

DEPARTMENT OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

 Dr. Otha Burton, Jr., Assistant Professor and Acting Chair
 3825 Ridgewood Road, Box 23
 Jackson, MS 39211
 Telephone: (601) 432-6865
 Fax: (601) 432-6862
 e-mail: otha.burton@jsums.edu

Faculty

Dr. E. Mereem, Assistant Professor
 Dr. W. Harris, Professor
 Dr. M. Kumar, Assistant Professor

Mission of Program

The Department of Urban and Regional Planning seeks to develop leaders in the field of city planning. The program will provide students with learning opportunities that will enable them to develop the intellectual qualities necessary for meeting the broad and varied range of problems and challenges associated with urban growth and development. The Department offers a Master of Arts degree and Doctor of Philosophy degree. The Master of Arts program consists of an inter-disciplinary curriculum of 49 semester hours, including practical community-based learning experiences and planing studios, while the Doctor of Philosophy consists of 48 semester hours. The Department has a special focus on increasing the number of under-represented groups and women in the profession. The rigorous program is designed for both full-time and part-time students. The program targets recognition at the regional, state, and national levels.

Program Objectives

The Department concentrates upon the challenging issues and problems confronting planning professionals and scholars in the rebuilding of cities across the nation. Courses and studios offer challenging scholarly and practical work that focuses attention on real world solutions while respecting the ethical, skill, and plan development practices of the profession.

Master's Program Admissions Requirements

Admission to the graduate degree program in Urban and Regional Planning is governed by the regulation of the Graduate School and Department. The following criteria must be met:

1. Admission to the Graduate School at Jackson State University;
2. A minimum grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale;
3. Satisfactory performance on the Graduate Record Examination or equivalent test;
4. Demonstrated promise for successful academic achievement in professional graduate work;

5. For international students, indication of adequate financial support and satisfactory performance on TOEFL demonstrating oral and written proficiency;
6. Three letters of recommendation;
7. Personal interview with a departmental faculty member where practical.

Master's Degree Requirements

The Department offers courses on a semester basis. Forty-nine credit hours are required for a master's degree. A basic core and three areas of concentration (Community Development and Housing, Environment and Land Use, and Urban Design) are offered. A thesis or major report option may be elected. A non-credit summer internship is required of inexperienced students.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR MASTER OF ARTS IN URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

Core Courses

(16 hours minimum)

Course	Title	Semester Hours
URP 500	History of Planning	3
URP 502	Planning Theory and Practice	3
URP 504	Quantitative Analysis and Computers	4
URP 506	Legal Aspects in Planning	3
URP 508	Introduction to Urban Design	3

Concentration Courses

(15 hours minimum from one of the three concentration areas)

Community Development and Housing Concentration

URP 520	Housing Policy	3
URP 521	African American Community	3
URP 522	Introduction to Community Development	3
URP 523	Social Policy Planning	3
URP 524	Neighborhood Revitalization	3
URP 525	Land Development Dynamics	3
URP 526	Citizen Participation	3
URP 527	Public Finance Planning	3
URP 528	Economic Development Planning	3
URP 529	Planning in Local Government	3
URP 551	Regional Planning	3

Environment and Land Use Concentration

URP 530	Introduction to Environmental Planning	3
URP 531	Growth Management	3
URP 532	Environmental Planning Ethics	3
URP 533	Rural Land Use Planning	3
URP 534	Environmental Impact Assessment	3
URP 535	Comprehensive Planning	3
URP 536	Developing Nations Environmental Planning	3
URP 537	Plan Implementation	3
URP 538	Zoning and Land Use Regulation	3
URP 539	Risk Analysis	3

Urban Design Concentration

URP 540	Historic Preservation and Conservation	3
URP 541	Technical Skills of Composition and Communication	3
URP 542	Infrastructure and Community Facilities	3
URP 543	Computer-Aided Design I: Introduction	3
URP 544	Design of Cities	3
URP 545	Computer-Aided Design II: Applications in Urban Design	3
URP 546	Site Development	3
URP 547	Behavioral and Cultural Factors in Planning and Urban Design	3

Electives 12
Faculty Advisor's approval required.

Thesis or Non-Thesis Option

(6 hours maximum in either thesis or non-thesis courses)

Thesis

URP 560	Thesis Research	3
URP 566	Master's Thesis	3

Non-Thesis

Faculty Advisor's approval required.

Ph.D. Programs Admissions Requirements

Admissions to the doctoral program in Urban and Regional Planning is governed by the regulations of the Division of Graduate Studies and the Department. The following criteria must be met:

1. Admissions to the Division of Graduate Studies at Jackson State University with a minimum grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale;
2. Satisfactory performance on the Graduate Record Examination or equivalent test.
3. Promise for successful academic achievement at the doctoral level.
4. For international students, indication of adequate financial support and satisfactory performance on TOEFL demonstrating oral and written proficiency.
5. Three letters of recommendation.
6. Substantive statement of proposed research within one of the Department's areas of concentration.
7. When applicable, a description of professional experience and/or samples of previous scholarly works.
8. A personal interview with a departmental faculty when practical.

Candidacy Requirements

Students must successfully complete a comprehensive examination and prepare and defend a proposal for dissertation research prior to being declared a degree candidate.

Ph.D. Degree Requirements

The Department offers courses on a semester basis. A basic core curriculum and three areas of concentration (Community Development and Housing, Environment and Land Use, and Urban Design) are offered. Thirty-six credit hours of course work beyond the master's degree are required prior to writing the dissertation. After completing these course requirements, students may earn a maximum of twelve additional credit hours of dissertation credit. The Ph.D. is awarded after successful completion and defense of the dissertation.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE Ph.D. IN URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

Core Course	Title	Semester Hours
URP 700	Historical development of Cities	3
URP 702	Theoretical Perspectives in Planning	3
URP 710	Advanced Statistical Methods	3
URP 712	Research Methodology	3
URP 714	Ethics in Planning Seminar	3
<i>Total Hours</i>		15

Concentration Courses

12 hours minimum from one of the three concentration areas.

Community Development and Housing Concentration

The following seminars and studios would apply toward this concentration,

URP 720	Urban Housing Policies
URP 722	Community Development and Housing
URP 724	Urban Revitalization Studio
URP 726	Citizen Participation Strategies
URP 728	Local and Regional Economic Development Strategies
URP 760	Advanced Readings

Environment and Land Use Concentration

The following seminars and studios would apply toward this concentration,

URP 730	Environment and Land Use
URP 735	Land Use Planning Studio
URP 736	International Human Settlements
URP 737	Urban Implementation Strategies
URP 760	Advanced Readings

Urban Design Concentration

The following seminars and studios would apply toward this concentration,

URP 740	Foundations in Urban Design
URP 742	Analytical and Evaluation Methods for Urban Design Research
URP 744	Urban Design Studio
URP 746	Urban Design Doctoral Seminar
URP 760	Advanced Readings

Electives 9 hours minimum
Faculty Advisor's Approval Required

Dissertation 12 hours maximum
URP 899 Dissertation

DESCRIPTION OF COURSES

Core Area

URP 500 History of Planning. (3 hours) Introduction to the historical roots, periods, and personalities that have shaped the profession. A study in the development of the profession within the context of urban American history.

URP 502 Planning Theory and Practice. (3 hours) Overview of theories that have contributed to the development of contemporary urban planning; theories introduced include rationality, advocacy, and critical. Also studied are issues related to professional ethics, race and class, and urban development.

URP 504 Quantitative Analysis and Computers. (4 hours) Introduction to the use of quantitative reasoning and statistical techniques to solve planning and policy problems. This course focuses on application of descriptