programs of study extending beyond two years should consult with their advisor to determine whether additional student evaluations are needed.

### **Change of Advisor**

Under some situations, it may be appropriate for a student to change advisors. Students may initiate the procedure for changing advisors by discussing the proposed change with the existing and the proposed advisor, and then submitting a Change of Advisor form (available on the URP website) to the director for approval. Students should not hesitate to request a change if they feel that doing so will enhance their educational experience.

<sup>1</sup> Students who start their planning studies during a spring semester should submit their evaluations by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

## BEST PRACTICES FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS AND THEIR ADVISORS

The progress, development and success of a graduate student hinges on the commitment of both the student and the advisor. Basic principles of best practices in mentoring and graduate student life appear in the two lists that follow. Graduate students should be aware of what is necessary for their success and their advisors likewise should be aware of practices that promote their students' best interest.

### Expectations of Graduate Students

1. A graduate student has the **primary responsibility for successful completion of their degree**. A graduate student should be committed to their graduate education and should demonstrate this by efforts in the classroom and in research. A graduate student is expected to maintain a high level of professionalism, self-motivation, engagement, excellence, scholarly curiosity, and ethical standards.
2. A graduate student should **meet regularly with the advisor** and provide updates on the progress and results of ongoing research.
3. A graduate student should be **knowledgeable of the policies and requirements of the graduate program, the graduate college, and the institution**. The student should strive to meet these requirements, including teaching responsibilities.
4. A graduate student should **contribute to maintaining an environment that is intellectually stimulating, emotionally supportive, safe, and free of harassment and discrimination**.
5. A graduate student should **acknowledge primary responsibility to develop a career following the completion of the degree**. The student should seek guidance from available resources, including the advisor, career services coordinator, and any other resources.
6. A graduate student should **comply with all institutional policies, including academic program milestones**. The student should comply with both the letter and spirit of all best practices and policies of the institution.

### Expectations of Advisors

1. The advisor should be **committed to the education and training of the graduate student as a future member of the planning community**.
2. The advisor should **meet one-on-one with the student on a regular basis**.
3. The advisor should be **knowledgeable of the requirements and deadlines of their graduate program(s) as well as those of the institution**, including teaching requirements and human resources guidelines. The advisor should guide the student in these areas to ensure academic and professional success.
4. The advisor should **encourage the graduate student to attend professional meetings**.
5. The advisor should **provide an environment for their graduate students that is intellectually stimulating, emotionally supportive, safe, and free of harassment and discrimination**.

6. The advisor should **not require the graduate student to perform tasks unrelated to their academic and professional development.**
7. The advisor **should provide career advice and assist in finding a position** for the graduate student following the student's graduation. The advisor should provide honest letters of recommendation and be accessible for advice and feedback on career goals.

## CREDIT FOR COURSES TAKEN PRIOR TO ENROLLMENT

### Minimum Requirements

Credit for courses taken prior to admission to Iowa's School of Planning and Public Affairs may be allowed to apply toward their program's requirement of 50 s.h. for planning and 42 s.h. for public affairs under the following conditions:

1. An individual must have been classified as a student within a graduate college during the semester(s) in which he/she was enrolled in the requested "transfer" courses.
2. The courses are evaluated as graduate-level classes. The Office of Graduate Admissions will make this determination for all external transcripts.
3. They were not part of the requirements for any degree previously completed, or currently in progress, with the exception of courses taken to meet the requirements of formal combined-degree programs with our school.
4. Their subject area is closely related to that of school courses.
5. SPPA will use no more than 15 graduate semester hours toward a student's plan of study/MyPlan that were completed prior to SPPA admission.
6. Courses older than ten years are inadmissible for credit.
7. All other Graduate College rules are complied with, including the minimum of 60 hours for two master's degrees. (See Part I, section X. G.: <http://www.grad.uiowa.edu/graduate-college-manual>)

### Student Obligation

A student who wishes to transfer course credits has the obligation of presenting course syllabi, reading lists, and other supportive materials as necessary to demonstrate that any course for which credit is sought is germane to the degree offered by SPPA, and comparable in rigor to courses taught at Iowa.

### Timing

Following admission into SPPA, but before the beginning of the first semester of classes, students requesting credit for courses taken elsewhere should present their request, with supporting data, to the director. Timing of the request is especially important if the credits applied for, and any courses to be waived, would affect the student's first-year plan of study/MyPlan.

However, students already in residence can ask the faculty to allow credit for courses taken previously. The student is to submit the required supporting documentation to the advisor, rather than to the director. After discussion with the student, the advisor will present the student's request to the faculty. The decision of the faculty is final.

It is important for students to understand that credits allowed for work done elsewhere (and waivers of specific courses -- see "[Waiver of Core Course Requirements](#)"), are allowed only upon approval; under no circumstances should a student alter their plan of study/MyPlan in anticipation that credits will be allowed by the faculty before such determination is made.

## **Courses Taken at The University of Iowa**

If a student classified as an undergraduate takes graduate courses in the school (an unusual but possible circumstance), these courses cannot count as graduate credits if the student is later admitted to the school. The school will normally waive the requirement to take those specific courses (see “[Waiver of Core Course Requirements](#)”), but the number of semester hours needed to graduate will not be reduced. This policy also applies to a student who already has a bachelor's degree, if he or she completes the courses while registered as an undergraduate.

A student who is classified as a Special Student in the **Graduate College** may take up to six semester hours of school coursework for graduate credit. If a Special Student is later accepted into the school, courses taken in SPPA as a Special Student will count toward the required number of semester hours. Courses taken when a person is enrolled as a Special Student in the **College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**, however, cannot be applied for graduate credit.

If a student in another graduate-level college at Iowa (i.e., Law) takes courses in planning prior to admission to a combined-degree program involving that other college and planning, those semester hours will be counted. They will be counted as transfer credits rather than academic residence credits. The student must still complete a minimum of 24 hours of academic residence credit after admission to planning. Due to the number of hours required in the various combined-degree programs, it is rare that this limitation will constitute a problem.

## UNDERGRADUATE COURSES TAKEN FOR GRADUATE CREDIT

Graduate students in the MS degree in planning at The University of Iowa may enroll in and receive graduate credit towards their graduate degrees for a limited number of upper-division undergraduate courses. (These are defined as 3000-4999-level courses.)

For planning students to receive graduate credit for 3000-4999-level courses in their plan of study/MyPlan, those courses must satisfy both of the following criteria:

1. A substantial portion of the material covered in the 3000-4999-level course is not available through a graduate-level course offered in our school, and;
2. The course must require graduate-level work. For example, there must be additional course requirements for graduate students such as papers and projects, or the course may be designed primarily for graduate students but is listed as a 3000-4999-level course to permit the enrollment of upper-division undergraduates.

A maximum of six hours of **non-URP** 3000-4999-level courses may be applied towards the degree. Again, these need to be approved by your advisor. Students may petition the faculty to be allowed to take more than six hours in exceptional circumstances.

Because the MPA program is an interdisciplinary degree, students in that program are not restricted in taking 3000 and 4000 level classes. Nevertheless, item 2 above applies to any course taken at this level—additional course work such as papers or projects must be undertaken.

**Please note:** The URP level courses listed in the student handbook have already been pre-approved. You do not have to receive approval from your advisor for those.

**Also note:** The following 3000-4999 level courses do not count as graduate credit:

- URP:3001 Planning Livable Cities
- URP:3350 Transportation Economics
- URP:3134 Regional and Urban Economics
- URP:4752 Eight Generational Planning: Envisioning Cities for Year 2228

## FINAL EXAMINATION

The school requires that a final examination be administered to each graduate student prior to receiving a degree.

For non-thesis students, the final examination builds upon the Field Problems and Capstone group project experience in which students apply what they have learned in core courses to real world problem with a client such as a planning department, community organization, or a public agency (for more information, please see the Field Problems or Capstone section of this document). There are two parts to the final exam, oral and written. If a student passes the first part (oral), he or she passes the final exam and does not have to take the written portion. If the student does not pass the oral portion, the written test is taken a few weeks later, before the Graduate College's deadline for final exam reports. If the student passes the written portion, then the student is deemed to have passed the final examination.

In the final examination, students will be asked specific questions requiring demonstration of how knowledge obtained in the core courses was applied to the group's work performed in Field Problems or Captstone. The purpose of the examination, therefore, is to ascertain the ability of students to effectively and intelligently apply knowledge, skills, and abilities developed in the core courses to an actual real-world problem. **Overall, the purpose of the final exam is to measure the student's ability to not only practice good planning, public policy analysis, or public management but also to reflect on one's practice in the context of critical theories and methods featured in the core curriculum.**

At the beginning of the fall semester the school will issue to spring graduating students a set of study or preparatory questions.

The oral part of the final examination will be administered to each non-thesis student in the two weeks prior to Spring Break and prior to the Graduate College's deadline for receiving final exam reports, which is typically the second week of April. One week prior to the oral exam date, each candidate for the degree must submit to the examining panel a two-page paper that describes the specific contributions she or he made to the Field Problems or Capstone project.

If a written exam is necessary, the student should arrange the exam time with their examining panel being mindful of the Graduate College's deadlines for graduating that same semester. If a student does not take the written portion of the exam prior to the Graduate College deadline for final examinations, the student shall be failed on the basis of their oral examination.

Each student will be examined by an examining panel of three faculty members named by the school's director. All of the members must be tenured or tenure-track faculty in the school. The faculty committee will remain the same for both the written and oral parts.

Consistent with Graduate College requirements, members of the evaluating panel will evaluate each examination as either satisfactory or unsatisfactory and two votes for an unsatisfactory performance on the examination will result in failing the oral portion of the final examination. A report of the outcome of the final examination (including the oral portion and, if taken, the written portion) is due in the Graduate College no later than 48 hours after the examination, and by the deadline date established by the Graduate College.

If a student fails the final examination (both oral and written), he or she is entitled to one retake. Under Graduate College rules the retake cannot be taken until a subsequent semester. Students must be registered in the semester in which they graduate, so extra tuition/fees would apply to delayed graduations. The retake may be written or oral (not both). If the student fails the retake, s/he is dismissed from the program. For the retake, a new committee will consist of the chair of the first committee plus two faculty members who did not serve on the first committee. They will be appointed by the director. The retake exam must be taken no later than 12 months after the first exam.



## GRADING AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

### Grading

The school utilizes a grading system that includes pluses and minuses. The school GPA is calculated using grades for all courses taken at the University of Iowa that **can** be applied to the student's plan of study/MyPlan for their degree, **regardless of whether they exceed what courses are needed to complete the degree**. The school GPA is used in making financial aid awards and in determining academic performance for meeting the 3.0 grade point requirement for graduation.

The plus/minus system is translated into grade points according to the policy in effect for the University, as follows:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Grade Points</u>
A+	4.33
A	4.00
A-	3.67
B+	3.33
B	3.00
B-	2.67
C+	2.33
C	2.00
C-	1.67
D+	1.33
D	1.00
D-	0.67
F	0.0

The school GPA may differ from the official GPA because the school GPA only includes courses on the university transcript that **can** be applied to the URP or MPA degree. In those cases when a student has re-taken a required or concentration course, the second course grade will replace the first grade and will be used in computing the school GPA.

In core classes, the maximum grade is an A. Also in core classes, A's and A minuses are limited to no more than 50 percent of the class; in non-core classes, A pluses are highly restricted and it is recommended to instructors that there be no more than 50 percent A's and A minuses.

### Minimum Grades

In order to receive credit towards graduation, students must earn a minimum of a B- in core, capstone and concentration classes. In other classes, students must earn a minimum grade of a C-.

### Incomplete Courses

Students should make every effort to complete their coursework during the semester of registration. Occasionally, however, students find it necessary to take an incomplete in a course. The

Office of the Registrar's policy is that an incomplete will automatically be converted to an "F" at the end of the next full semester (winter session excluded), even if the student does not enroll after the session the "I" was posted. The exact date of the conversion each semester is determined by the Office of the Registrar; it normally is when transcripts are run at the end of the following semester.

To change a grade that has become an "F," approval by the instructor, the school director, and the collegiate dean is required. It is the school's policy that only in exceptional cases will grade changes be approved at this point. Therefore, a student should **not** anticipate that an incomplete removed after the Registrar's deadline will be assigned a grade other than "F." A need to refine work is not, in and of itself, a sufficient basis for the instructor to accept the work after the grade has converted to an "F."

One final point: it is unwise to submit work required to remove an incomplete just prior to the Registrar's deadline. If the instructor believes that revisions or additions to this work are necessary, a student could miss the deadline. Sufficient time for review and grading should be allowed, and extra burdens should not be placed on instructors at busy periods.

### **Committee on Progress**

Student progress is monitored by the faculty. One indication of unsatisfactory progress toward completion is a failure to maintain a program GPA of 3.0. Note this is above the Graduate College's standard of 2.75, below which a student is considered to be on academic probation by the Graduate College. The program GPA is derived from all courses taken at the University of Iowa which **can** be applied to the student's plan of study/MyPlan, **regardless of whether they exceed what courses are needed to complete the degree.** (The student should be aware that incomplete grades, while not entering into the computation of the grade point average, do not indicate successful completion of the required 50 units.)

A student who does not show normal progress toward the degree, or whose GPA as defined above is less than 3.0, is automatically placed in a status of Official Concern and a Committee on Progress is convened. The Committee on Progress is composed of the student's academic advisor and one other faculty member appointed by the director. Its task is to assist the student in overcoming academic problems. The student is allowed one semester in which to bring their GPA (as defined above) up to the 3.0 level, or to make substantial progress toward bringing their GPA up to 3.0, while making normal progress toward the degree. The Committee on Progress will establish the conditions that must be met for a student to be removed from Official Concern status and will determine whether or not these conditions have been met. Failure to meet the conditions set forth by the Committee on Progress shall result in dismissal from the program.

### **Conditional Status**

Students may be admitted on "conditional status." Students on conditional status must meet the obligations of regularly admitted students and may have additional conditions attached to their admission, e.g. the obligation to take remedial course work. Conditional students who do not satisfy admission conditions within two semesters are subject to dismissal.

## ASSISTANTSHIPS\*

### Award Criteria

All assistantships are subject to availability of funds. Most graduate assistantships are awarded on the basis of merit. For entering students, merit is determined by GRE scores, undergraduate GPA, work experience, the statement of purpose, and letters of recommendation. For continuing students, a leading measure of merit is the program GPA. However, consideration is also made of faculty and school needs and student skills that can meet those needs. Calculation of the program GPA is explained in the [Grading section](#) of this handbook. Past performance as a graduate assistant is also taken into account in making awards to continuing students. Performance includes the promptness of task completion, the quality of work, adherence to scheduled hours, general initiative, availability, and regular contact with the faculty supervisor. Planning may also award some assistantships to ensure the attainment of a diverse student body.

Students requesting aid must take at least 9 semester hours of classes that count towards the planning or public affairs degrees during the semester(s) in which they receive aid.

It is our policy not to award any student more than four semesters of aid in the form of assistantships or substantial tuition scholarships.

### Full-Year Assistantships

Assistantships for incoming students are typically awarded for both the Fall and Spring semesters. Returning second-year students who have a relatively high program GPA also may be awarded assistantships for both semesters. It should be stressed that all students who are awarded full-year assistantships will be reviewed after the Fall semester; continuation of an assistantship for the Spring semester cannot be assured unless the student has performed their assistantship duties satisfactorily. In addition, the second semester of aid is generally contingent on achieving at least a 3.2 program GPA during preceding semesters.

In making assistantship awards to continuing students, funds are first allocated to meeting commitments to students awarded aid for a full year. Remaining funds are then divided into two portions, one for first-year students, and the other for students in their second year or later. Within each of these groups, assistantships are awarded according to the criteria described above.

### Assistantship Awards and Incompletes

Decisions regarding assistantships for continuing students who have one or more incompletes from any UI course remaining at the time assistantships are awarded will be deferred until the incomplete is removed, except in those cases where the grade could not change the decision. That is, aid will be awarded if substitution of an F for each incomplete results in a GPA high enough to warrant aid, and aid will be denied if substitution of an A for each incomplete results in a GPA too low to warrant aid. A student whose aid decision is deferred runs the risk of receiving no aid due to the unavailability of funds, or of receiving aid only for the portion of the semester remaining after removal of the incomplete (which could make a non-resident liable for the much higher non-resident tuition rates).

---

\* This section incorporates by reference the agreement between the Iowa State Board of Regents and the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, Local 896-COGS, and is amended in accord with any revisions to University of Iowa collective bargaining agreements put into effect. The agreement is available here: <https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/graduate-assistant-employment>

## **One-Semester Assistantships**

Incoming students and returning students may be awarded assistantships for one semester. Whether such students will receive further assistantships will depend upon their performance in planning or public affairs (see award criteria above) and upon the demand for and availability of funds.

## **Requests for Assistantships**

Students who wish to apply for assistantships are to apply in response to appointment postings which will be made by the school no later than March 1 for the Summer and Fall semesters or by October 1 before the Spring semester. An appointment posting will request the student submit an "Assistantship Request" form, which can be obtained from the school office. The form requires information about your preferences for an assistantship assignment (such as research assistant, teaching assistant, career services, student outreach, etc.). You may also be asked to fill out a form that asks more detail regarding your particular skills. Students who have been awarded full-year assistantships (contingent on high-level performance) must submit a similar form stating their assistantship preferences for the upcoming semester. Assistantship request forms and preference forms must be returned by the date indicated on the application. If the deadline is not met, the student may be ineligible for an assistantship the following semester. Students will be notified of their appointments in writing by April 15 for Fall and by November 1 for Spring.

## **Failure to Perform Duties Satisfactorily**

If a student fails to perform their assistantship duties satisfactorily, the student will receive written notice from the school director. In this letter, the student will be informed of any performance problem and told what conditions must be met to remedy the situation. If these conditions have not been met within the time period indicated in the written notice, the student's assistantship may be subject to reduction in pay or complete termination. If job performance is considered unsatisfactory at any subsequent time for the same student, he or she will again be notified of the problem and may be subject to termination immediately. Any financial hardship created by any assistantship reduction or termination are the responsibility of the student, not the school.

## **Fellowships**

Fellowships are awarded to new students. A fellowship is a flat sum of money that the student may apply to their tuition. There is no work requirement for a fellowship. Fellowships offered at the time of admission are not renewable for subsequent semesters.

## **JIM HARRIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

The Jim Harris Memorial Scholarship award was established in 2002 to honor the memory of the planning program's first Chair, Jim Harris. The scholarship recognizes a student (or recent graduate) who best exemplifies Jim's commitment to community service and passion for social justice.

The award is based on the faculty's evaluation of the person best demonstrating excellence in community service. Community service may include volunteer work with a non-profit organization, involvement in a professional planning-related organization, or in political advocacy on planning-related issues. Paid employment does not typically qualify as community service. The service may have taken place anywhere – in Iowa City, elsewhere in the state of Iowa, elsewhere in the nation, or internationally. Current students and those who have graduated during the past academic year are eligible. At least part of the service should have occurred during the student's time in the School of Planning and Public Affairs.

Nominations are to be submitted to the director by February 1<sup>st</sup>. Nominees will be asked to provide a résumé and brief description of community service activities. The recipient of the award will be announced by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

## CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

Both the University of Iowa and the School of Planning and Public Affairs take issues of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. This section defines cheating and plagiarism, provides guidelines for how to avoid plagiarism, and explains the procedures that will be followed in the event a student in the school is accused of cheating or plagiarism. Further information about the University's expectations regarding student conduct, including academic conduct, can be found in the [Code of Student Life](#).

### What is Cheating?

Cheating occurs when a student receives inappropriate help in completing an assignment, quiz or examination. It is quite proper to ask fellow students for help to understand concepts or other aspects of a homework assignment, and proper to give other students such help if they ask for it. However, it is never appropriate to ask someone else to do an assignment for you, or to copy their answers (or to provide answers or do work for someone else). Neither is it appropriate to ask fellow students for help *during* a quiz or in-class examination. Many students in Planning and Public Affairs work in teams on assignments, or in preparing for examinations. Unless the instructor informs you otherwise, this is appropriate, *as long as each member of the team participates in team discussions and work, and as long as each member of the team completes their own work*. Merely listening to the solutions other students discuss and then copying them down to present as your own work does *not* constitute teamwork and should not be tolerated by other members of the team. The following list of examples may clarify what cheating (or the appearance of cheating) includes:

1. Copying other students' assignments or answers to examination or quiz questions;
2. Allowing another person to copy your assignments or answers to examination or quiz questions;
3. Taking notes or books to an in-class examination or quiz (unless the instructor has given you explicit permission to do so) and using them to answer questions;
4. Misrepresenting your contribution to a group project, and;
5. Collaborating with other students on any piece of work if you have been explicitly instructed not to do so.

### What is Plagiarism?

Plagiarism is the misappropriation of intellectual property, which can take many forms. It can range from purposeful cheating (pretending someone else's work is your own) or the purchase of term papers, to lack of appropriate citations or references or too heavy a reliance on other people's words and/or ideas. Ideas are presented in many formats, and just because something exists only on the internet or in some other electronic format does not mean it is not intellectual property. Given the seriousness with which the University and the school treat plagiarism, it is important to avoid any appearance of inappropriate or unattributed use of other people's ideas and words. The Graduate College addresses plagiarism in the [Manual of Rules and Regulations of the Graduate College](#), Part I, section IV, part F and G. The following list of examples may clarify what plagiarism (or the appearance of plagiarism) includes:

1. Using someone else's phrases and/or sentences without citing the work from which they are drawn or identifying the words as a direct quote;

2. Presenting someone else's argument in your own words and as if it were your own, without referring to or citing the author. Obviously, you may have come up with the same thought independent of someone who published it. If you did, you should be able to show how you came to that conclusion;
3. Relying on other people's written words for a portion of your paper (cutting and pasting) even though you may cite them;
4. Paraphrasing someone else's paper sentence by sentence and paragraph by paragraph, although you do not copy their words precisely. This is still "stealing" someone else's intellectual property, especially if you do not cite them at every point;
5. Copying someone else's paper (or large portions of it) verbatim, whether you cite them or not; and
6. Including illustrations, tables, maps, etc. from a report, web page, article or any other piece of work without properly citing the source.

### **Examples of Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is not tolerated by society. A person can lose their job for plagiarizing as well as suffer major public embarrassment. Two recent examples illustrate this. One is former US Senator John Walsh, who dropped out of a 2014 election because the *New York Times* revealed that he had plagiarized his final paper he had written for a master's degree at the Army War College. The paper included sentences that were the same or nearly the same as sentences published elsewhere. While he included the proper citations, there were no quotation marks to indicate that the words were not his own. For details, see "[How Senator John Walsh Plagiarized a Final Paper](#)"

More recently, Melania Trump's speech at the 2016 Republican National Convention included sentences that had been spoken by Michelle Obama at the 2008 Democratic National Convention. As with Walsh's paper, there was no indication that Ms. Trump was using someone else's words. The result was that instead of giving an impressive speech on behalf of her husband, Ms. Trump embarrassed herself in front of a national audience.

### **When and how should work be referenced or cited?**

If you refer to an argument someone made, a finding they report, or anything else that is not "common knowledge" that someone else has provided, you should reference them, using either footnotes or the author's last name(s) and an accurate date of publication in parentheses at the end of the sentence or paragraph in which you finish explaining their point/argument in your own words.

#### **FOR EXAMPLE:**

Direct subsidies to private producers have been largely replaced by block grants and tax credits that provide only partial subsidies. Nevertheless, HUD retained responsibility for much of the housing produced under earlier programs, through mortgage insurance provided by the FHA and through Section 8 contracts that subsidize projects. *[Both of these points count as "common knowledge" and don't require a citation, although they were mentioned in this and several other reports referenced.]* By the mid-1990s, the appropriations necessary to renew contracts (and avoid mortgage foreclosures that would cripple the FHA) threatened to eclipse all other housing needs (CBO, 1994). *[This is a less well-known fact, and a specific finding of the report referenced.]*

If you want to use the author's precise words, because they are a particularly good, colorful or distinctive description, or because they are reported conversation, a direct quote is proper. Direct quotes may be as long as a paragraph; direct quotes longer than three lines should be set off in a block, but shorter quotes of phrases or sentences are indicated with quotation marks. All direct quotes should be followed by a citation - usually, the author's last name, date of the work, and page number of the direct quote. Specific citations should also be used for any illustrations (tables, pictures) that you cut and paste into your own work. It is quite acceptable to use footnotes instead of the citation method shown here. The point is the work should be acknowledged accurately.

#### FOR EXAMPLE:

As Feldman and Chowdhury (2002) note, compact housing forms achieved through space efficiencies and multistory design have a significant impact on both construction and life cycle costs.

Compact building forms minimize the building's "envelope," and thus decrease costly building components, such as the foundation, roof, and exterior walls. A one-story single-family dwelling is more expensive to build than a two-story structure with the same square footage, quality of construction and amenities. Compact building forms also reduce life-cycle costs because they are less expensive to heat, cool, and maintain. (Feldman and Chowdhury 2002)

All works referred to or cited should be listed (unless your instructor tells you otherwise). If you use the method shown above, a reference list should be attached to the paper. If you use footnotes, that is where the works should be listed.

There are several acceptable referencing styles: The American Psychological Association (APA) and the *Chicago Manual of Style (CMS)*, 16<sup>th</sup> edition (University of Chicago Press 2010). Here are a few examples that use the APA style. Information on the APA style can be found at [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/apa\\_style/apa\\_style\\_introduction.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html).

For books:

Peterson, Jon A. (2003). *The Birth of city planning in the United States, 1840-1917*. Baltimore, Md.: The Johns Hopkins University Press.

For reports:

U.S. Census Bureau. (2000). *Statistical abstract of the United States*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

For journal articles:

Jun, Myung-Jin. (2008). Are Portland's smart growth policies related to reduced automobile dependence? *Journal of Planning Education and Research* 28: 100-107.

For web sites:

Cain, A., & Burris, M. (1999, April). *Investigation of the use of mobile phones while driving*. Retrieved from [http://www.cutr.eng.usf.edu/its/mobile\\_phone\\_text.htm](http://www.cutr.eng.usf.edu/its/mobile_phone_text.htm)

If you are unsure whether a reference or citation is needed, err on the conservative side. Your instructor can also provide advice on this issue. A good UI guide to citation styles can be found on the [library resources website](#) created for students in your program, under Citation Help.

#### **Penalties for cheating and plagiarism**

Both cheating and plagiarism are serious academic offenses. In cases where either cheating or plagiarism is suspected, the school's policy is that the faculty member involved submits the evidence to the director. The director then evaluates the evidence to determine if there is probable cause to suspect that cheating or plagiarism has occurred. If he or she so determines, the director confronts the suspected student(s) with the evidence. If the student(s) acknowledges participating in cheating or plagiarism, the director will take one of the following actions:



1. If the student(s) has not committed a prior offense of this nature, the penalty shall be that the grade of zero is assigned to the piece of work involved. Such a zero grade is conclusive and may not be changed by re-doing the item involved.
2. If the student(s) has committed a previous offense, such student(s) shall be dismissed from the school.

If the suspected student(s) denies that he or she has cheated or plagiarized, the director forms a committee composed of three faculty members (not to include the faculty member directly involved) and three non-voting students (not to include the student(s) involved). This committee will interview the student(s) involved, investigate the evidence, call witnesses if necessary, and take all measures to determine if cheating or plagiarism has occurred and to identify the responsible person(s).

Upon completion of its task, the committee will report the results of its investigations to the director. If the committee has determined that there is not sufficient evidence to substantiate an incident of cheating or plagiarism, or that there is insufficient evidence to identify the person(s) at fault, the director will notify the faculty and any students who have been directly involved in the investigation and close the inquiry. If, however, it has been determined that plagiarism has occurred and the wrongdoer(s) have been identified, then the director will apply the appropriate penalty as specified in items (1) and (2) above.

It should be noted that it is the policy of the school that those who knowingly assist a person in cheating or plagiarism are equally at fault and are subject to the same penalties.

## STUDENT APPEALS PROCEDURE

Occasionally a student may feel that he or she was wronged by a decision made by a faculty member, a committee of the faculty, or the faculty as a whole. In such a case, a student may appeal the decision according to the following procedure\*:

1. Appeal is made to the director, giving the facts of the case and the basis for the student's appeal. This appeal must be made in writing;
2. The director may then either conduct an investigation personally or appoint a committee of the faculty (which must consist of at least two faculty and which may consist of the entire faculty) to conduct an investigation. When the appeal involves a decision or action of one particular faculty member, that person shall not be on the investigating committee. The student shall be permitted to present their case to the investigating committee;
3. If the director conducts an investigation, he or she may then either grant or deny the appeal, or take other appropriate action. If he or she so chooses, the director may refer the matter to the faculty as a whole for a decision;
4. If the investigation is conducted by a committee, that committee may grant or deny the appeal, or take other appropriate action;
5. Where the appeal involves a matter of school policy, it should be noted that any change in policy is normally approved by the faculty as a whole;
6. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of a committee of the faculty, he or she may ask that the faculty as a whole review the decision. Such a review will be conducted at the option of the director;
7. It should be noted that further appeal can be made to the Graduate College, according to policies and procedures of the Graduate College. These are outlined in the [Graduate College's Academic Policies](#). The Graduate College should be contacted for further information.

The University ombudsperson may prove of assistance in instances of this sort and should be contacted directly by the student.

**Other student concerns: There are several opportunities for students to express concerns about the master's programs. Student representatives are selected by students to represent student opinion at faculty meetings. Each semester a town hall meeting takes place at which students can express concerns. NOTE: when students have concerns about how specific classes are taught, they should meet directly with the director. The director will either take up the matter directly or take it to an executive meeting of the faculty.**

---

\*In the event of disputes involving the University Collective Bargaining Agreement, the grievance procedure specified in that [agreement](#) will apply.

## COPING WITH GRADUATE STUDY

Being a graduate student can be stressful, from balancing school and work, plus family issues, to keeping up your GPA and passing final exams. There are a number of resources to use for help in dealing with these pressures.

Support from fellow students can be some of the most understanding. Although being a good listener can be very helpful, if you are concerned about another student's state of mind, please encourage them to talk to faculty or staff, or to look into one of the resources below.

[University Counseling Services](#), located at [3223 Westlawn South](#) is available to all currently registered students. All services are provided without charge, except for testing and evaluation. Their website has information on counseling services, emergency (same-day) appointments and [self-help resources](#) (such as how to manage speaking anxiety, sleep issues and stress management). Their number is 319-335-7294.

If you have a mental health condition and are experiencing a medication issue, [Student Health](#) may be the best resource. It is in [4189 Westlawn South](#) and appointments may be scheduled by calling 319-335-8394.

There is also a [24-hour National Graduate Student Crisis Line](#) (1-800-GRAD-HLP; 877-472-3457) "All counselors have completed training to understand the unique issues faced by graduate students."

[CommUnity Crisis Services and Food Bank](#) (formerly Johnson County Crisis Center) offers crisis chat and text services, anonymous online emotional support service for anyone in need. The services are confidential, secure and you will be communicating with a specially trained crisis counselor. CommUnity also offers a 24-Hour Crisis Line at (319) 351-0140 to talk with a caring and compassionate trained counselor.

A [Food Pantry](#) is also available on campus in room 212 IMU to provide nutritious food and basic necessities for University of Iowa students, faculty, and staff in need. Clients should enter through the south entrance of the Iowa Memorial Union (Iowa House Hotel Lobby entrance).

## COMPUTER FACILITIES

An Instructional Technology Center (ITC) exists in room 327 (the "drafting room"). This facility has been established using student fees to promote computer-based instruction of students in SPPA and other academic units. The computers are available by HawkID login to all students on campus for 40 hours per week during the fall and spring semesters. [Printing](#) output is directed to the black and white printer and a color printer in the ITC.

The school's computers are housed in room 351 (the SPPA library). ArcGIS and other specialized software are available on both the library and ITC computers. Adobe Creative Cloud is available only on the computers in the library. Output is directed to the printers in the ITC.

**Note:** The hard drives on all computers (ITC and library) are periodically cleared by ITS throughout the semester, as they are not intended for personal data storage. Remember to save your work to OneDrive, the shared network drive, or your personal flash drive.

### Computer Cluster Use by Non-URP Students

During the 40 hours per week when the ITC in room 327 is open to all students, SPPA students will not be given priority use of computers, software or printers. After hours, on weekends, and in the summer, the computer facility is available **only** to SPPA students and faculty.

Students in our school are asked to use good judgment when the hour arrives to close the facility for the day. Non-school students should be informed in a courteous manner that the cluster closes at 5:00. Good interpersonal relations are important in working with the somewhat different usage circumstances of SPPA versus other students.

**Important: Students are required to sanitize the keyboards of all computers in both the ITC and the library before and after each use. Sanitizer and wipes will be made available for this purpose.**

### Software Copyrights

It is important to keep in mind that essentially all computer software is copyrighted. Under no conditions are users of SPPA computers allowed to copy any software programs.

### Reserving Facilities

There are a few occasions when an instructor wishes to use the computer lab for a course. On those occasions, there will be a sign posted stating the date, time and course number. Generally, however, the facility will be operated on a first-come, first-served basis.

### Fishbowl Meeting Room and Teleconferencing Center

The school's space also includes a meeting room available to students, faculty, and staff--the Fishbowl. The Fishbowl includes two large HD screens, a computer, and teleconferencing equipment. The space is to be used for groups such as Field Problems and public affairs Capstone weekly meetings, web conferencing with project partners, and faculty meetings. The equipment can additionally be used by individuals to facilitate job and internship interviews. It may be reserved by checking the Outlook reservation calendar. To check availability and make a reservation, send a meeting invitation to [RES-JH327A-Fishbowl@uiowa.edu](mailto:RES-JH327A-Fishbowl@uiowa.edu). Note that your reservation won't be completed until you received an "ACCEPTED" message back from [RES-JH327A-Fishbowl@uiowa.edu](mailto:RES-JH327A-Fishbowl@uiowa.edu).

The University's preferred web conferencing software is [Zoom](#). A Zoom professional account is site licensed for all faculty, staff, and students and there is no limit on the length of meetings. For interviews, students may also use their personal Skype account or the university's Skype for Business (see <https://its.uiowa.edu/support/article/2783> and <https://its.uiowa.edu/skype#!how-to-and-support>). GoToMeeting is not recommended. Students should make sure they are familiar with the software and that all equipment is working several days before a scheduled meeting or interview.

The Fishbowl also has a Polycom system to be used for telephone conference calls. Those calling in should be given the phone number 319-335-0042.

For outgoing conference calls, you must first dial 9, then 1, then the area code and number. All outgoing long-distance calls must be written in the phone log to enable reconciliation of the phone bill.

## **URP Server**

We have two spaces divided on our server (U: drive, Urban folder), one for course materials and the other for shared student file storage.

The "Courses" folder is writable by faculty and readable by students. The "Students" folder is writable by all SPPA students and faculty. The "Students" folder will be emptied every year on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Please make sure any files you wish to keep are copied elsewhere by then, or they will be lost.

The file services are available on campus or [remotely](#) when connected to the campus Virtual Private Network (VPN).

From a Windows machine, you can create a mapped drive to the following location: <\\iowa.uiowa.edu\shared\Urban\Students> or <\\iowa.uiowa.edu\shared\Urban\Courses>. The mapping does not transfer between computers. If you log in to a different computer, you will have to map to the drive again.

On a Mac you can connect to the server at: <smb://iowa.uiowa.edu/shared/urban>

At the end of the academic year, students in Field Problems/Capstone will be directed to archive their files on a research drive under the school's control. Otherwise, all student work will be swept over the summer.

## **Wireless Hot Spots**

The [wireless network](#) is available in Jessup Hall in all classrooms and student common spaces.

## **STUDENT USE OF EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES AND DRAFTING ROOM**

### **Use of Copier/Scanner**

Students may use the school's copier/scanner for scanning only. Scanning may be done by emailing the document to yourself at no charge. Students have access to the copier/scanner in the SPPA library when staff are in the office or, after it is safe from the pandemic, from 8:30 to 4:30 P.M. on a non-priority basis.

The University [Copy Centers](#) provide copying services and accept UI identification cards and cash for payment.

### **Duplication of Materials at School's Expense**

The student is to obtain permission from the instructor for work to be charged to the school in instances where such reproduction is for the instructor's use.

Faculty will determine how to reproduce materials such as student papers which are to be distributed in a class.

### **Use of Supplies**

Students are expected to provide their own supplies for class work. The supply closet contains supplies for staff and faculty use. Research and teaching assistants may draw supplies directly related to their employment from their faculty supervisor.

Office supplies needed to complete Field Problems and Capstone projects are to be provided by the Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities (IISC) on a limited basis. Please consult with IISC's director about whether IISC can purchase the item or not. Examples include copying, envelopes, postage, name tags, paper cups, plates, napkins, coffee, etc.

All professional printing must be completed by University of Iowa Printing and Mailing Services. Please allow at least one week to process printing requests.

Stationery, envelopes, stamps, and related items are exclusively for official school purposes, and are not for personal use.

### **Use of Letterhead**

Students may use the school's electronic letterhead only for correspondence related to official school business and after permission from a faculty member. Electronic letterhead is available from the administrative services coordinator. The faculty person must read and approve the correspondence before it is sent out on letterhead; advance permission alone is not sufficient.

## **Keys**

On the day of orientation, students will be issued two keys, one for the drafting room and one for their desk. Keys that are lost will result in a fee of \$5 per key.

A limited number of keys are available for use of the SPPA library and are available on a first-come basis. These are typically checked out for the semester to those wishing to use special software located on the library computers or using the room for research on evenings or weekends.

**Please note:** Jessup Hall is locked after hours and on weekends. You may access JH at these times by using your Iowa One ID card which you should obtain at the beginning of your first semester.

## **Drafting Room**

The Drafting Room (327 Jessup) is an important part of the School of Planning and Public Affairs. It provides each master's student a place where s/he can work and keep materials. It, along with the school library and the ITC, provides space where students can work and meet with fellow students. The sense of community that develops among students throughout the course of their study has much to do with the shared space they enjoy in the Drafting Room.

Because the Drafting Room is a shared space; please do not leave the room unlocked and unattended overnight or on weekends.

Students should also exercise caution in working late at night in the Drafting Room. Jessup Hall is locked in the evening, but students should take care when they leave the building. Students should look to assist each other so that no one has to leave the building alone. Information about [personal safety, including the Rave Guardian app and Nite Ride](#), are available on the University's website.

## **General**

Misuse of school supplies or resources may subject a student to disciplinary action.

## EVALUATIONS OF COURSES BY STUDENTS

### Purpose

Standardized forms for evaluation of the school's courses will be distributed through ICON near the end of each semester in all courses. All students are requested to complete these forms for each course. The course evaluations serve several important purposes:

1. They inform the instructor about course elements where students feel he or she is doing well or poorly;
2. They provide insight into ways a course could be improved (e.g., select another text), and;
3. They aid the director in assessing the overall teaching performance of each faculty member.

It should be emphasized that these evaluations are one source of information about the quality of a faculty member's teaching. They are taken into account together with other indicators.

Students are asked to disassociate their ratings of an instructor with their performance in the course. Please try to be objective; do not use the evaluations to "help" an instructor you are fond of or to "get even" with one you may be less favorably disposed toward. The sole purpose of the course evaluation process ought to be to improve the quality and relevance of instruction.

### Procedure

All class evaluations are performed online during the final two weeks of classes—before final exams begin. Instructors should permit time for completion of the evaluations in class. In any event, students are encouraged to complete these evaluations. The instructor does not receive the evaluation results until final grades have been submitted for the semester. They are also reviewed by the director and utilized in annual performance reviews of faculty as well as at the time of consideration for promotion and tenure.

## EXIT SURVEY

An exit survey will be conducted with **all** graduating students at the end of their final semester. Each student will have the opportunity to respond anonymously to an internet-based survey that includes both closed and open-ended questions that allow the student to express their opinions, ideas, and suggestions about their program, the school's facilities, its curriculum, and its procedures. If students wish, they may follow up their responses to the survey with an oral interview with the director. The School of Planning and Public Affairs uses the results from the survey to plan and implement improvements.



## SPPA SUPPORT FOR STUDENT TRAVEL

Each year the school may establish an allocation to be made available to provide partial support for student travel to present papers or posters at conferences, and if funds permit, to support travel or registration for conferences that will enhance the students' education.

To be eligible for travel assistance, a student usually must have a paper, abstract, or poster formally accepted for presentation at an appropriate conference. The faculty will consider requests for support for travel to or registration for attendance at an appropriate conference. An appropriate conference is one directly related to some aspect of urban and regional planning or public affairs. In certain circumstances, the travel may take place after the student has graduated.

Students who are enrolled in at least nine semester hours of coursework listed on their plan of study/MyPlan may submit requests for travel funds to attend one professional conference each academic year.

For planning students, the American Planning Association's Iowa Chapter assists with funds to attend one APA meeting per year, whether it is the Iowa APA or national conference. The school receives an amount that is divided among planning students after travel has been completed to one of the conferences.

APA offers reduced conference registration fees or payment to be used towards the fees for students who sign up to volunteer at the national APA conference.

Public affairs students may choose to attend a conference from the following. Conference dates may change and it is recommended students check the organization's website for the most up-to-date information.

- **[American Society for Public Administration](#)** (ASPA) April  
List of affiliated conferences includes:
  - Midwest Public Affairs Conference (MPAC) Sept.
  - National Conference of Minority Public Administrators Mar.
- **[Association for Research on Non-Profit Organizations and Voluntary Action](#)** (ARNOVA) Nov./Dec.  
This is a more research organization for non-profit researchers.
- **[Association of Fundraising Professionals](#)** (AFP) May  
For those who want to work as a fund-raising officer. It has two certification programs, namely [CFRE](#) and [ACFRE](#)
- **[Government Finance Officers Association](#)** (GFOA) May  
For state/local finance officers, offering students internship opportunities, scholarships and student chapters  
<https://www.gfoa.org/about-gfoa/student-opportunities>
- **[International Association of Administrative Professionals](#)** (IAAP) July  
professional, annual conferences, certifications
- **[International Economic Development Council](#)** (IEDC) Oct.  
Offering certification for economic development officials.  
Credentials from IEDC are highly preferred in job ads.  
One of our recent alumni found this conference very interesting and helpful.
- **[Iowa City/County Management Association](#)** (IaCMA)
- **[Iowa Municipal Management Institute](#)** (IMMI) Mar.  
hosted annually by IaCMA
- **[Iowa League of Cities](#)**, annual conference and exhibit Sept.

- [National Associations of Commissions for Women](#) (NACW)
- [Young Nonprofit Professionals Network](#)

July  
Chapter mtgs. vary

## UI SOURCES OF SUPPORT FOR TRAVEL

- The [Graduate and Professional Student Government](#)

- The [Graduate Student Senate](#)

- Sally and Ken Mason Travel Award

Thanks to the generosity of Sally and Ken Mason, funds are again available this fiscal year for undergraduate, graduate and professional students to apply towards travel to academic and professional meetings and conferences, and travel associated with study abroad programs. Please note that per the donor intent, preference will be given to students who are seeking to attend their first professional conferences, those who are presenting at a conference, and those who are first-generation students.

Applications must be completed [online](#) and are typically due by November 1<sup>st</sup>. Students can request up to \$500 per application, but no more than one \$500 award will be made to any individual student. Travel dates must take place after the date on which the awards are determined/distributed (usually by the first week in December), but no later than the last day of spring semester classes. Applications are submitted electronically to the Associate Provost's office and a committee makes the award decisions.

- PHILanthropy Student Impact Grant

The University of Iowa Office of the President and the University of Iowa's Center for Advancement's Student Advancement Network (SAN) have partnered to create the Student Impact Grant, which provides funding for a variety of activities for undergraduate and graduate students outside of the classroom, such as research, travel, and service projects. The President's Office has generously allocated \$7,000 per semester to help enhance the student experience at the University through these grants. For Winter/Spring travel, applications will be accepted online beginning August 31, 2020 until the deadline on September 25, 2020. The application period for Summer/Fall semester travel has been during the month of January. More information about the grant can be accessed [here](#).

- The UI [Center for Global and Regional Environmental Research](#)

The student must be presenting at the meeting (oral or poster presentation) for which they are requesting travel assistance and the student's presentation must be on an environmentally related subject. A maximum of two students per research group will receive travel funds. Note: To qualify, you must have a CGRER member (Connerly or Spak) sign your application as your advisor. Academic year applications are typically due January 15 and so students should be alert to this deadline. Typically, in the past, all Field Problems projects have qualified for this opportunity.

## **SCHOOL OF PLANNING AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS STUDENT ASSOCIATION**

The School of Planning and Public Affairs Student Association (SPPASA) (NOTE: this is a transitional and informal title pending discussion among students in Fall 2020 about renaming) is a university-recognized student association comprised of graduate students in the School of Planning and Public Affairs at the University of Iowa. SPPASA's primary goal is to promote student interests by giving students a forum to discuss matters that affect the program as a whole, as well as individually.

Throughout the year SPPASA is involved in many activities, including but not limited to garnering financial support for trips and conferences. In order to take advantage of the maximum number of funding opportunities and ensure continuity of the association over the summer months, students elect SPPASA officers in the spring for the following academic year.

Other SPPASA activities include planning social activities, organizing volunteer opportunities, and intramural athletics. All students are encouraged to participate, as the success of this organization is dependent upon student involvement.

### **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

Each class from both programs will select one representative and an alternate to attend regular faculty meetings. Student representatives are entitled to participate fully in discussions but may not vote. Occasionally it will be necessary for the faculty to go into executive session, in which case the student representatives will not be allowed to be present.

Each department or interdisciplinary program is allotted one full senator per fifty students to have a representative on the Graduate Student Senate (GSS). Planning and public affairs students should each select an appropriate number of GSS senators and alternatives for their programs.

Each class of planning students should elect a student representative to the American Planning Association. This may be the same person representing the class at faculty meetings, or person elected as an officer of URPSA/SPPASA.

### **POLICY ON SMOKING**

As mandated by Iowa law, the University of Iowa campus, including all buildings and grounds, are designated as smoke-free. Information on the smoking policy, smoking cessation resources, boundary maps and other frequently asked questions is available on the Human Resources [website](#).

Beginning August 24, 2015, the University of Iowa became tobacco-free. For the purpose of this policy, tobacco products are defined as including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookahs), bidis, kreteks, smokeless tobacco, chewing tobacco, snus, snuff, electronic cigarettes, and any non-FDA-approved nicotine delivery device.

### **PERSONAL EFFECTS**

Planning does not accept responsibility for lost or missing items left unattended in Jessup Hall. Because of the high cost of books and laptops, students are urged to exercise care in where they place them.

# **MASTER OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING**

## URP VISION/MISSION STATEMENT

The Master of Science in Urban and Regional Planning's **vision** is to promote just and inclusive human settlements in which economic development, environmental enhancement, and social justice jointly contribute to sustainability, resilience, and quality of life at all scales from local to global. Within this context, our **mission** is to educate professional planners who will be responsible future leaders and decision-makers into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The M.S. in Urban and Regional Planning's Overall Goals and Objectives have been developed through annual faculty/staff retreats and meetings with students, alumni, the Urban and Regional Planning Advisory Board, and the Iowa APA Board of Directors, and communications with employers of our students and graduates. Our goals and objectives are as follows:

- Goal 1. Provide our students with **state-of-the-art skills** as well as the depth and flexibility needed to progress in the field **to help solve the world's grand socioeconomic and environmental challenges**.
- Goal 2. Improve our **students' experience**.
- Goal 3. **Improve the quality of practice in the planning profession, through research, professional, and service activities.**
- Goal 4. **Generate knowledge, learning, and scholarship about important planning issues, the practice of planning, and planning pedagogy.**
- Goal 5. **Increase the diversity of students and faculty.** We seek to enhance diversity in a variety of ways, including race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, identity, national origin and background, professional experience, ways of thinking, and areas of interest.
- Goal 6. **Increase our graduate student enrollment while maintaining the quality of our student body.**
- Goal 7. **Solidify budget** and generate new revenue.
- Goal 8. Improve state, national, and international **program reputation**.
- Goal 9. Enhance the **quality of life in Iowa communities**

## THE PLANNING PROGRAM

Planning is a dynamic and exciting field. Planners combine analysis with activism, and policy evaluation with implementation, in order to improve the quality of life in cities and regions. In addition to traditional jobs as city or regional planners, professionals are in demand in such diverse fields as regional transit, sustainability, public facilities provision, rural economic development, public health, nonprofit neighborhood housing, legislative analysis, and real estate development.

The University of Iowa is recognized as a leader in developing a curriculum attuned to the changing world of planning. At the heart of our master's degree program is an integrated curriculum that gives first-year students a solid foundation in the analysis of social problems and public policies, and prepares them for careers beyond the traditional position of city planner. Students in the second year of Iowa's program focus on areas of concentration, which include economic development, land use and environmental planning, housing and community development, transportation, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Students can combine two or more of these areas.

Graduate students in the program will earn the M.S. degree in Urban and Regional Planning. Combined graduate degrees are available in law, social work, civil and environmental engineering, higher education and student affairs, and occupational and environmental health.

Iowa's M.S. degree in Urban and Regional Planning is accredited by the Planning Accreditation Board. Information on planning accreditation can be found at <http://www.planningaccreditationboard.org/>.

While accreditation encompasses many standards, fundamental are PAB's expectations for planning curricula.

The program typically enrolls 35-50 full-time and 1-3 part-time students. Students bring a variety of educational backgrounds to the program, including such undergraduate majors as art, geography, economics, English, political science, engineering, architecture, sociology, urban studies, and history. In the 2019-2020, academic year there were 21 different undergraduate majors among our students, providing testimony to the broad variety of subject areas studied by our students.

## DEGREE OBJECTIVE, GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS, AND CURRICULUM

### Degree Objective

All students are admitted into planning to pursue a master's degree without a thesis requirement. Under specific circumstances, and with the consent of their advisor, a student may elect to pursue a master's degree with a thesis. Students may change their degree objective (with or without thesis) by obtaining a change-of-status form from the school's administrative office and having it approved by the director. For more details, see the [Thesis](#) section of this manual.

### Graduation Requirements

- GPA:** Attain an overall 3.0 grade point average for all courses taken at the University of Iowa that **can** be applied to the student's plan of study/MyPlan for the planning degree, **regardless of whether they exceed what courses are needed to complete the degree** (see section on [Grading and Academic Performance](#)).
- Credits:** Complete 50 hours of course credit, at least 38 hours of which must be in planning courses. The remaining 15 credits are subject to the student's advisor approval for their relationship to the planning field. Planning courses include those listed under the planning program at Iowa (URP prefix) and courses offered by planning programs at other universities that were taken prior to enrollment and have been accepted for credit by the UI program faculty. (See section on "[Credit for Courses Taken Prior to Enrollment](#).")
- Course Work:** Complete satisfactorily all core and capstone courses (unless this requirement is waived by the program - see "[Waiver of Core Course Requirements](#)"), and a minimum of 9 semester hours in courses for an area of concentration. Satisfactory completion means attainment of a grade of B- or better in each required course. If the grade is lower than a B-, the course must be repeated until a B- or higher grade is obtained. (See section on "[Grades in Required Courses](#).") However, if a course is not used to satisfy any of the area of concentration or the core courses, and if the student's GPA is adequate, and the Graduate College accepts the credit, then the course may count towards the 50 hours for the degree even if the grade is below a B-, as long as it is no lower than a C-.
- Final Exam:** Non-thesis students must pass an oral exam administered by the student's final exam committee. Thesis students complete a thesis and pass a final oral examination on the thesis.

### Curriculum

The curriculum is based on the philosophy that planners must develop the theoretical and analytic skills necessary to analyze social problems and evaluate public policies. Planners also must develop professional skills in report writing, oral presentation, public-involvement, computer use and team management in order to function effectively in various organizational and political environments.

The planning curriculum is a two-year program leading to a Master of Science degree in Urban and Regional Planning. It consists of 50 semester hours, including 23 semester hours of core courses, 6 hours of capstone courses, at least 9 semester hours in an area of concentration, and 12 semester hours of electives. Two of the 50 semester hours may consist of credit for completion of a qualified internship. (See "[Internships](#)" section.)



## REQUIRED COURSES

The required curriculum includes core and capstone courses. The core curriculum assists students in understanding the institutions and systems--social, economic, environmental, political, administrative, and legal systems--as context for planning and policy analysis and constrained public choices. Students develop the ability to identify social goals and normative criteria for evaluating public policies. Both quantitative (statistics, forecasting, surveys, regional analysis) and non-quantitative skills are required to perform evaluations and produce plans. The capstone courses enable students to apply core class principles to actual planning problems.

First-semester courses draw from traditional disciplines, particularly economics and statistics, and are combined with introductions to law, land use and theories and practice of planning. As students proceed, increasing emphasis is placed on the development of critical judgment and insight through the application of theories to realistic planning problems and case studies.

### Sequence of Required Courses

The planning program curriculum includes a core of 23 semester hours, which must be completed or formally waived. Core courses are designed to provide the student with the necessary skills and background for more advanced course work. For this reason, it is planning's policy that students take the core courses in their proper sequence. If a student is waived from a core requirement, an elective may be substituted. However, a student should not postpone taking a core course that has not been waived; written permission to postpone a core course must be obtained from the faculty advisor. Part-time students, students in two-degree programs, and those entering planning in mid-year should be careful in planning the course of study to avoid later problems with electives that assume knowledge of the core material, and with core courses that build upon first-semester courses. Given that Field Problems builds upon the core curriculum, students are expected to have completed (with a grade of B- or better) all but one first-year core course, plus completed a minimum of 23 semester hours prior to enrolling in Field Problems.

One-half-time assistantship appointees may register for no more than 12 semester hours during a semester.

<b>First-Year Required Courses</b>	<b>Title and Instructor for 2020-21</b>		<b>Semester Hours</b>
URP:6200	Fall	Analytic Methods I (Laurian)	core 3
URP:6201	Spring	Analytic Methods II (Nguyen)	core 3
URP:6202	Fall	Land Use Planning: Law and Practice (Anthony)	core 4
URP:6203	Fall	History and Theories of Planning (Connerly)	core 3
URP:6205	Fall	Economics for Policy Analysis (Qian)	core 3
URP:6208	Fall	Program Seminar in Planning Practice (Connerly)	core 1
<b>Second-Year Required Courses</b>			
URP:6209	Fall	Field Problems in Planning I (Kraus)	capstone 3
URP:6210	Spring	Field Problems in Planning II (Kraus)	capstone 3
URP:6258	Fall	Modeling Dynamic Systems (Spak)	core 3

## Other Required Courses

In addition to the core courses listed above, students are required to take an advanced economic methods courses listed below, generally during the student's first three semesters in the program.

URP:6233	Spring	Public Finance and Budgeting (Nguyen)	core	3
----------	--------	---------------------------------------	------	---

## Waiver of Core Course Requirements

Core courses can be waived fully or in part for students who have completed comparable courses covering substantially the same material prior to enrolling in the program, and who received a grade of B or higher in those courses. Planning's policy is to grant waivers for core courses only in exceptional cases. However, students who believe they have a legitimate case for waiver are encouraged to request one.

To obtain a waiver of Analytic Methods I or Economics for Policy Analysis the student should arrange to take an evaluation of their knowledge of course material so that a determination can be made no later than the first week the waived course meets. Students are advised to contact the course instructor to arrange for the test and obtain details of the material covered in the test. In the case of other core courses, the student must supply sufficient supporting materials to demonstrate that the subject matter contained in the course for which a waiver is sought has been covered with comparable rigor elsewhere. It should be emphasized that the burden of proof lies with the student to demonstrate the adequacy of previous training. Course outlines, exercises (if applicable), exams, and transcripts are the types of documentation typically required. The waiver form is available on the SPPA website and must be signed by the instructor of the core course and by the student's advisor, who will enter their recommendations.<sup>1</sup> The request is then presented by the advisor to the full faculty for approval.

Waiver requests should be made as early as possible, but no later than the first week of the semester during which the course would normally be taken. Should a request be denied, the student will then be able to enroll in the course before too much of the semester has elapsed. Under no circumstances will a waiver be granted after the student has completed subsequent sequential courses, or after the student has completed Field Problems.

It should be noted that approval of a waiver exempts the student from the requirement to take a particular course, but does not reduce the 50 hours required for the degree. A student who waives a core course has the same final examination requirements as one who did not waive the particular course. (See sections on "[Final Examination](#)" and "[Thesis](#).") Therefore, it would be prudent to assure oneself that the material has been adequately mastered before requesting a waiver.

## Grades in Required Courses

A required course requirement can be satisfied either by waiver of the course or by completion of the course with a grade of B- or better. A required course for which a student received a C+ or lower must be repeated with a grade of at least a B-.

If a required course is repeated, it will appear twice on the student's official university transcript. The original grade and the grade for the second time the course was taken will both be included in the official GPA. However, for purposes of determining the program GPA, satisfying planning's

<sup>1</sup> Engineering students should see information about the automatic waiver for Analytic Methods I in the [U2G Combined Degree Programs](#) section.

requirement of a 3.00 GPA for graduation, and meeting the requirement of 50 semester hours, the second course will replace the first. That is, assuming at least a B- is received the second time, the 3 hours credit for the first time the course was taken will not count towards the 50 hour requirement and the first grade will not be included in the program GPA. (See "[Grading and Academic Performance.](#)")

## ELECTIVES OUTSIDE OF AREAS OF CONCENTRATION

The following URP-prefix courses are not part of any concentration but are established to round out the student's education. The two graphic communication and graphic content classes are highly recommended for students taking or who will take Field Problems.

URP:3217	Spring	Negotiation and Conflict Resolution	3 s.h.
URP:6211	Fall	Community Outreach Practicum	1, 2, or 3 s.h.
URP:6282	Fall	Grant Writing (Mirr)	2 s.h.
URP:6320	Fall	Introduction to Graphic Communication (Gassman)	2 s.h.
URP:6330	Spring	Developing Graphic Content (Gassman)	1 s.h.
ENVS:3230	Fall	Special Topics: Prairie Restoration	2 s.h.
EPLS:5240	Summer	Topics in Education: Facilitating Controversial Dialogue/ Facilitator Preparation for Leaders	3 s.h.

## AREAS OF CONCENTRATION

Usually in their second semester, students develop an area of concentration by applying the concepts and skills developed in the core to a specific field of planning. The purpose of the area of concentration requirement is to ensure that the student develops depth in a particular substantive area of planning by mastering a set of elective courses that together constitute a coherent plan of study/MyPlan in that area.

There are five areas of concentration supported by faculty and course offerings within Planning: **economic development; geographic information systems (GIS); housing and community development; land use and environmental planning; and transportation planning.** Students electing a concentration in GIS must also have an area of concentration in one or more of the other focus areas. The course offerings and requirements for each area of concentration are described in the following pages. Note that due to faculty leaves of absence and reduced teaching loads because of research projects and other circumstances, not all of the courses listed in the following sections dealing with areas of concentration will be offered every year.

Students may design alternative areas of concentration, subject to faculty approval, or combine two areas. For example, students can design a concentration in health services planning with appropriate course work in the Departments of Health Management and Policy or Occupational and Environmental Health, or in human services planning with courses in the School of Social Work. For a list of possible alternatives, one should consult with one's advisor. It is emphasized that an area of concentration must be in a substantive field of planning; a concentration in a skill or research method, or in law, is not permitted, although course work in a particular method may be an appropriate **component** of the student's concentration. Plans for a specially designed alternative concentration must be presented by the advisor to the faculty in a faculty meeting and approved by the faculty, before the alternative is allowed to be in force.

It is up to the student, with the help of the student's advisor, to either (1) select a concentration from the list of five standard options, (2) design an alternative or non-standard concentration, or (3) combine two of the standard options. In all cases the student's plan of study/MyPlan must include at least nine semester hours of course work in the area of concentration. The student must attain at least a **B- in each course** for that course to be applied to the area of concentration requirement. Normally, not more than three hours of readings courses or independent study may be counted towards a concentration. In those cases when a student has re-taken a concentration course, the second course grade will replace the first grade and will be used in computing the program GPA.

**Please note:** Because courses offered by other departments were obtained at the time this manual was printed, students must check course offerings on MyUI, consult with their advisors and take care when including such courses on their plan of study/MyPlan.

## Economic Development

The economic development area of concentration prepares students for positions with city planning departments, regional planning agencies, state development agencies, neighborhood economic development groups, and other non-profit or public/private economic development organizations.

Students study regional economic growth processes, the changing structure of employment, and the relationship between local industrial sectors and national and international economic trends. Courses also focus on forecasting the economic impact of business location decisions, alternatives for financing development, state and local development policies, innovative institutional arrangements such as public/private partnerships, and other issues such as plant closings, job training, tax incentives, and federal small business programs. The following Economic Development courses are usually offered at The University of Iowa.

In general, students with an Economic Development concentration must take Economic Development Policy and should take an additional 3 semester hours from courses in Group 1, and a further 3 to 4 semester hours from courses in either Group 1 or Group 2 for a total of at least 9 hours.

<b>Required</b>		<b>Title and Instructor for 2020-21</b>	<b>Semester Hours</b>
URP:6295	Spring	Economic Development Policy (Qian)	3

### **Group 1 Planning Courses**

URP:6233	Spring	Public Finance and Budgeting (Nguyen) (if not taken as a core course)	3
URP:6290	Fall	Economic Impact Assessment (Swenson) (if not taken as a core course)	3
URP:6297	Fall	Economic Development Finance (Nguyen)	3

### **Group 2 Planning Courses**

URP:6245	Spring	Growth Management (Anthony)	3
URP:6265	Fall	Planning Sustainable Transportation (Spears)	3
URP:6273	Spring	Community Devel. in the Upper Midwest (Connerly & Kraus)	3

\*Not offered 2020-2021

### **Group 2 Courses offered by other departments**

#### **Finance**

FIN:4230		Real Estate Process (subject to instructor approval due to prerequisites)	3
FIN:9230:001		Real Estate Finance and Investments (subject to instructor approval due to prerequisites)	2

#### **Economics**

ECON:3350		Industry Analysis	3
-----------	--	-------------------	---

#### **Entrepreneurship**

ENTR:4200		Entrepreneurship: Business Consulting (face-to-face and online Fall, Spring; online Summer)	3
ENTR:4400		Managing the Growth Business (face-to-face and online Fall, Spring; online Summer)	3

## Geographic Information Systems

The Geographic Information Systems (GIS) specialty prepares students for positions with city planning departments, regional planning agencies, state development agencies, neighborhood economic development groups, and other nonprofit or public/private economic development organizations.

Planning offers a variety of GIS courses. Students learn how to use GIS software, learn about the management of land information, and explore model building within a GIS framework. Other courses cover GIS-based, three-dimensional visualization, programming in a GIS environment, and web-based GIS. Some policy courses make use of GIS for analysis and forecasting purposes. Supplemental classes in remote sensing (offered by the Geographical and Sustainability Sciences department) are recommended.

In general, students with a GIS concentration take the required course and at least a further 6 s.h. from Group 1 or Group 2. Students with a GIS specialty are also required to develop a concentration in one of the other planning areas offered by planning.

<b>Required</b>		<b>Title and Instructor for 2020-21</b>	<b>Semester Hours</b>
URP:6225	Spring	Applied GIS for Planners (Spears)	3
 <b>Group 1 Planning Courses</b>			
URP:4262	Spring	Transportation Demand Analysis (Spears)	3

\*Not offered 2020-2021

### **Group 2 Courses offered by other departments**

#### **Geographical and Sustainability Sciences**

GEOG:3520		GIS for Environmental Studies (subject to instructor approval due to prerequisites)	3
GEOG:3540		Intro. To Geographic Visualization	3
GEOG:4150		Health and Environment: GIS Applications	3
GEOG:4500		Applications in Environmental Remote Sensing (prerequisites required)	4
GEOG:4520		GIS for Environmental Studies: Application (subject to instructor approval due to prerequisites)	3
GEOG:4580		Introduction to Geographic Databases (subject to instructor approval due to prerequisites)	3
GEOG:6500		Seminar in Spatial Analysis and Modeling	1-3

#### **Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Geoinformatics**

A Geoinformatics certificate is available to graduate students through the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Informatics (IGPI). The 21 semester hours of courses required to complete the certificate include offerings from Urban and Regional Planning, Geographical and Sustainability Sciences, Earth & Environmental Sciences, and Statistics. For more information, please see: <https://informatics.uiowa.edu/study-opportunities/graduate-program/geoinformatics/certificate-requirements>.

## Housing and Community Development

Urban decay, lack of affordable housing, the loss of population and jobs, and the mounting costs of public services threaten our cities and regions. The concentration in housing and community development examines housing and real estate finance; community organizing; federal, state, and local housing and community development policies; and innovative public/private/neighborhood partnerships.

Graduates with this background are prepared for positions in housing and community development divisions of city, regional, and state planning agencies and departments; community-based organizations focusing on low-income housing development; and community development corporations.

In general, students with a Housing and Community Development concentration must take Housing Policy and should take at least 3 credit hours from courses in Group 1, and a further 3 hours from courses in either Group 1 or Group 2 for a total of at least 9 hours.

<b>Required</b>		<b>Title and Instructor for 2020-21</b>	<b>Semester Hours</b>
URP:6271	Spring	Housing Policy (Anthony)	3

### **Group 1 Planning Courses**

URP:6273	Spring	Community Devel. in the Upper Midwest (Connerly & Kraus)	3
URP:6297	Fall	Economic Development Finance (Nguyen)	3

### **Group 2 Planning Courses**

URP:6233	Spring	Public Finance and Budgeting (Nguyen) (if not taken as a core course)	3
URP:6245	Spring	Growth Management (Anthony)	3
URP:6278	Fall	Nonprofit Organizational Effectiveness I (Dunkhase) (also offered online by Smith)	3
URP:6290	Fall	Economic Impact Assessment (Swenson) (if not taken as a core course)	3
URP:6295	Spring	Economic Development Policy (Qian)	3
URP:6400*	Winterim	Sustainable Development: The Kerala Experience (Anthony)	3

\*Not offered 2020-2021

### **Group 2 Courses offered by other departments**

#### **Finance**

FIN:4230		Real Estate Process (subject to instructor approval due to prerequisites)	3
FIN:9230:001		Real Estate Finance and Investments (subject to instructor approval due to prerequisites)	2

#### **Social Work**

SSW:4843:0001		Social Welfare Policy and Practice	3
SSW:6145		Organization & Com. Practice	3



## Land Use and Environmental Planning

Urban sprawl and haphazard, uneven growth have meant significant environmental degradation in most regions. Shortsighted land use decisions have led to the destruction of sensitive natural resources such as wetlands and woodlands (and the wildlife they support), development patterns that precipitate “natural” disasters because they encroach on and alter floodplains or fragile slopes, and a growing dependence on scarce energy and other resources. The abandonment of older developed areas for new suburban “greenfields” sites has other consequences – the decline of traditional neighborhoods, and the dilemma of what to do with old, abandoned industrial sites (brownfields). Planning to protect and preserve environmental values is intimately connected with planning to manage growth, counter sprawl, promote sustainability, and revitalize distressed communities.

The land use and environmental planning concentration combines coursework in environmental processes and regulation, and in several aspects of land use planning, including GIS applications. Supplementary environmental science courses in the departments of Geographical and Sustainability Sciences and Civil and Environmental Engineering complement the policy and planning emphasis offered in URP courses.

Students in this area of concentration generally pursue careers in local, regional, state or federal government agencies, or in private consulting firms or environmental advocacy organizations.

Students who do not have a background in the environmental sciences may wish to take coursework to make up this lack. We recommend the following courses:

GEO:1020/1021    The Global Environment  
CEE:3155            Principles of Environmental Engineering

Note that the first course is not a 3000-4999 level course and thus cannot be taken for graduate credit (that is, it will not count towards the total 50 hours for the graduate degree).

By working closely with their advisor, a student should develop an appropriate set of courses that demonstrates the necessary level of specialization and meets the interests and professional needs of the student.

In general, students with an Environmental Planning concentration must take Environmental Policy and Management and should take an additional 3 semester hour course in Group 1, and a further 3 to 4 hours from courses in Group 2 for a total of at least 9 hours.

<b>Required</b>		<b>Title and Instructor for 2020-21</b>	<b>Semester Hours</b>
URP:6256	Spring	Environmental Policy (Spak)	3
<b>Group 1 Planning Courses</b>			
URP:6243	Spring	The Land Development Process (Busard/Mueller)	3
URP:6245	Spring	Growth Management (Anthony)	3
URP:6253*	Spring	Designing Sustainable and Healthy Cities (Laurian)	3
URP:6257*	Spring	Environmental Management (Laurian)	3
URP:6266	Fall	Transportation and Land Use Planning (Spears)	3
URP:6280	Fall	Planning for Disaster Mitigation and Recovery (Schwab)	2-3
<b>Group 2 Planning Courses</b>			
URP:4170*	Spring	Megacities Seminar (Spak)	2
URP:4750*	Spring	Environmental Impact Analysis (staff)	4
URP:5800	Spring	Environmental Economics and Policy (Secchi)	3
URP:6225	Spring	Applied GIS for Planners (Spears)	3
URP:6265	Fall	Planning Sustainable Transportation (Spears)	3
URP:6400*	Winterim	Sustainable Development: The Kerala Experience (Anthony)	3

\*Not offered 2020-2021

## Group 2 Courses offered by other departments

### Geographical and Sustainability Sciences Courses

GEOG:3310	Landscape Ecology	3
GEOG:3320	Wetlands: Function, Geography and Management	3
GEOG:3340	Ecosystem Services: Human Dependence on Natural Systems	3
GEOG:3350	Urban Ecology	3
GEOG:3420	Sustainable Development and Green Building	3
GEOG:3500	Intro. to Environmental Remote Sensing	3
GEOG:3760	Hazards and Society	3
GEOG:4150	Health and Environment: GIS Applications	3
GEOG:4500	Applications in Environmental Remote Sensing	4
GEOG:4520	GIS for Environmental Studies: Application	3
GEOG:4770	Environmental Justice	3
GEOG:6300	Seminar in Environment, Conservation, and Land Use	3

### Civil and Environmental Engineering Courses

CEE:3790	Resilient Infrastructure Emergency Response	3
CEE:4158	Solid and Hazardous Wastes	3
CEE:4159	Air Pollution Control Technology	3
CEE:5410	Politics of FEWS (Food, Energy and Water resources) (offered online)	3

### Other Courses

EES:3390	Integrated Watershed Analysis	3
JMC:5266	Risk Communication (Kelly) (offered online)	3
OEH:4240	Global Environmental Health (face-to-face; online in Spr.)	3
OEH:4260	Global Water and Health	3

## Transportation

Transportation facilities have been used to encourage economic development, to shape growth patterns, to improve opportunities for disadvantaged persons, and to elevate the general quality of life in and around urban areas. Students in this concentration become competent in developing transportation policies, understanding the interaction between transportation and land use, and measuring transportation demand. They learn how transportation plans are produced, and what regulations govern transportation planning. They investigate new transportation laws and regulations, financing systems, and the impact of transportation facilities or modes on environmental quality. These students find employment in consulting firms, state transportation agencies, regional organizations, cities, metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), and transportation districts.

By working closely with their advisor, a student should develop an appropriate set of courses that demonstrates the necessary level of specialization and meets the interests and professional needs of the student. In general, students with a Transportation concentration must take Transportation Policy and Planning and should take an additional 3 semester hour course in Group 1, and a further 3 to 4 hours from courses in Group 2 for a total of at least 9 hours.

<b>Required</b>		<b>Title and Instructor for 2020-21</b>	<b>Semester Hours</b>
URP:6260	Spring	Transportation Policy and Planning (Spears)	3
<b>Group 1 Planning Courses</b>			
URP:4262	Spring	Transportation Demand Analysis (Spears)	3
URP:6265	Fall	Planning Sustainable Transportation (Spears)	3
URP:6266	Fall	Transportation and Land Use Planning (Spears)	3
<b>Group 2 Planning Courses</b>			
URP:6233	Spring	Public Finance and Budgeting (Nguyen) (if not taken as a core course)	3
URP:6290	Fall	Economic Impact Assessment (Swenson) (if not taken as a core course)	3

\*Not offered 2020-2021

### Group 2 Courses offered by other departments

#### Civil Engineering

CEE:4763		Traffic Engineering	3
CEE:5998		Individual Investigations: Civil and Environmental Engineering	arr.

#### Public Health

OEH:4530		Global Road Safety	3
----------	--	--------------------	---

## Transportation Certificate

Students specializing in transportation may be eligible to be awarded a Transportation Certificate. The Transportation Certificate Program, coordinated by School of Planning and Public Affairs Associate Professor of Instruction, Steve Spears, enables students to be awarded an additional credential. It is documented on a student's transcript at the time the master's degree is earned. To apply to the Transportation Studies Program students must complete the [application form](#) on the SPPA website **by November 1<sup>st</sup> of the student's first semester**. Any courses taken prior to the certificate application cannot be counted.

Students enrolled in the certificate program may wish to participate in faculty-led transportation research, which may explore topics such as system planning, traffic operations and engineering, spatial data systems and analysis, simulation applications, and policy issues.

To obtain a certificate, planning students must complete a minimum of 15 semester hours of transportation-related courses offered in Urban and Regional Planning and related fields. Specific requirements are listed in the University General Catalog under the heading of [Transportation Studies, Graduate Certificate](#). Substitutions are possible if the courses listed are not offered during the student's residency at the University of Iowa.

During the student's final semester, the [Certificate Completion Form](#) must be submitted before the established deadline for the Degree Application set by the Graduate College (approximately 10 weeks before graduation).

## COMBINED-DEGREE PROGRAMS

Various combined-degree options are available allowing students to earn a graduate degree in planning and a second degree in less time than would be required to obtain the two degrees independently. This is because courses for one degree are considered as elective credit for the other degree program.

Formalized combined degree options have been established in the following:

### **Graduate-to-graduate degree options**

- Law (J.D.)
- Civil and Environmental Engineering (Sustainable Water Development) (M.S.)
- Social Work (M.S.W.)
- Occupational and Environmental Health (M.S.)
- Higher Education and Student Affairs (M.A.)

### **Undergraduate-to-graduate (U2G) degree options**

- Civil and Environmental Engineering (B.S.E.)
- Environmental Policy and Planning (B.S. or B.A.)

The U2G option is open to those currently in any undergraduate major at the University of Iowa.

Information about all the above programs is available from the planning admissions coordinator.

While the requirements of each graduate-to-graduate and U2G-degree option vary, all have several key features in common. In each case a student must

- Complete an approved area of concentration in planning. Work in the other academic unit does not, in and of itself, necessarily constitute a valid area of concentration (e.g., "law" is not a concentration, although an environmental law course may be part of an environmental concentration).
- For graduate-to-graduate degrees, take at least 38 hours of planning courses, that have been previously approved to count towards the degree, except for law which requires 35 semester hours. Courses in other programs can sometimes be substituted for planning core courses however, this does not reduce the 38-hour requirement.
- For U2G degrees, take at least 50 semester hours of planning courses that have been previously approved to count towards the master's degree.
- Unless otherwise specified, Field Problems is required of students in combined degree programs.
- Satisfy planning's final examination requirement.

Specific features of the formalized graduate-to-graduate and U2G degree programs are available on the following pages. The student should verify the most recent degree requirements with the department of interest as courses and requirements in other departments are subject to change with little prior notification.

### **Graduate-to-Graduate options with other disciplines**

It is possible to receive a master's degree in planning in conjunction with a graduate degree in another discipline, even when an official graduate-to-graduate degree program does not exist. Examples would be a graduate-to-graduate degree in Journalism or Public Health.

University policy requires that prior administrative approval be granted, and a minimum of 60 semester hours of graduate credit be completed to receive two master's degrees. However, courses taken to satisfy one unit's requirements also may be applied to meet the other unit's requirements. Some credits can be shared when one master's degree requires, or both master's degrees require, more than 30 semester hours of graduate credit. (No more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the credits necessary for one degree may be composed of coursework taken for the other degree.) In all cases, combined degree programs require at least 60 semester hours of graduate credit and each unit's degree requirements must be met. See the Graduate College Manual, Part I, section X. G.: <http://www.grad.uiowa.edu/graduate-college-manual>.

### **Admission**

If a student is already admitted to another academic unit, and he or she is assigned formally to that unit, the student should request that both the unit and Planning write letters to the Graduate College approving the student's pursuit of two master's degrees and exchange letters between departments. At a time when the majority of coursework is in planning, the student should file a Change of Status form with the Graduate Admissions Office, to be formally assigned to planning.

If the student is first admitted to planning and subsequently desires to obtain a second master's degree in addition to one in planning, letters from both academic units should be sent to the Graduate College, as above and exchanged between departments. A Change of Status form should be filed at the time the student completes their coursework in planning. Doing so will enable the student to be formally assigned to the other academic unit. If the student plans to complete all degree requirements in planning and in the other academic unit simultaneously, no Change of Status form should be filed.

### **Tuition**

As a member of a graduate-to-graduate degree program, students may pay the greater of the two programs' tuition costs. U2G students are assessed undergraduate level tuition and fees during their first year of the U2G program (students' 4th or senior year), and until the bachelor's degree is conferred. Students are encouraged to consult the Graduate College to determine the tuition amount.

Specific features of the formalized combined-degree programs follow; however, the student should verify the most recent combined-degree requirements with the department of interest, because courses and requirements in other departments are subject to change with little prior notification.

## **GRADUATE-TO-GRADUATE DEGREES**

### **Law**

#### **Careers**

One of the more popular combined-degree programs is Law (J.D.) combined with Urban and Regional Planning (M.S.). Combined law-planning degree graduates typically obtain employment as city managers, city attorneys, city planners or planning administrators. They also practice at law firms or advocacy organizations as land use, housing, transportation or environmental law specialists.

#### **Admission**

Students will be expected to meet the admission requirements of the respective programs, take the requisite admission exams and provide appropriate admission materials. The two programs will make admission decisions independently. Students should begin taking law courses in advance of planning courses. All requirements for each degree must be satisfied separately, which includes passing the final examination for each program.

#### **Coursework**

The J.D. degree requires 84 semester hours, typically completed in three years; the M.S. requires 50 semester hours, typically completed in two years. Law will apply a maximum of 12 hours of planning courses toward the J.D. requirement. (Six of those hours may be outside of law [example, URP] and the other six are discretionary credits.) Planning will apply 15 hours of law courses toward the M.S. requirement. With approval of the student's planning advisor, three hours of law courses can be used to meet the requirements of the concentration. Therefore, combined-program students typically complete both degree requirements in four years. Taking classes over a summer term may be required to meet this target. A total of 107 hours of graduate work is required for the combined degree, including a minimum of 35 hours in planning and 72 hours of law.

#### **Tuition**

Combined degree students with law will be assessed tuition at the College of Law rate except for any semester or summer session in which the student is not enrolled for any law credits and none of the credits being earned that semester or term will be applied toward the student's J.D. degree. All combined degree students pursuing a J.D. degree will be assessed at least 6 semesters of law school tuition.

**Sample Four-Year Plan of Study**  
**Graduate-to-Graduate Combined Degree**  
**Law-Planning<sup>2</sup>**  
 (Beginning Law first)

**Semester 1**

LAW:8017 Contracts	4 s.h.
LAW:8026 Intro. To Law & Legal Reasoning	1 s.h.
LAW:8032 Legal Analysis, Writing and Research I	2 s.h.
LAW:8037 Property	4 s.h.
LAW:8046 Torts	<u>4 s.h.</u>
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>15 s.h.</b>

**Semester 2**

LAW:8006 Civil Procedure	4 s.h.
LAW:8010 Constitutional Law I	3 s.h.
LAW:8022 Criminal Law	3 s.h.
LAW:8033 Legal Analysis, Writing and Research II	2 s.h.
Law elective	<u>3 s.h.</u>
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>15 s.h.</b>

**Summer 1**

Law internship/employment (optional and recommended, typically without credit)

**Semester 3**

URP:6200 Analytic Methods I - core course	3 s.h.
URP:6202 Land Use Planning: Law and Practice - core course	4 s.h.
URP:6203 History and Theories of Planning - core course	3 s.h.
URP:6205 Economics for Policy Analysis - core course	3 s.h.
URP:6208 Program Seminar in Planning Practice - core course	<u>1 s.h.</u>
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>14 s.h.</b>

**Semester 4**

URP:6201 Analytic Methods II - core course	3 s.h.
Planning electives	3-4 s.h.
Law electives	<u>6 s.h.</u>
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>13 s.h.</b>

**Summer 2**

URP:6335 Planning Internship	<u>2 s.h.</u>
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>2 s.h.</b>

<sup>2</sup> This plan does not include summer law classes and begins with law courses first. Those who take summer classes may take fewer hours during the fall/spring semesters. Students have the option of starting in planning the first year, followed by law. Students should be aware that none of the planning semester hours earned before matriculating at the law school may be applied toward the J.D. degree. Likewise, no law semesters taken before matriculating in planning may be applied toward the master's degree in planning.



**Semester 5**

URP:6209 Field Problems in Planning I - capstone course	3 s.h.
URP:6258 Modeling Dynamic Systems	3 s.h.
URP:6290 Economic Impact Assessment	3 s.h.
Law electives <sup>3</sup>	<u>6 s.h.</u>
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>15 s.h.</b>

**Semester 6**

URP:6210 Field Problems in Planning II - capstone course	3 s.h.
Planning electives (number of s.h. depends on whether planning internship was done)	4 s.h. or 6 s.h.
Law electives (number of s.h. depends on whether planning internship was done)	<u>3 s.h. or 6 s.h.</u>
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>10 or 15 s.h.</b>

**Summer 3**

Internship/employment (typically no credit)

**Semester 7**

Law electives (number of s.h. depends on law electives taken in Semester 6)	<u>12 or 14 s.h.</u>
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>12 or 14 s.h.</b>

**Semester 8**

Law electives (number of s.h. depends on law electives taken in Semester 6)	<u>12 or 14 s.h.</u>
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>12 or 14 s.h.</b>

**Law, J.D.**

**72 semester hours**

**Planning, M.S.**

**35 semester hours** (see footnote [2](#))

<sup>3</sup> Beyond satisfying the semester-hour requirement, second- and third-year law students have the following requirements for graduation: students must (1) take Constitutional Law II, one legal ethics course and one skills course; and (2) earn four upper-class writing units. Also, the planning school strongly recommends combined degree students take LAW:8796 Property II.

## **Sustainable Water Development**

Students in this combined graduate-to-graduate degree program will obtain an M.S.E. in Civil and Environmental Engineering with a subprogram of Sustainable Water Development and an M.S. in Urban and Regional Planning.

### **Careers**

Urban planning and environmental engineering are closely related. Urban planning professionals are often trained in environmental policy and planning and interact frequently with engineers trained in civil and environmental engineering. Water is an important point of contact and joint effort between planning and engineering. The purpose of this combined degree program is to train professionals who are equipped to address water problems with both their engineering and their planning skills and knowledge, thereby improving the opportunities for clean water that avoids or mitigates flooding.

### **Admission**

Students will be expected to meet the admission requirements of the respective programs, take the requisite admission exams and provide appropriate admission materials. The two programs will make admission decisions independently. Students may begin each program in advance of the other or begin the two programs concurrently. All requirements for each degree must be satisfied separately, which includes passing the final examination for each program. URP students without an undergraduate degree in engineering must complete Principles of Environmental Engineering (CEE:3155; 4 s.h. with laboratory) prior to admission to the combined degree program. This course covers fundamentals of water supply and treatment processes; wastewater treatment processes; processes for air pollution control, groundwater remediation; solid and hazardous waste management.

### **Coursework**

The M.S.E. in Civil and Environmental Engineering subprogram Sustainable Water Development requires 31 semester hours. The combined degree option in planning and sustainable water development reduces the total semester-hour requirement for both degrees from 81 to 65. Students must earn a minimum of 38 semester hours in planning and have 12 semester hours of engineering courses applied to the planning requirement of 50. Students can complete the course work in five semesters. Students will need to pursue which courses would be appropriate with their advisors in both departments. More information about the Sustainable Water Development degree can be found [on their website](#).

**Sample Plan of Study**  
**Graduate-to-Graduate Combined Degree**  
**Sustainable Water Development - Urban and Regional Planning**

**Semester 1**

URP:6200	Analytic Methods I	3 s.h.
URP:6202	Land Use Planning: Law and Practice	4 s.h.
URP:6203	History and Theories of Planning	3 s.h.
URP:6205	Economics for Policy Analysis	3 s.h.
URP:6208	Program Seminar in Planning Practice	<u>1 s.h.</u>
<b>Total hours</b>		<b>14 s.h.</b>

**Semester 2**

URP:6201	Analytic Methods II	3 s.h.
URP:6233	Public Finance and Budgeting* <b>OR</b> Elective	3 s.h.
CEE:5310	Informatics for Sustainable Systems	3 s.h.
CEE:5350	Watershed Hydrology & Ecosystem Process	<u>3 s.h.</u>
<b>Total hours</b>		<b>12 s.h.*</b>

**Semester 3**

CEE:5440	Foundations of Envir. Chemistry and Microbiology	3 s.h.
CEE:5380	Fluid Flows in Environmental Systems	3 s.h.
URP:6209	Field Problems in Planning I	3 s.h.
URP:6290	Economic Impact Assessment* <b>OR</b> Elective	3 s.h.
URP:6258	Modeling Dynamic Systems	<u>3 s.h.</u>
<b>Total hours</b>		<b>15 s.h.*</b>

**Semester 4**

URP:6210	Field Problems in Planning II	3 s.h.
CEE:5993	Community-Centered Problem Solving and Design	3 s.h.
CEE	Electives	<u>6 s.h.</u>
<b>Total hours</b>		<b>12 s.h.</b>

**Semester 5**

CEE	Electives	6 s.h.
URP	Electives	<u>6 s.h.</u>
<b>Total hours</b>		<b>12 s.h.</b>

<b>Urban and Regional Planning, M.S.</b>	<b>38 s.h.</b>
<b>Civil &amp; Environ. Engineering, M.S.E.</b>	<b><u>27 s.h.</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>65 s.h.</b>

**\*Note:** Students are required to take URP:6233 Public Finance and Budgeting **OR** URP:6290 Economic Impact Assessment

## Social Work

### Careers

Students in the combined graduate-to-graduate degree program in social work obtain the M.S.W. (Master of Social Work) and the M.S. in Urban and Regional Planning. These students generally pursue a human-services-planning concentration. Graduates of this combined program find careers as human-services planners for local planning agencies, nonprofit social service agencies, and state governments. The combined degree improves the graduate's qualifications for positions of responsibility in human services or social-services planning and administration.

### Admission

Students will be expected to meet the admission requirements of the respective programs, take the requisite admission exams and provide appropriate admission materials. The two programs will make admission decisions independently. Students may begin each program in advance of the other or begin the two programs concurrently. All requirements for each degree must be satisfied separately, which includes passing the final examination for each program.

### Coursework

The M.S.W. degree requires 60 semester hours. The combined-degree option in planning and social work reduces the total semester-hour requirement for both degrees from 110 to 83-85. Students must earn a minimum of 38 s.h. in URP and have 12 s.h. of social work courses applied to the URP requirement of 50. Students can complete the coursework in 3 years by taking 11-13 hours in summer school and averaging 12 hours per semester during the academic year. With approval of the student's P\planning advisor, 3 hours of social work courses can be used to meet the requirements of the concentration. Students in the combined M.S.W. program take the Social Work Practicum in place of the Field Problems capstone requirement – refer to section [Practicum](#) for details.

## Higher Education and Student Affairs

The combined graduate-to-graduate degree between Higher Education and Student Affairs (HESA) in the Department of Education Policy and Leadership Studies (M.A.) and Urban and Regional Planning (M.S.) fills a growing need for higher education academic administrators with knowledge and understanding of planning and sustainability principles and methods.

Historically, campus planning consisted primarily of physical planning in a university setting. Emphasis, therefore, was on capital improvements and space planning. This remains an important area. Two newer areas have been added to higher education planning—strategic planning and sustainability. Sustainability planning encompasses the growing concern on university campuses for both encouraging sustainable practices in the physical plant (*e.g.*, energy conservation) as well as creating a culture of sustainability and integrating sustainability into the curriculum.

### Careers

Students with combined URP-HESA degrees are ideally suited to meet all the dimensions of campus and higher education planning, particularly the growing emphases on strategic and sustainability planning.

The following are key market-place skills and duties, in demand in the higher education job market, which are supported by the combined URP-HESA curriculum.

- Forecasting and matching space requirements with both academic program requirements and sustainability principles.
- General capital improvements planning
- Integrating physical improvements with student life and sustainability principles
- Developing and employing sustainability metrics to measure campus sustainability performance
- Researching and promoting best management practices for campus sustainability
- Creating a culture of sustainability in an institution of higher education
- Understanding how to integrate sustainability into undergraduate and graduate curricula
- Knowledge and understanding of higher education administration and issues
- Knowledge of strategic planning in higher education
- Ability to achieve consensus on campus planning issues with a broad variety of stakeholders—students, faculty, administrators, contractors, adjacent communities.
- Developing and managing campus climate action plans, such as [Penn’s Climate Action Plan](#)

### Admission

Students will be expected to meet the admission requirements of the respective programs, take the requisite admission exams and provide appropriate admission materials. The two programs will make admission decisions independently. Students may begin each program in advance of the other or begin the two programs concurrently. All requirements for each degree must be satisfied separately, which includes passing the final examination for each program.

### Coursework

The M.A. degree in HESA requires 40 hours. The combined degree option in URP and HESA reduces the total semester-hour requirement for both degrees from 90 to 68. Students can complete the course work in three years. Students will need to pursue which courses would be appropriate with their advisor and the combined department.

**Model Plan of Study  
Graduate-to-Graduate Combined Degree  
Higher Education and Student Affairs - Urban and Regional Planning**

**Semester 1**

URP:6200	Analytic Methods I	3 s.h.
URP:6202	Land Use Planning: Law and Practice ( <i>*HESA</i> )	4 s.h.
URP:6203	History and Theories of Planning( <i>*HESA</i> )	3 s.h.
URP:6205	Economics for Urban Planners ( <i>*HESA</i> )	3 s.h.
URP:6208	Program Seminar in Planning Practice	<u>1 s.h.</u>
<b>Total hours</b>		<b>14 s.h.</b>

**Semester 2**

URP:6201	Analytic Methods II	3 s.h.
URP:6233	Public Finance and Budgeting* OR Elective	3 s.h.
URP elective/area of concentration		<u>6 s.h.</u>
<b>Total hours</b>		<b>12 s.h.</b>

**Semester 3**

EPLS:5251	College Students & Their Environments ( <i>*URP</i> )	3 s.h.
EPLS:5253	Assessment in Higher Education & Student Affairs	3 s.h.
EPLS:6216	Finance in Higher Education ( <i>*URP</i> )	3 s.h.
EPLS:6225	Introduction to Public Policymaking ( <i>*URP</i> )	<u>3 s.h.</u>
<b>Total hours</b>		<b>12 s.h.</b>

**Semester 4**

EPLS:5252	Administration of Higher Education & Student Affairs	3 s.h.
EPLS:6224	Organizational Theory & Administrative Behavior ( <i>*URP</i> )	3 s.h.
EPLS:6290	Master's Project	<u>3 s.h.</u>
<b>Total hours</b>		<b>9 s.h.</b>

**Semester 5**

URP:6209	Field Problems in Planning I	3 s.h.
URP:6258	Modeling Dynamic Systems	3 s.h.
URP:6290	Economic Impact Assessment* OR Elective	3 s.h.
EPLS:5100	Issues & Policies in Higher Education	<u>3 s.h.</u>
<b>Total hours</b>		<b>12 s.h.</b>

**Semester 6**

URP:6210	Field Problems in Planning II	3 s.h.
EPLS:5247	Multiculturalism in Higher Education	3 s.h.
EPLS elective/recommended course		<u>3 s.h.</u>
<b>Total hours</b>		<b>9 s.h.</b>

<b>Urban and Regional Planning, M.S.</b>	<b>38 s.h.</b>
<b>HESA, M.A.</b>	<b><u>30 s.h.</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>68 s.h.</b>

**\*Note:** Students are required to take URP:6233 Public Finance and Budgeting **OR** URP:6290 Economic Impact Assessment

*\*HESA* Course cross-counted for HESA credit.

*\*URP* Course cross-counted for URP credit.

## **Occupational and Environmental Health**

Students in this combined program pursue an M.S. degree within the College of Public Health, with an emphasis on occupational and environmental health.

### **Careers**

Graduates typically find employment with state health and human services departments or in health or environmental planning.

### **Admission**

Students will be expected to meet the admission requirements of the respective programs, take the requisite admission exams and provide appropriate admission materials. The two programs will make admission decisions independently. Students may begin each program in advance of the other or begin the two programs concurrently. All requirements for each degree must be satisfied separately, which includes passing the final examination for each program.

### **Coursework**

An M.S. in Occupational and Environmental Health requires 40 semester hours. The combined degree in planning and occupational and environmental health requires 71 semester hours, which includes 38 hours of planning courses and 33 hours of environmental health. Students will need to pursue which courses would be appropriate with their URP advisor and the other department.

## UNDERGRADUATE-TO-GRADUATE (U2G) DEGREES

### Civil and Environmental Engineering

#### Careers

Graduates of the U2G program with Engineering will benefit from obtaining a combination of technical skills as well as an understanding of policy development and implementation. Such a combination of skills would prepare a graduate for a career as a public-works director, city engineer, transportation engineer, or in the public utilities sector.

#### Admission

Students pursuing a B.S.E. degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering may apply for admission to the undergraduate-to-graduate (U2G) degree program with planning during the second semester of their junior year. A complete application for admission to the Graduate College should be submitted at that time. Provided students meet all requirements for a B.S.E. in Engineering, planning judges their application to the program as satisfactory, and their grade point average is at least 3.0, they would be admitted to the U2G degree program. Students who wish to apply for financial aid from planning should submit funding requests per departmental requirements for spring and final year funding.

#### Coursework

The U2G program enables a student to save one academic year while completing two degrees. U2G program students would normally begin to take planning courses in their third and fourth years (the standard engineering curriculum is to be taken during the first two years of the B.S.E.). During the fifth year (after receiving a B.S.E. in Engineering), the student will complete a curriculum similar to that of planning's second-year students. In most cases, students in the U2G program will complete an approved planning internship during the summer between their fourth and fifth years. U2G program students will take the standard comprehensive examination administered to all M.S. in Planning students, during the last semester of the 5th year.

All course requirements of both academic units will be satisfied under the U2G program. One planning core course (URP:6200, Analytic Methods I) is waived because Engineering students generally have an ample analytical background. With approval of the student's planning advisor, three hours of engineering courses can be used to meet the requirements of the concentration. A summary of a typical plan of study for a student in the combined program follows.

#### Model Plan of Study Undergraduate-to-Graduate (U2G) Combined Degree Civil and Environmental Engineering - Urban Planning

##### Year 3 Fall

URP:6208 Planning Program Seminar 1 s.h.

[Select one of the following] 3-4 s.h.

URP:6202 Land Use Planning: Law and Practice - EFA required course (4 s.h.)

URP:6203 History and Theories of Planning - EFA required course (3 s.h.)

URP:6205 Economics for Urban Planners -EFA required course (3 s.h.)

**Total hours** 4-5 s.h.

##### Year 3 Spring

URP:6201 Analytic Methods II - EFA required course, **OR** electives 3 s.h.

**Total hours** 3 s.h.



<b>Year 4 Fall</b>		
[Select a minimum of 6 semester hours]		6-7 s.h.
URP:6202	Land Use Planning: Law and Practice - EFA required course (4 s.h.)	
URP:6203	History and Theories of Planning - EFA required course (3 s.h.)	
URP:6205	Economics for Urban Planners - EFA required course (3 s.h.)	
URP:6233	Public Finance and Budgeting (prerequisite (URP:6205) - EFA Elective Course (3 s.h.).	2-3 s.h.
<b>OR</b>		
URP:6290	Economic Impact Assessment (prerequisite (URP:6205) (2 s.h.)	<hr/>
<b>Total hours</b>		<b>6-9 s.h.</b>
<b>Year 4 Spring</b>		
[Select one]		9 s.h.
URP:6201	Analytic Methods II - EFA Required Course (3 s.h.), AND electives (6 s.h.), <b>OR</b> Electives	<hr/>
<b>Total hours</b>		<b>9 s.h.</b>
<b>Civil &amp; Envir. Engineering, B.S.E.</b>		<hr/>
<b>Planning semester hours applied</b>		<b>22 s.h.</b>
<b>Year 5 Summer</b>		
URP:6335	Internship	<hr/> 2 s.h.
<b>Total hours</b>		<b>2 s.h.</b>
<b>Year 5 Fall</b>		
URP:6209	Field Problems in Planning I	3 s.h.
URP:6258	Modeling Dynamic Systems	3 s.h.
[Select one if not taken earlier]		3-4 s.h.
URP:6202	Land Use Planning: Law and Practice (4 s.h.), <b>OR</b>	
URP:6203	History and Theories of Planning (3 s.h.)	
[Select one if neither taken earlier]		3 s.h.
URP:6233	Public Finance & Budgeting (prerequisite URP:6205) (Spring),	
<b>OR</b>		
URP:6290	Economic Impact Assessment (prerequisite (URP:6205)	
Electives		<hr/> 2-3 s.h.
<b>Total hours</b>		<b>15 s.h.</b>
<b>Year 5 Spring</b>		
URP:6210	Field Problems in Planning II	3 s.h.
Electives		<hr/> 11 s.h.
<b>Total hours</b>		<b>14 s.h.</b>
<b>Total in fifth year</b>		<hr/> <b>30 s.h.</b>
<b>Urban and Regional Planning, M.S.</b>		<b>52 s.h.</b>
<b>35 semester hours must have a URP prefix</b>		

## Environmental Policy and Planning

The undergraduate-to-graduate (U2G) degree between Environmental Policy and Planning (EPPL) in Geographical and Sustainability Sciences and Urban and Regional Planning (URP) allows students to earn an undergraduate degree and a master's degree in five years. Benefits of pursuing the combined degrees include:

- Time to completion of two degrees is five years instead of six
- Apply course credit to both degrees
- Save time and money
- Eligibility for graduate assistantships
- Gain skills in the critical areas needed by employers
- Graduate with the professional credentials to enter the field of planning

### Careers

By completing the master's degree in planning, the undergraduate EPPL degree is enhanced with in-depth graduate study and professional education focused on urban planning, including environmental planning.

### Admission

Applicants to the U2G program should apply for admission during the second semester of their junior year. Complete application instructions can be found on the [SPPA website](#). The application requirements are:

- Completion of 80 semester hours of undergraduate work
- Successful completion of URP:3001 Planning Livable Cities
- A minimum GPA of 3.25

### Coursework and Timeline

#### Year 1

Undergraduate coursework

#### Year 2

Undergraduate coursework

URP:3001 Planning Livable Cities

#### Year 3

Undergraduate coursework

Must complete 80 semester hours of undergraduate coursework to apply  
GPA of 3.25 or higher

#### Year 4

Complete bachelor's degree requirements

Take up to 18 semester hours of graduate coursework

Pay undergraduate tuition rate until bachelor's degree is confirmed

Complete Funding Application/Award Form and submit to Anne Nessa by January 15 for priority funding in Year 5.

Bachelor's degree conferred

#### Year 5

Complete graduate coursework

Pay graduate tuition rate and become eligible for graduate assistantship

Master's degree conferred

A model plan of study for those pursuing the **B.S.** in EPPL combined with URP is available on the [SPPA website](#).

**Model Plan of Study**  
**Undergraduate-to-Graduate (U2G) Combined Degree**  
**Environmental Policy and Planning, B.A. - Urban Planning, M.S.**

**Year 4 Fall**

URP:6200 Analytical Methods I	3 s.h.
URP:6202 Land Use Planning: Law and Practice	4 s.h.
URP:6203 History and Theories of Planning	3 s.h.
URP:6205 Economics for Policy Analysis	3 s.h.
URP:6208 Planning Program Seminar	<u>1 s.h.</u>
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>14 s.h.</b>

**Year 4 Spring**

URP:6201 Analytic Methods II	3 s.h.
EPPL electives	<u>12 s.h.</u>
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>15 s.h.</b>

**Envir. Policy and Planning, B.A.**

**Planning semester hours applied** **17-18 s.h.**

**Year 5 Summer**

URP:6335 Internship	2 s.h.
URP elective	<u>3 s.h.</u>
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>5 s.h.</b>

**Year 5 Fall**

URP:6209 Field Problems in Planning I	3 s.h.
URP:6258 Modeling Dynamic Systems	3 s.h.
URP:6290 Economic Impact Assessment, <b>OR</b> URP concentration elective	3 s.h.
URP concentration elective	3 s.h.
URP elective	<u>3 s.h.</u>
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>15 s.h.</b>

**Year 5 Spring**

URP:6210 Field Problems in Planning II	3 s.h.
URP:6233 Public Finance and Budgeting, <b>OR</b> URP concentration electives	3 s.h.
URP electives	6 s.h.
URP concentration electives	<u>3 s.h.</u>
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>15 s.h.</b>

**Total in fifth year** **30 s.h.**

**Urban and Regional Planning, M.S.**

**35 semester hours must have a URP prefix** **52 s.h.**

## FIELD PROBLEMS

All master's students are required to complete the capstone courses in Field Problems (URP:6209 and URP:6210). The purpose of Field Problems is to give students a field project experience in which students, operating in planning groups or teams, apply what they have learned in core courses to an actual planning problem with a client such as a planning department, community organization, or a public agency. Given that Field Problems builds upon the core curriculum, students are expected to have completed (with a grade of B- or better) all but one first-year core course, plus completed a minimum of 23 semester hours prior to enrolling in Field Problems. Exceptions to the group requirement will not be made. Students who receive a C+ or lower in URP:6209 will not be allowed to take URP:6210 in the next semester. Instead they will have to retake URP:6209 in the following fall term, followed by, if earning a B- or better, URP:6210 in the immediately following spring term. Students receiving a C+ or lower in URP:6210 will be deemed to have failed Field Problems and will need to repeat both URP:6209 and URP:6210 in the following year.

Field Problems represents the planning program's opportunity to prepare a professional planning report for an actual client and is therefore an important step in the education of a professional planner. It provides an excellent opportunity for the transition from theory to practice, which is the foundation of professional planning education, while enabling the student to further develop important professional skills and credentials. It also provides practical experience that complements the student internship. The planning report itself is a visible testimonial to the planning student's level of professional development and can thereby be used to establish a student's credentials in the labor market. Finally, Field Problems represents an important opportunity for students and faculty to perform important community outreach activities that benefit others and adds value to a degree in planning from the University of Iowa.

Field Problems projects are undertaken over the course of the academic year. Students register for three hours of URP:6209 in the fall semester. Under faculty supervision, students in URP:6209 meet with their client, develop a scope of work for their project, and complete a specific portion of their project in the fall term. Each Field Problems group, typically consisting of three to six students, will be supervised by two or three planning faculty members.

Students are required to present their scope of work and initial findings in an oral and written report that they make before the entire planning faculty in the fall semester. Based on feedback they receive in the fall semester from both faculty members and their client, students continue work on their Field Problems and register for three hours of URP:6210 in the spring term.

During the spring term, students will make 1) a final report, both written and oral, to the faculty in April, and 2) a final report, both written and oral, to the client in late April or early May prior to the end of classes. Other presentations to the faculty may also be required. The final report to the client will incorporate student responses to the advice and guidance provided by the faculty in prior presentations and meetings with supervising faculty. Finally, students who expect to graduate must pass an oral examination on their Field Problems project prior to the Graduate College's late April deadline for final examinations. Details on this last requirement are found in the [Final Examination](#) section.

In Fall 2021, students will be expected to participate in Field Camps in the week prior to fall classes.

As in all our planning practice, Field Problems projects are guided by the AICP Code of Ethics (see <http://www.planning.org/ethics/ethicscode.htm>) in which planners, among other expectations, are asked to exercise independent professional judgment on behalf of their clients while at the same time accepting the decisions of their client "...concerning the objectives and nature of the professional services we perform unless the course of action is illegal or plainly inconsistent with our primary obligation to the public interest." Pursuant to this objective, students and supervising faculty are

expected to remain in close contact with the client in order to assure that the Field Problems project meets the client's objectives.

Field Problems projects will be graded individually. Grades will take into account the overall quality of the Field Problems report, the quality of the individual student's work, and the degree to which the student contributed to the overall quality of the Field Problems report. Quality of the Field Problems report will be measured against a common set of professional standards that include the following:

1. Is the actual work performed commensurate with the scope of work outlined at the fall term presentation?
2. Are the methods employed in the analysis appropriate to the problem and are they employed correctly? Are there other methods that should have been employed, but were not?
3. Does the work make a good faith effort to identify and obtain all relevant data?
4. Does the work make a good faith effort to identify and employ all relevant theory?
5. Are the report's conclusions supported by the empirical information presented in the report?
6. Are policy implications and recommendations made clear and do they have utility for the client?
7. Does the report's appearance and structure meet professional standards for effective communications and attractiveness?

Further details on Field Problems grading criteria are found in the Field Problems course syllabus.

## THESIS

Some students may wish to undertake a major piece of policy-related research while in the program. The completion of such an effort may be helpful in gaining desired employment, or for continuing graduate work at the doctoral level. The thesis, if done well, will be an example of research capabilities, writing abilities, and analytical skills. The program will support its students, especially those with a research orientation, in undertaking the writing of a thesis.

### Curriculum Requirements

Coursework requirements for thesis students are identical to those for all other students: completion of core coursework (23 semester hours), development of an area of concentration (9 semester hours), completion of a capstone, and completion of 50 semester hours total. Of the 9 units necessary for a concentration, up to 3 units may be Readings (URP:6305). Remaining units for the 50 total hours are combinations of elective courses, Readings, and Thesis (URP:6325). In all cases, a maximum of 8 semester hours of Readings may be used toward the degree requirements and a maximum of 6 semester hours can be Thesis (URP:6325) units.

Under the above curriculum arrangement, a student may use up to 14 semester hours (8 in directed readings and 6 in thesis hours) for research and writing a thesis. However, a student is encouraged to use elective units to broaden their coursework experiences by completing at least one course in a somewhat different field than those of the thesis and area of concentration.

### Topic and Committee Selection

Students who select the thesis option are responsible for choosing a thesis topic and finding a faculty member who will serve as their thesis advisor. These initial efforts should be accomplished during the second semester of their first year in planning.

Research for the thesis (including background research or a literature review, and the preparation of a preliminary thesis prospectus) should be performed during the summer between the second and third semesters. A maximum of two units of Readings (URP:6305) can be applied toward this work. Benchmarks should be established with the thesis advisor at this stage, and at subsequent stages of the thesis preparation, in order to insure substantive progress in a timely fashion.

Students selecting the thesis option are required to form a thesis committee, which should be done early in the third semester but must be done before the end of that semester. The thesis committee is to include a minimum of three members of the University Graduate faculty, with no fewer than two being tenure or tenure-track from Urban and Regional Planning. Whenever a thesis topic is closely related to a discipline outside planning, or is a thesis by a combined-degree student, it is required that at least one faculty person from that related discipline be included on the committee. After selection of the thesis committee, a schedule of thesis-review sessions between the student and advisor should be prepared.

### Final Prospectus

The final thesis prospectus must be approved by the thesis committee. To ensure that this occurs in a timely fashion, a draft prospectus should be circulated to committee members early in the third semester (or sooner). Upon submission of the final prospectus to the committee, the committee shall give its approval or disapproval within two weeks.

### Thesis Requirements

The general requirements for format and procedure are set out on the Graduate College [Thesis and Dissertations](#) webpage. Thesis and other graduation [deadlines](#) are also available on the Graduate College website.

## **Grading**

There will be one final letter grade given for all thesis (URP:6325) credit upon satisfactory completion of the thesis requirement. Semester hours of thesis work completed in advance of the final semester of registration will receive a temporary grade of "I". Thesis work cannot be taken on an "S-U" basis of grading. Readings work can be graded when it is taken or grades may be assigned at the end of the thesis process. Readings grades may be assigned on an "S-U" basis if agreed to in advance. Both the timing and the basis for grading are to be established jointly by the student and the advisor. In general, readings courses should be graded when taken unless it is certain that the thesis will be completed and the incomplete removed before the end of the following semester. Similarly, a student should not register for thesis hours unless the thesis will be completed before the end of the following semester.

## **Thesis Examination**

All students are required to have an oral defense of their thesis before the thesis committee. This oral defense must be scheduled prior to the Graduate College deadline for examination. This procedure provides an opportunity for the student to benefit by substantive comments from the full committee.

A student may complete the thesis and the oral examination after the Graduate College deadline for the particular semester, but will then receive the degree in the summer session or the first semester following full completion of the requirements.

Students are responsible for determining and following the Graduate College deadlines and procedures with respect to theses. The thesis oral defense will be open to all interested parties. Members of Planning, students and faculty, are encouraged to attend oral defense meetings.

The thesis examination satisfies the Graduate College requirements for a final examination.

## **Copies of Theses**

All master's theses, excluding MFA theses, must be submitted to the Graduate College electronically via ProQuest. There is a one-deposit model whereby students defend their thesis and then submit only one copy to the Graduate College on or before the deadline for the semester in which they intend to graduate. It is strongly suggested by the Graduate College that you submit your thesis at least 10 working days before the first deposit deadline.

One hard copy must be submitted to each thesis committee member at least five working days before the defense. One electronic copy along with hard copies of the signed Certificate of Approval and the title page are required for the thesis deposit. Additionally, one hard copy should be submitted to the department as well.

## MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECT

In some cases, students may want to pursue an independent research topic in more depth than a readings course would allow, but may be unwilling to devote the time required for a Master's thesis. In such cases, a major research project may be appropriate.

A major research project would typically be completed during the fall semester of the second year. Students interested in pursuing this option should take the following steps:

1. Identify a faculty committee, chaired by the student's advisor, by the end of Summer at the latest.
2. Prepare a research proposal, to be presented to the faculty committee within three weeks of the start of the Fall semester. Approval of a final proposal incorporating feedback and comments should occur by the fifth week of the Fall semester.
3. Complete a draft of the research project by Thanksgiving Break, with comments and criticism to be received from members of the advisory committee one week later.
4. Complete and present the final research project to the faculty committee by the end of the Fall semester.

The student is to register for up to six semester hours of URP:6315 Independent Study in Planning during the Fall semester.

Students may need to choose a new advisor with expertise in their proposed topic. A committee of three faculty members should be formed, chaired by the student's advisor, who must be in Urban and Regional Planning. The remaining two committee members could be from outside planning. The committee serves as a resource during the research and evaluates the final product.

The research schedule should be agreed upon at the beginning of the project. It is important that draft versions of the paper or product be completed according to this schedule, to ensure time for feedback. It is the student's responsibility, not the faculty advisor's, to ensure that all deadlines are met. However, the student's advisor will ensure that committee members meet reasonable deadlines for reviewing drafts or other input.

A major research paper should extend understanding of a specific planning or policy problem, or understanding of a specific trend in urban, regional or rural development. It should produce new knowledge, so it must include independent, original research (for example, through interviews, spatial analysis, or data collection and analysis). It should not consist mainly of a review of existing literature and research, although it should include such a review as a basis for framing questions and defining the methodology to be used. It is more ambitious in scope than a term paper written for a course, but is more restricted in scope than a thesis. Although page limits are inevitably arbitrary, between 10,000 and 12,000 words (40 to 50 pages) are appropriate. It need not be only a traditional "text," however. Videos, software or web pages may be valuable components (or in some cases the entire product). However, clear agreement should be reached with the student's committee on the scale of these products.

The exact format of a major research paper should be decided by the student and the committee. The preparation of a well-organized research proposal is critical to the major research project. The research proposal helps to determine whether the proposed project is feasible in terms of time and personal resources. The student must demonstrate an adequate grasp of the project objectives and methodology.



The following areas must be addressed in the research proposal: background of the problem being investigated; definition of a central question or hypothesis; a research plan, and; a preliminary list of bibliographic references or resource materials. If needed, sources of research support should also be identified in the proposal. The methodology and literature review will be more thoroughly developed early in the project, but students should have an idea of how they will approach the research and have read some key resources on the topic before developing a proposal. The following questions might be considered when developing a proposal:

- Does the title convey the meaning of the study? Is it concise?
- Does the introduction prepare the reader appropriately to read the proposal?
- Is the problem clearly defined? Is it clear that the problem is significant to planners and warrants investigation? Will this study contribute to the profession and the understanding of this problem?
- What specific issues will be addressed in this project?
- To what extent has this problem been investigated previously? How does this prior knowledge shape the study being proposed?
- How will the research questions be answered? What methods/methodologies will be employed? What are the limitations of the study?
- What resources will be needed to complete the research, and where will these come from?

## ESSENTIAL QUALITIES FOR A PLANNER

As a graduate student, you will learn all about planning. However, there are additional skills that all employers look for in a potential employee. It is recommended you keep these in mind during your time as a student so that you will have the skills necessary to be hired after graduation. A recent survey of professional planners asked what top three qualities they look for when hiring a new planner. Here are their responses.

### Communication

- The ability to write well.
- The ability to communicate clearly in conversation and presentation.
- Strong communication and presentation skills -- written, oral, "digital" (maps and images).
- Ability to communicate effectively and fairly with different groups of people.
- The individual must be able to communicate with the public effectively.
- Must be diverse and adaptable, able to communicate on a variety of levels with folks ranging from the citizen to the developer, attorneys, etc.
- Ability and willingness to effectively communicate with engineers, politicians, business leaders, and private citizens alike.
- Grammar
- Realize that your role (in council meetings etc.) is to present the facts and the benefits/disadvantages.
- Oral and written communication
- Communicate your ideas graphically (maps, aerials, diagrams).

### Relating to others

- Ability to interact with/relate to public - I've seen way too many issues develop simply because of a staff member's poor communication/manner with a citizen.
- Customer service focused
- Willing to serve the public.
- Ability and willingness to work well with a wide variety of people -- listening, explaining, facilitating, etc.
- Social Awareness
- Team player (works well with others)
- Tact and Humility
- Even-tempered
- PATIENCE
- Ability to keep their personal social, political, environmental, and new-urbanist (pro/con) views separate from the workplace.
- Separate yourself from the politics to the extent possible.
- A collaborative spirit
- Confidence (especially when being the hard-case telling someone they are in violation and must comply - standing by what the ordinance states is within your authority to enforce).

### Independent

- The individual must be a self-starter and progressively motivated to adapt to constant change.
- Able to lead
- The ability to work with minimal supervision in a variety of tasks.

### Deal with change

- Flexibility - With changing administrations and regulations, a planner needs to be able to alter their approach from time to time. Without changing their ethics/morals/principles, a planner working for me will need to have some flexibility in the way they do their work.
- The individual must be open minded and not easily discouraged - pick the "opportunities" that have a more likelihood of success and not let those "challenges" that we all face daily keep us from focusing on the "BIG" picture thinking, people skills.
- FLEXIBILITY

### **Detail oriented**

- Detail Oriented - Careless mistakes or small oversights paint a poor image for how the larger things are being handled. The devil is in the details for me.
- Attention to detail.
- Organization
- Multi-tasking
- MUST be ORGANIZED!!!!

### **Humor**

- The ability to not take yourself so seriously, because no matter what you think, you don't have all of the answers.
- You must possess a sense of humor and compassion. There are times that you will need to use both at the same time. Laughter is always a solid way to break the ice with anyone. Compassion will allow you to work through difficult situations with a citizens or small businessman.

### **Education**

- Some amount of college level Economics training - at minimum one Microeconomics and one Macroeconomics course.
- A planner in a smaller community should understand the basics of both infrastructure and economic development as they relate to effective planning.
- A 4 year degree.....period.
- You must know the Constitution, the Zoning Ordinance and Unified Development Ordinance. A former planning director who I worked for stated that former Chief Supreme Court Justice Warren Burger stated "If Police Officers have to know the Constitution, planners should too!" Therefore, it is important that we learn to apply the rule of law in land use cases strictly based on what is in the Ordinance and what has changed in state law. If the case is taken to court, the only thing that the judge is going to look at is your staff report and the ordinance.
- Knowledge of and ability to interpret legal land use and development matters.

### **Other qualities**

- Demonstrated ability to learn "technical" material across a spectrum of issues.
- You must be a visual thinker. As a planner, you must be able to visualize what an applicant is proposing. This including seeing obstacles that the applicant, Planning Board Members and Town Council might not see.
- Zoning is secondary to effective implementation.
- Comprehensive approach (i.e. possessing a "planning mind").
- An understanding of the city/town (history, demographics, neighborhoods, data).
- "works well under pressure"
- Bonus quality- common sense

## CAREER ASSISTANCE

The school is committed to providing outstanding career assistance efforts for both summer internship and post-graduation jobseekers. Students are urged to use all the services offered and to begin preparing early. The school offers job information access and personal advising support until the student secures their first job or for up to one year after a student's graduation date, whichever comes first.

In addition to having an advanced degree on their résumé, students will need experience to be competitive. Internships are not required for planning students, but the majority of our students take advantage of this opportunity. (See the section on [Internships](#) for the qualifications that need to be met.)

### **Résumé**

All students are urged to write or update their résumé **and** have the Career Services Coordinator and a faculty member review it before the beginning of their second semester. Tips specific to Urban Planning students can be found in the online [SPPA Career Services Manual](#). The Pomerantz Career Center primarily serves undergraduates, but their [Career Guide](#) website offers general résumé and cover letter examples that may be reviewed.

Students should begin to submit resumes for job and internship applications to consulting firms in the fall semesters. Local governments are more likely to advertise openings after January. Students interested in nationally competitive internships should be mindful of early deadlines during the fall semester.

Every year the school compiles a Résumé Book which students may contribute to. First-year students are required to attend the fall career services presentation on résumés in order to be included in the book. Second-year students are only required to attend if they did not attend the previous year. The book is distributed by email to approximately 600 alums every spring. Each year one or more students obtain a position through one of the alums contacted in this way.

### **Job Postings**

Beginning in January, 45-60 new job and internship are posted weekly on our [website](#) that is exclusively accessible to our students. This service brings outstanding job and internship opportunities to our students, and assists them in securing challenging, interesting positions nationwide. We also maintain another exclusive area of our website with more than 1,900 links to the potential employers in local government, at planning and public affairs organizations and consulting firms nationwide. This site is available to assist students and alumni and enhances individual searches.

### **Alumni**

We maintain close contact with our alumni. We also receive employment notifications from alums and other professionals who would like to advertise internship and entry-level positions directly to our students. Graduates tend to move up the ladder quickly; and years later, they are still happy with the education they received at Iowa. Alums have the option of sharing their contact information, also on our website, and students are welcome to contact them for advice, informational interviews and networking opportunities.

### **Mock Interviews**

In the spring semester the school arranges mock interviews in which selected planning and public affairs employers “interview” students for hypothetical positions. At the end of the interview, the employer gives feedback on the student's résumé and interviewing strengths and weaknesses. Additional support for employment searches is provided for planning students by the Iowa Chapter of

the American Planning Association in which planning practitioners conduct mock interviews for planning students and other young planners.

### **Networking**

LinkedIn profiles are equal in importance to a well written resume. It is highly recommended students create one to increase networking and to build a professional online presence. Students are also encouraged to begin networking with professional planners and those in public affairs, including at local, regional and national conferences. To support this, the school is often able to provide some travel expense assistance. (See the section on “[SPPA Support for Student Travel](#).” Travel support is also available from various sources at the university (see “[UI Sources of Support for Travel](#)”).

### **Mentors**

Students should contact the career services coordinator for assistance in identifying alums to approach about becoming a mentor. A mentor match service is also offered by the Iowa Chapter of the American Planning Association before each annual conference.

### **Résumé Builders**

Additional recommended methods to use in finding a position include joining the national planning organization; creating your own website; creating a profile on LinkedIn.com; becoming involved with local or regional planning organizations; or running for a [campus charter committee](#) or running for a position on the Executive Committee of the American Planning Association’s [Student Representatives Council](#). Additional suggestions are in the [Career Services Manual](#) under “Opportunities to Beef up Your Resume.”

## INTERNSHIPS

Internships are designed to give students practical experience through on-the-job training. Internships provide students with two special opportunities:

- To obtain “real world” planning experience
- To reflect critically on the work setting, the planning activity, and planning’s curricular links to those activities.

Students who complete an appropriate internship, write a satisfactory internship paper, and receive an evaluation from their supervisor of “good”, “very good”, or “excellent” are eligible to receive two units of credit toward the degree in planning. The internship option can be satisfied through employment with a relevant agency, firm, or organization for the equivalent of **at least** eight weeks at a half-time fraction (160 hours) during the student's period of affiliation with planning (including summers). Students should seek internships in which their work efforts will be substantive and planning-related (i.e., scanning, receptionist, or carrier services are typically **not** acceptable internship arrangements). An internship cannot be done prior to beginning the program, except in extenuating circumstances.

Students who obtain internships funded by the planning program are not permitted to use those internships for internship credit.

Students who choose the internship option must have the details approved by their advisors beforehand. The Internship Approval form (under Student Resources on the [SPPA website](#)) should be completed by the student and sent to the advisor for their approval and signature before the advisor uploads it to MAUI.

At the end of the internship, a paper about the internship must be submitted to a student's advisor, who may accept, reject, or require changes to the paper. In certain cases, subject to the consent of the advisor, the paper may be submitted to another faculty member for review (usually because of the faculty member’s interest in or experiences with the student or the internship provider). Although the precise form of an internship paper may vary with the nature of the internship, in general the paper should contain the following elements:

1. **A description of the internship:** the employer, the student's position in the organization, and the tasks performed or the project on which the student worked;
2. **A critical discussion of the planning process and the organization:** In this section, the student should think critically about such matters as: the work s/he performed, the purpose of the work performed, where and how it fits in the organization’s planning mission; the structure of the agency/organization, the relation of the agency or the project to local politics and community involvement; and, the method of policy development. This section should be reflective, thoughtful, critical, yet constructive.
3. **The value of the experience as it relates to the student's individual development** and the potential value of such an internship for other students in planning.

Internship papers should be typed and double-spaced. They should be written clearly and concisely, avoiding unnecessary detail. An appropriate length is between 5 and 10 pages.

In addition, each student must have their supervisor complete an evaluation of the student’s performance. A copy of the “Employer’s Report on Planning Intern” is available on the [SPPA website](#). The completed evaluation form, signed by the supervisor, needs to be submitted to the planning administrative office for review by the student’s advisor at the same time the internship paper is submitted. Again, if the supervisor reports that the student’s internship was evaluated as fair or poor, then the student will not receive credit for the internship.

The workflow of the form is as follows:

1. At the beginning of the internship, student gives the form to their employment supervisor.
2. Upon completion of the internship, the employer mails the form back to the SPPA administrative services coordinator.
3. The student and their advisor receive an email from the administrative services coordinator notifying them the form has arrived and that they need to meet.
4. The evaluation form is uploaded to the student's electronic advising file.
5. Advisor accesses this form **and** the original Internship Approval Form from the electronic advising file when he/she meets with the student.
6. The advisor and student sign the Employer Evaluation Form and the advisor uploads the form to the student's file (MAUI) before the deadline (see front cover for the deadline date).
7. The advisor **also** signs the Internship Approval Form to finalize the process and then uploads it to MAUI as well.

In some unusual circumstances, a student may discover that an internship that was expected to be "substantive" turned into something less meaningful. If this is the case, the student should contact their advisor immediately (or the planning director, if the advisor is unavailable) and discuss the issue. Efforts will be made by the student and the advisor with the employer to improve the quality of the internship work experience.

### **Course Credit and Due Dates**

Students typically register for the course, URP:6335 Internship, during the semester just following their internship\* (or, in the case of an internship done during the student's final semester in the program, concurrent with the internship).

Internship papers are due on the date specified on the inside [cover of this manual](#). For example, for a summer 2021 internship, a student would typically register for URP:6335 during the fall 2021 semester and submit the internship paper by October 1 (although earlier submission is desirable). Students must request their "Internship Approval Form" from their student file and submit it along with their internship paper.

The student's faculty advisor will review the internship paper. If the paper needs revision, the student has two weeks to submit the revisions. If a satisfactory internship paper is not submitted, a grade of "unsatisfactory" will be posted and the student will not receive credit for the internship experience. In addition, if the student's internship supervisor evaluates the student's overall performance as fair or poor, then the grade for the class will be "unsatisfactory." Results of both the faculty and the client review should be indicated on the "Internship Form" and uploaded to MAUI by the advisor.

Students may not register for URP:6335 more than once.

**\*International students** must register for the internship in the semester they are doing the work. Check with International Students and Scholars Services to learn about the registration requirements.

## PRACTICUM

Occasionally, an exceptional opportunity arises for a student to complete an extended planning internship while still a student in planning, an internship that requires a student to be absent from planning for all or part of a semester in addition to the normal summer internship period. Under certain circumstances, this experience can qualify as a practicum. If the requirements below are met, the practicum will constitute an internship and will also substitute for the required capstone courses Field Problems in Planning I and II. Students choosing the practicum option must register for URP:6229, Practicum, for one to five semester hours during the practicum experience. A total of five semester hours is required, but they may be spread across one or more semesters. At least 1 semester hour must be taken in the semester the student expects to graduate. The requirements for the practicum are as follows:

1. The practicum can be taken only after all core course requirements have been satisfied.
2. The student must obtain an internship with a planning or planning-related organization consisting of at least five continuous months of full-time employment.
3. The practicum experience must consist of a specific, structured project that will result in a polished final report. Students cannot receive practicum credit for an ordinary internship, where the student is functioning primarily as a staff member assigned a variety of duties from day-to-day or week-to-week. The practicum must include a project similar in scope to a field problems project and this project must be a primary focus of the intern's job.
4. The project must include teamwork in the same way that a field problems project entails teamwork. In other words, there must be shared responsibility for conducting the required analyses and for the final product. Working independently under the supervision of an organization official does not constitute sufficient "teamwork."
5. The practicum will be conducted under the supervision of a committee of three faculty members. The student must develop a work plan for the practicum in consultation with his or her committee. The work plan constitutes a contract and should include a description of the project, the milestones to be attained, and the final report to be produced. The work plan should also identify the person or persons to whom the final project is to be presented and should describe the nature of the teamwork involved. The plan is subject to the approval of the faculty as a whole, upon the recommendation of the committee. Retroactive approval will not be granted under any circumstances.
6. As the milestones identified in the work plan are attained, this should be reported to the committee. Minor revisions to the work plan may be made during the internship with the approval of the committee.
7. Upon returning to planning, the student must make a formal presentation of the project's final report to the committee and other faculty. The final report produced during the practicum must be submitted to the committee. The final report, the formal presentation, and the student's responses to questions asked by faculty at the formal presentation will constitute the final examination for students who select the practicum option.

Students undertaking a practicum should understand that agencies may alter the job description after the internship has begun, and that the nature of the project and of the teamwork involved may change as a result. The student bears the responsibility of requesting faculty approval of a revised work plan, and the student should be aware that the faculty might not approve the revised plan. Thus, there is no guarantee that practicum credit will be awarded if the project is substantially changed.

It should also be noted that, to satisfy the internship requirement, the student must submit an internship paper as described in the internship section of the student manual and register for 2 hours of internship (URP:6335).

The committee will award a grade for the practicum based on the quality of the final report, the oral presentation, and the attainment of the milestones specified in the work plan.



## **Practicum for Those in Combined Program with Social Work**

For students in the combined degree program with Social Work **only**, these practicum requirements have been adjusted to enable the practicum required for the M.S.W. portion of the combined-degree to satisfy the requirements for a practicum in the planning program. This will enable a student in the combined social work program to substitute the social work practicum (if it meets the following criteria) for the Field Problems I and II capstone course requirement. Note that this does not reduce the total 35 hours that must be completed in planning— it merely allows the student to waive out of the required Field Problems sequence.

An acceptable Practicum for combined social work candidates should meet the following requirements, in addition to the requirements established by the School of Social Work:

1. The practicum may be taken before all first-year planning core course requirements have been satisfied, but usually 9 semester hours of core course requirements would have been completed.
2. The practicum should be in a field of social work that is closely related to planning. community development, social services or housing agencies may all provide practicum experiences that would involve planning activities. Each practicum is obviously unique, and students should consult with their advisors in both social work and planning to determine whether the projects identified by the agency would provide an appropriate range of experience.
3. The practicum must entail at least 700 hours of employment.
4. The practicum experience must consist of a specific, structured project that will result in a polished final report. Students cannot receive practicum credit for an ordinary internship, where the student is primarily functioning as a staff member assigned a variety of duties from day-to-day or week-to-week. The practicum must include a project similar in scope to a field problems project and this project must be the primary focus of the intern's job. Good examples of practicum responsibilities that would be acceptable include analyzing the outcomes of a particular program, developing a new program (including applying for grants to support it), or developing a human services plan. Again, students should consult with their advisors in both social work and planning to decide whether the practicum experience would be appropriate.
5. The practicum will be conducted under the supervision of a committee of three faculty members. The student must develop a work plan for the practicum in consultation with his or her committee. The work plan constitutes a contract and should include a description of the project, the milestones to be attained, and the final report to be produced. The work plan should also identify the person or persons to whom the final project is to be presented and should describe the nature of the teamwork involved. The plan is subject to the approval of the faculty as a whole, upon the recommendation of the committee. Retroactive approval will not be granted under any circumstances.
6. The project must include teamwork in the same way that a field problems project entails teamwork. In other words, there must be shared responsibility for conducting the required analyses and for the final product. Working independently under the supervision of an organization official does not constitute sufficient "teamwork."
7. The acceptability of the social work practicum as a substitute for Field Problems is subject to the approval of the planning faculty as a whole, upon the recommendation of the student's committee.
8. The student must make a formal presentation of the project's final report to faculty and students in the planning program. The final report produced during the practicum should be submitted to the student's committee in planning. The final report, the formal presentation, and the student's responses to questions asked by faculty at the formal presentation will constitute the final examination for students in the combined degree program with social work who select the practicum option.

## AICP OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD

The American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) sponsors an outstanding student award each year. This is not a national competition, but instead permits each planning school to select one student to receive the award. Under our procedures, nominations for the outstanding student may be made by faculty, staff, or students. Any student who will graduate during a given academic year and has a cumulative GPA of at least 3.50 is eligible to be nominated for the award for that year.

Nominations are to be submitted to the planning director by February 1<sup>st</sup>. Nominees will be asked to provide a resume and brief description of the criteria as listed below. A Student Award Committee, consisting of two faculty members, will make a recommendation to the faculty, which will then select the student to receive the award.

Planning's selection of an outstanding student is based on the faculty's assessment of the quality of the student's work in planning and the student's promise of success as a professional planner. In making this assessment, the faculty will look for evidence of the student's intellectual ability, acquired skills, and commitment to planning. Definitions of these three categories are provided below.

Intellectual Ability as demonstrated by:

- The innovative nature of work accomplished while in planning;
- The ability to analyze problems and methods critically;
- The ability to synthesize concepts and apply them to real situations, and;
- A minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.50.

Acquired Skills as demonstrated by:

- The ability to communicate clearly and succinctly in written and oral forms;
- The ability to design a research effort and monitor its implementation;
- The ability to apply analytic methods to their appropriate uses, and;
- The ability to work effectively in a team or group situation.

Commitment to Planning as demonstrated by:

- Contribution through service to the students, staff or faculty;
- A sense of professional direction;
- Individual initiative and desire for a successful career in planning;
- Leadership in student organizations, and;
- Contributions to the planning profession through participation in planning activities of state or local government, such as planning boards or commissions.

## **MASTER OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

## **MASTER OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS VISION/MISSION STATEMENT**

The Master of Public Affairs degree program prepares/trains the next the generation of public managers, administrators, policy makers and analysts who:

- stem from a wide range of socio-demographic backgrounds and interests
- embrace the public services values of public affairs, policy, and administration
- can analyze, develop and implement programs and policies that serve the public interest
- have the knowledge and skills to effectively and fairly manage and lead government, non-profit and private agencies and their staff
- serve their employers, profession and communities by promoting good governance, sound investments, sustainability, resilience, equity and justice
- have successful careers in public service, public administration, as well as non-profit and private sector management in Iowa and beyond

The program's mission is also to serve public and nonprofit sector agencies in the State of Iowa and beyond:

- through student and faculty engagement with communities (IISC and other applied projects)
- through faculty research that advance public affairs, administration, and policy knowledge and practice

## THE MPA PROGRAM

“Create a university ecosystem that enables UI to be an international leader in confronting the grand challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.” This quote is from the 2016-2021 University of Iowa Strategic Plan. It reflects the grand ambitions that the University of Iowa has for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

As we now fully realize at the end of the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, one of the enduring grand challenges is how we collectively, creatively, and democratically respond to key challenges facing our communities, our nation, and the world. Among these challenges are

- environmental change—including an increased incidence and intensity of disasters such as flooding, sea level rise, and wildfires attributable to climate change
- pandemics
- health care
- an aging population
- addiction
- inadequate infrastructure
- inequality
- unaffordable housing
- racism
- transportation
- immigration
- economic development; and
- public safety

### **Interdisciplinary**

In response to these challenges, the University of Iowa has established an interdisciplinary master’s degree in Public Affairs that will train future leaders to systematically and creatively address these and other challenges in the coming years.

The creation of an MPA degree at Iowa is a logical step forward because public affairs plays an important role at the University. Faculty in the following units conduct research, teach classes, and perform public service in public affairs, for all of which they have earned national and international reputations.

- Business—Organizations and Leadership, Nonprofit Organizational Effectiveness
- Education—Education Policy
- Engineering—Civil and Environmental Engineering--sustainability
- Geographical and Sustainable Sciences—climate change, sustainability
- History—history of policing, race and American history
- Law—Nonprofit Organizations
- Political Science—Public Policy, Politics
- Public Health—Health Planning and Management

- Sociology and Criminology—Criminal Justice Policy
- Urban and Regional Planning

### **Campus Public Affairs Centers**

The University also hosts important public affairs centers including

- [Public Policy Center](#)
- [Larned A. Waterman Iowa Nonprofit Resource Center](#)
- [Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities](#)

## DEGREE OBJECTIVE, GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS, AND CURRICULUM

### Degree Objective

All students are admitted into the public affairs program to pursue a master's degree without a thesis.

### Graduation Requirements

- GPA:** Attain an overall 3.0 grade point average for all courses taken at the University of Iowa that **can** be applied to the student's plan of study/MyPlan for the public affairs degree, **regardless of whether they exceed what courses are needed to complete the degree** (see section on [Grading and Academic Performance](#)).
- Credits:** Complete 42 hours of course credit in public affairs courses or courses approved by the student's advisor that contribute to a degree in public affairs. **These may include courses offered by public affairs programs at other universities that were taken prior to enrollment and have been accepted for credit by the program faculty.** (See section on "[Credit for Courses Taken Prior to Enrollment](#).")
- Course Work:** Complete satisfactorily all core and capstone courses (unless this requirement is waived by the program - see "[Waiver of Core Course Requirements](#)"), and a minimum of 9 semester hours in courses for an area of concentration.
- Satisfactory completion means attainment of a grade of B- or better in each required course. If the grade is lower than a B-, the course must be repeated until a B- or higher grade is obtained. (See section on "[Grades in Required Courses](#).") However, if a course is not used to satisfy any of the area of concentration or the core courses, and if the student's GPA is adequate, and the Graduate College accepts the credit, then the course may count towards the 42 hours for the degree even if the grade is below a B-, as long as it is no lower than a C-.
- Final Exam:** Students must pass an oral exam administered by the student's final exam committee.

### Curriculum

The curriculum is based on a philosophy that balances coursework and choices between public administration and public policy courses and therefore prepares a student for a profession in either or both public administration and public policy.

The curriculum is a two-year program leading to a Master of Public Affairs (MPAff). It consists of 42 semester hours, including 21 semester hours of core courses, 3 hours of capstone courses, at least 9 semester hours in an area of concentration, 6 semester hours of electives, plus 3 semester hours for completion of a qualified internship. (See "[Internships](#)" section.)

## REQUIRED COURSES

The Master of Public Affairs (MPAff) requires 42 semester hours. As an interdisciplinary program, courses are offered by the School of Planning and Public Affairs and the Political Science Department, as well as from other units such as Management and Organizations in the Tippie College of Business, Strategic Communications in the School of Journalism and Mass Communications, and the Larned Waterman Nonprofit Resource Center in the College of Law.

### Required Courses

- 7 core courses
- 1 internship
- 5 electives (including 3 taken within a concentration)
- a one-semester capstone project

For the capstone project students will engage in analysis of a contemporary public policy problem plus development of recommended action steps. This will be done in tandem with the University's [Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities](#) (IISC) which has been providing public consultation to communities in Iowa for over a decade.

One-half-time assistantship appointees may register for no more than 12 semester hours during a semester.

### Core Curriculum

<b>Required Courses</b>	<b>Title and Instructor for 2020-21</b>		<b>Semester Hours</b>
PBAF:5117	Fall	Bureau. Politics & Public Admin. (Covington)	core 3
PBAF:5200	Fall	American State Politics (Tolbert)	core 3
PBAF:6200	Fall	Analytic Methods I (Laurian)	core 3
PBAF:6205	Fall	Economics for Policy Analysis (Qian)	core 3
<b>Second Semester</b>			
PBAF:5111	Spring	American Public Policy (Tolbert)	core 3
PBAF:6233	Spring	Public Finance & Local Budgeting (Nguyen)	core 3
PBAF:6240	Spring	Public Management (Monroe)	core 3
		Concentration or Elective	elective 3
<b>Third Semester</b>			
PBAF:6335	Sum./Fall	Internship	core 3
		Concentration or Elective	elective 3
		Concentration or Elective	elective 3
<b>Fourth Semester</b>			
PBAF:6210	Spring	Public Affairs Capstone (Kraus)	capstone 3
		Concentration or Elective	elective 3
		Concentration or Elective	elective 3



## **Waiver of Core Course Requirements**

Core courses can be waived fully or in part for students who have completed comparable courses covering substantially the same material prior to enrolling in the public affairs program, and who received a grade of B or higher in those courses. Public affairs' policy is to grant waivers for core courses only in exceptional cases. However, students who believe they have a legitimate case for waiver are encouraged to request one.

To obtain a waiver of Analytic Methods I or Economics for Policy Analysis the student should arrange to take an evaluation of their knowledge of course material so that a determination can be made no later than the first week the waived course meets. Students are advised to contact the course instructor to arrange for the test and obtain details of the material covered in the test.

In the case of other core courses, the student must supply sufficient supporting materials to demonstrate that the subject matter contained in the course for which a waiver is sought has been covered with comparable rigor elsewhere. It should be emphasized that the burden of proof lies with the student to demonstrate the adequacy of previous training. Course outlines, exercises (if applicable), exams, and transcripts are the types of documentation typically required. The waiver form is available on the SPPA website and must be signed by the instructor of the core course and by the student's advisor, who will enter their recommendations. The request is then presented by the advisor to the full faculty for approval.

Waiver requests should be made as early as possible, but no later than the first week of the semester during which the course would normally be taken. Should a request be denied, the student will then be able to enroll in the course before too much of the semester has elapsed. Under no circumstances will a waiver be granted after the student has completed subsequent sequential courses, or after the student has completed Public Affairs Capstone.

It should be noted that approval of a waiver exempts the student from the requirement to take a particular course, but does not reduce the 42 hours required for the degree. A student who waives a core course has the same final examination requirements as one who did not waive the particular course. (See sections on "[Final Examination](#)") Therefore, it would be prudent to assure oneself that the material has been adequately mastered before requesting a waiver.

## **Grades in Required Courses**

A required course requirement can be satisfied either by waiver of the course or by completion of the course with a grade of B- or better. A required course for which a student received a C+ or lower must be repeated with a grade of at least a B-. If a required course is repeated, it will appear twice on the student's official university transcript. The original grade and the grade for the second time the course was taken will both be included in the official GPA. However, for purposes of determining the program GPA, satisfying the school's requirement of a 3.00 GPA for graduation, and meeting the requirement of 42 semester hours, the second course will replace the first. That is, assuming at least a B- is received the second time, the 3 hours credit for the first time the course was taken will not count towards the 42 hour requirement and the first grade will not be included in the program GPA. (See "[Grading and Academic Performance](#).")

## AREAS OF CONCENTRATION

Usually in their second semester, students develop an area of concentration by applying the concepts and skills developed in the core to a specific field of public affairs. The purpose of the area of concentration requirement is to ensure that the student develops depth in a particular substantive area by mastering a set of elective courses that together constitute a coherent plan of study/MyPlan in that area.

There are two areas of concentration supported by faculty and course offerings within public affairs:(1) Public and Nonprofit Management and (2) Public Policy. The course offerings and requirements for each area of concentration are described in the following pages. Note that due to faculty leaves of absence and reduced teaching loads because of research projects and other circumstances, not all of the courses listed in the following sections dealing with areas of concentration will be offered every year.

In all cases the student's plan of study/MyPlan must include at least nine semester hours of course work in the area of concentration. The student must attain at least a B- in each course for that course to be applied to the area of concentration requirement.

Normally, not more than three hours of readings courses or independent study may be counted towards a concentration. In those cases when a student has re-taken a concentration course, the second course grade will replace the first grade and will be used in computing the program GPA.

**Please note:** When considering taking courses offered by other departments, students must check course offerings on MyUI, consult with their advisors and take care when including such courses on their plan of study/MyPlan.

## Public and Nonprofit Management

Students choosing this concentration do so because of their interest in the management of public and/or nonprofit organizations. The objective is to obtain a basic understanding of the principles and foundations for successful leadership, management, and communication in public and nonprofit organizations. Students are given the latitude to put together the program of study they think best for meeting their career objectives.

Students must earn nine hours towards this concentration by taking any three courses from the list below. Students may propose other courses not listed here, but must obtain written approval from their adviser in order for these courses to be counted toward the concentration. Given the range of academic units across campus that offer courses in public and nonprofit management, it is wise to plan ahead by ascertaining the timing and availability of these courses during your course of study.

**Note:** Students may not take both LAW 8753 and MGMT 3500, and they cannot take both LAW 8755 and MGMT 4600 because these pairs of courses have similar contents.

Required	Title and Instructor for 2020-21	Semester Hours
<b>Nonprofit Management</b>		
LAW:8753	Nonprofit Organizations: Structure, Governance & Strategy	3
LAW:8755	Nonprofit Organizations: Advocacy, Collaboration & Fundraising	3
MGMT:3500	Nonprofit Organizational Effectiveness I (summer option)	3
MGMT:3600	Nonprofit Organizational Effectiveness II	3
MGMT:4600	Nonprofit Ethics and Governance	3
<b>Public Management</b>		
PBAF:6282	Spring/Sum. Grant Writing (Mirr)	2
PBAF:6238*	Spring Public Human Resource Management (staff)	3
PBAF:6239*	Spring Organizational Dynamics and Leadership (staff)	3
PBAF:6241	Fall 2021 Strategic Mgmt of Public & Nonprofit Organizations (Karla Twedt-Ball)	3
<b>Strategic Communication</b>		
JMC:5200	Topics in Strategic Communication	3
JMC:5240	Digital Strategic Communication	3
JMC:5270	Leadership Communication	3
JMC:5300	Foundations of Strategic Communication	3
POLI:3560	Public Policy and Persuasion	3

\*Not offered 2020-2021

## Public Policy

Students choosing this concentration do so because of their interest in public policy, including public policy analysis and the public policy process (including the political process), as well as in specific areas of public policy such as environmental policy. Students are given the latitude to put together the program of study they think best for meeting their career objectives.

Students must earn nine hours towards this concentration by taking any three courses from the list below. Students may propose other courses not listed here, but must obtain written approval from their adviser in order for these courses to be counted toward the concentration. Given the range of academic units across campus that offer courses in public policy, it is wise to plan ahead by ascertaining the timing and availability of these courses during your course of study.

Required	Title and Instructor for 2020-21	Semester Hours
<b>Criminal Justice</b>		
CRIM:3500	Policies and Procedures of Policing	3
CRIM:3600	Crime and Public Policy	3
CRIM:4470	Communities and Crime	3
<b>Economic Development Policy</b>		
PBAF:6295    Spring	Economic Development Policy (Qian)	3
PBAF:6297    Fall	Economic Development Finance (Nguyen)	3
<b>Educational Policy</b>		
EPLS:6222	Intro to Educational Policy	3
EPLS:6225	Higher Education Policy	3
EPLS:6228	K-12 Education Finance and Policy	3
<b>Environmental Policy</b>		
PBAF:5800    Spring	Environmental Economics and Policy (Secchi)	3
PBAF:6256    Spring	Environmental Policy (Spak)	3
PBAF:6257*    Spring	Environmental Management (Laurian)	3
PBAF:6258    Fall	Modeling Dynamic Systems (Spak)	3
CEE:3790	Resilient Infrastructure and Emergency Response	3
CEE:5410	Politics and Economics of the Food, Energy, Water Nexus	3
LAW:8433	Environmental Law	3
LAW:8622	International Environmental Law	3
POLI:3518	Water Wars: Conflict and Cooperation	3

\*Not offered 2020-2021

**Health Policy**

PBAF:6253*	Spring	Designing Sustainable and Healthy Cities (Laurian)	3
HMP:5610		Health Policy	3
HMP:5650		Health Policy Analysis	3
HMP:6710		Federalism and Health Policy	3

**Housing and Community Development Policy**

PBAF:6271	Spring	Housing Policy (Anthony)	3
PBAF:6273	Spring	Community Devel. in the Upper Midwest (Connerly & Kraus)	3

**Methods**

PBAF:6201	Spring	Analytic Methods II (Nguyen)	3
-----------	--------	------------------------------	---

**Politics of Public Policy Making**

JMC:5248		Strategic Political Communication	3
POLI:3102		The U.S. Congress	3
POLI:3104		Immigration Politics	3
POLI:3118		Interest Groups	3
POLI:3123		State Politics in Iowa	3
POLI:3203		Campaigns, Elections, and Voting Behavior	3
POLI:3204		Public Opinion	3
POLI:3519		Politics of Aging	3
POLI:3560		Public Policy and Persuasion	3

**Sustainable Development**

PBAF:5800	Spring	Environmental Economics and Policy (Secchi)	3
PBAF:6253*	Spring	Designing Sustainable and Healthy Cities (Laurian)	3
CEE:4107		Sustainable Systems	3
CEE:5410		Politics and Economics of the Food, Energy, Water Nexus	3
GEOG:3420		Sustainable and Green Building Concepts	3
GEOG:4750		Environmental Impact Analysis	3
GEOG:4770		Environmental Justice	3

**Transportation Policy**

PBAF:6260	Spring	Transportation Policy and Planning (Spears)	3
PBAF:6265	Fall	Planning Sustainable Transportation (Spears)	3
PBAF:6266	Fall	Transportation and Land Use Planning (Spears)	3

\*Not offered 2020-2021

## COMBINED DEGREE PROGRAMS

Undergraduate-to-graduate (U2G) degree options are available allowing students to earn a graduate degree in public affairs and an undergraduate degree in less time than would be required to obtain the two degrees independently. This is because courses for one degree are considered as elective credit for the other degree program.

Specific features of formalized combined degree programs follow; however, the student should verify the most recent combined-degree requirements with the department of interest, because courses and requirements in other departments are subject to change with little prior notification.

### **Graduate-to-graduate options with other disciplines**

It is possible to receive a master's degree in public affairs in conjunction with a graduate degree in another discipline, even when a formalized graduate-to-graduate degree program does not exist. Examples would be a graduate-to-graduate degree in urban planning or public health.

University policy requires that prior administrative approval be granted, and a minimum of 60 semester hours of graduate credit be completed to receive two master's degrees. However, courses taken to satisfy one unit's requirements also may be applied to meet the other unit's requirements. Some credits can be shared when one master's degree requires, or both master's degrees require, more than 30 semester hours of graduate credit. (No more than ¼ of the credits necessary for one degree may be composed of coursework taken for the other degree.) In all cases, combined degree programs require at least 60 semester hours of graduate credit and each unit's degree requirements must be met. See the Graduate College Manual, [section X. G.](#)

### ***Admission***

Separate applications for admission to public affairs and to the other academic unit are required. When applying to each unit, it should be indicated on the Graduate College Application that the student is applying for a combined degree program with public affairs and the other unit.

If a student is already admitted to another academic unit, and he or she is assigned formally to that unit, the student should request that both the unit and public affairs write letters to the Graduate College approving the student's pursuit of two master's degrees and exchange letters between departments. At a time when the majority of coursework is in public affairs, the student should file a Change of Status form with the Graduate Admissions Office, to be formally assigned to public affairs.

If the student is first admitted to public affairs and subsequently desires to obtain a second master's degree in addition to one in public affairs, letters from both academic units should be sent to the Graduate College, as above and exchanged between departments. A Change of Status form should be filed at the time the student completes their coursework in public affairs. Doing so will enable the student to be formally assigned to the other academic unit. If the student plans to complete all degree requirements in the public affairs and in the other academic unit simultaneously, no Change of Status form should be filed.

### ***Tuition***

As a member of a graduate-to-graduate degree program, students may pay the greater of the two programs' tuition costs. Students are encouraged to consult the Graduate College to determine the tuition amount.

## CAPSTONE

All master's students are required to complete the public affairs capstone (PBAF:6210). The purpose of the capstone is to give students a field project experience in which students, operating in groups or teams, apply what they have learned in core courses to an actual public affairs problem with a client such as. Given that the capstone builds upon core curriculum, students are expected to have completed (with a grade of B- or better) all but one first-year core course, plus completed a minimum of 30 semester hours prior to enrolling in the capstone. Exceptions to the group requirement will not be made.

Capstone represents the program's opportunity to prepare a professional report for an actual client and is therefore an important step in the education of a professional in public affairs. It provides an excellent opportunity for the transition from theory to practice, which is the foundation of professional public affairs education, while enabling the student to further develop important professional skills and credentials. It also provides practical experience that complements the student internship. The final report itself is a visible testimonial to the public affairs student's level of professional development and can thereby be used to establish a student's credentials in the labor market. Finally, the capstone represents an important opportunity for students and faculty to perform important community outreach activities that benefit others and adds value to a degree in public affairs from the University of Iowa.

Capstone projects are undertaken during the student's final semester. Students register for three hours of PBAF:6210. Under faculty supervision, students in PBAF:6210 meet with their client, develop a scope of work for their project, and complete a specific portion of their project in the fall term. Each Capstone group, typically consisting of three to six students, will be supervised by two or three SPPA faculty members. During the spring term, students will make 1) a final report, both written and oral, to the faculty in May, and 2) a final report, both written and oral, to the client in early May prior to the end of classes. Other presentations to the faculty may also be required. The final report to the client will incorporate student responses to the advice and guidance provided by the faculty in prior presentations and meetings with supervising faculty. Finally, students who expect to graduate must pass an oral examination on their Capstone project prior to the Graduate College's late April deadline for final examinations. Details on this last requirement are found in the Final Examination section.

In Spring 2022, students will be expected to participate in Field Camps in the week prior to spring classes.

As in all our public affairs practice, capstone projects are guided by the ASPA Code of Ethics (<https://www.aspanet.org/ASPA/Code-of-Ethics/Code-of-Ethics.aspx>) in which public affairs professional, among other expectations, are asked to "Provide accurate, honest, comprehensive, and timely information..." Pursuant to this objective, students and supervising faculty are expected to remain in close contact with the client in order to assure that the Capstone project meets the client's objectives.

Capstone projects will be graded individually. Grades will take into account the overall quality of the capstone report, the quality of the individual student's work, and the degree to which the student contributed to the overall quality of the capstone report. Quality of the capstone report will be measured against a common set of professional standards that include the following:

1. Is the actual work performed commensurate with the scope of work outlined at the fall term presentation?
2. Are the methods employed in the analysis appropriate to the problem and are they employed correctly? Are there other methods that should have been employed, but were not?
3. Does the work make a good faith effort to identify and obtain all relevant data?
4. Does the work make a good faith effort to identify and employ all relevant theory?
5. Are the report's conclusions supported by the empirical information presented in the report?
6. Are policy implications and recommendations made clear and do they have utility for the client?
7. Does the report's appearance and structure meet professional standards for effective communications and attractiveness?

Further details on capstone grading criteria are found in the capstone course syllabus.



## CAREER ASSISTANCE

The school is committed to providing outstanding career assistance efforts for both summer internship and post-graduation job and fellowship seekers. Students are urged to use all the services offered and to begin preparing early. The school offers job information access and personal advising support until the student secures their first job or for up to one year after a student's graduation date, whichever comes first.

In addition to having an advanced degree on their résumé, students will need experience to be competitive. Internships are required as part of the core curriculum for public affairs students in order to gain practical experience. (See the section on [Internships](#) for qualifications that need to be met.)

### **Résumé**

All students are urged to write or update their résumé **and** have the Career Services Coordinator and a faculty member review it by the beginning of their second semester. See the resume tips specific to your area of study in the SPPA [Career Services Manual](#). The Pomerantz Career Center primarily serves undergraduates, but their [Career Guide](#) website offers general résumé and cover letter examples that may be reviewed.

Students should begin to submit job and internship applications in the fall semester as some summer internships have application deadlines as early as November and post-graduation fellowship deadlines can occur as early as August. Local governments are more likely to advertise openings after January.

Every year the school compiles a Résumé Book which students may contribute to. First-year students are required to attend the fall career services presentation on résumés in order to be included in the book. Second-year students are only required to attend if they did not attend the previous year. The book is distributed by email to approximately 600 alums every spring. Each year one or more students obtain a position through one of the alums contacted in this way.

### **Job Postings**

Beginning in January, 45-60 new job and internship are posted weekly on our [website](#) that is exclusively accessible to our students. This service brings outstanding job, internship and fellowship opportunities to our students, and assists students in securing challenging, interesting positions nationwide. We also maintain another exclusive area of our website with more than 1,900 links to the potential employers in local government, at planning and public affairs organizations and consulting firms nationwide. This site is available to assist students and alumni and enhances individual searches.

### **Alumni**

The school maintains close contact with alumni. We also receive employment notifications from alums and other professionals who would like to advertise internship and entry-level positions directly to our students. Graduates tend to move up the ladder quickly; and years later, they are still happy with the education they received at Iowa. Alums have the option of sharing their contact information, also on our website, and students are welcome to contact them for advice, informational interviews and networking opportunities.

### **Mock Interviews**

In the spring semester the school arranges mock interviews in which selected planning and public affairs employers "interview" students for hypothetical positions. At the end of the interview, the employer gives feedback on the student's résumé and interviewing strengths and weaknesses.

## **Networking**

LinkedIn profiles are equal in importance to a well written resume. It is highly recommended students create one to increase networking and to build a professional online presence. Students are also encouraged to begin networking with professionals in city management, public policy and other areas of public affairs including at local, regional and national conferences. To support this, the school is often able to provide some travel expense assistance. (See the section on “[SPPA Support for Student Travel](#).” Travel support is also available from various sources at the university (see “[UI Sources of Support for Travel](#)”).

## **Mentors**

Students should contact the school’s career services coordinator for assistance in identifying alums to approach about becoming a mentor.

## **Résumé Builders**

Additional recommended methods to use in finding a position include joining one of the many national professional organizations related to public affairs; creating your own website; creating a profile on LinkedIn.com; becoming involved with local or regional government or public affairs organizations; or running for a [campus charter committee](#). Additional suggestions are in the [Career Services Manual](#) under “Opportunities to Beef up Your Resume.”

## INTERNSHIPS

Internships are designed to give students practical experience through on-the-job training. Internships provide students with two special opportunities:

- To obtain “real world” public or non-profit management or public policy experience
- To reflect critically on the work setting, the activity, and public affairs’ curricular links to those activities.

Students who complete an appropriate internship, write a satisfactory internship paper, and receive an evaluation from their supervisor of “good”, “very good”, or “excellent” are eligible to receive three units of credit toward the degree in public affairs. The internship option can be satisfied through employment with a relevant agency, firm, or organization for the equivalent of **at least eight** weeks at a three-quarters-time fraction (240 hrs.) during the student's period of affiliation with SPPA (including summers). Students should seek internships in which their work efforts will be substantive and related to their degree in public affairs (i.e., scanning, receptionist, or carrier services are typically **not** acceptable internship arrangements). An internship cannot be done prior to beginning the program, except in extenuating circumstances.

Students who obtain internships funded by the public affairs program are not permitted to use those internships for internship credit.

Students who choose the internship option must have the details approved by their advisors beforehand. The Internship Approval form (under Student Resources on the [SPPA website](#)) should be completed by the student and sent to the advisor for their approval and signature before the advisor uploads it to MAUI.

At the end of the internship, a paper about the internship must be submitted to a student's advisor, who may accept, reject, or require changes to the paper. In certain cases, subject to the consent of the advisor, the paper may be submitted to another faculty member for review (usually because of the faculty member’s interest in or experiences with the student or the internship provider). Although the precise form of an internship paper may vary with the nature of the internship, in general the paper should contain the following elements:

1. **A description of the internship:** the employer, the student's position in the organization, and the tasks performed or the project on which the student worked;
2. **A critical discussion of the public policy or administrative process and the organization:** In this section, the student should think critically about such matters as: the work s/he performed, the purpose of the work performed, where and how it fits in the organization’s mission; the structure of the agency/organization, the relation of the agency or the project to local politics and community involvement; and, the method of policy development. This section should be reflective, thoughtful, critical, yet constructive.
3. **The value of the experience as it relates to the student's individual development** and the potential value of such an internship for other students in Public Affairs.

Internship papers should be typed and double-spaced. They should be written clearly and concisely, avoiding unnecessary detail. An appropriate length is between 5 and 10 pages.

In addition, each student must have their supervisor complete an evaluation of the student’s performance. A copy of the Employer’s Report on Intern is available on the SPPA website. The completed evaluation form, signed by the supervisor, needs to be submitted to the SPPA administrative office for review by the student’s advisor at the same time the internship paper is submitted. Again, if the supervisor reports that the student’s internship was evaluated as fair or poor, then the student will not receive credit for the internship.

The workflow of the form is as follows:

1. At the beginning of the internship, student gives the form to their employment supervisor.
2. Upon completion of the internship, the employer mails the form back to the SPPA administrative services coordinator.
3. The student and their advisor receive an email from the administrative services coordinator notifying them the form has arrived and that they need to meet.
4. The evaluation form is uploaded to the student's electronic advising file.
5. Advisor accesses this form **and** the original Internship Approval Form from the electronic advising file when he/she meets with the student.
6. The advisor and student sign the Employer Evaluation Form and the advisor uploads the form to the student's file (MAUI) before the deadline (see front cover for the deadline date).
7. The advisor **also** signs the Internship Approval Form to finalize the process and then uploads it to MAUI as well.

In some unusual circumstances, a student may discover that an internship that was expected to be "substantive" turned into something less meaningful. If this is the case, the student should contact their advisor immediately (or the SPPA director, if the advisor is unavailable) and discuss the issue. Efforts will be made by the student and the advisor with the employer to improve the quality of the internship work experience

### **Course Credit and Due Dates**

Students typically register for the course, PBAF:6335 Internship, during the semester just following their internship\* (or, in the case of an internship done during the student's final semester in the program, concurrent with the internship).

Internship papers are due on the date specified on the inside [cover of this manual](#). For example, for a summer 2021 internship, a student would typically register for PBAF:6335 during the fall 2021 semester and submit the internship paper by October 1 (although earlier submission is desirable). Students must request their "Internship Form" from their student file and submit it along with their internship paper.

The student's faculty advisor will review the internship paper. If the paper needs revision, the student has two weeks to submit the revisions. If a satisfactory internship paper is not submitted, a grade of "unsatisfactory" will be posted and the student will not receive credit for the internship experience. In addition, if the student's internship supervisor evaluates the student's overall performance as fair or poor, then the grade for the class will be "unsatisfactory." Results of both the faculty and the client review should be indicated on the "Internship Form" and uploaded to MAUI by the advisor.

Students may not register for PBAF:6335 more than once.

**\*International students** must register for the internship in the semester they are doing the work. Check with International Students and Scholars Services to learn about the registration requirements.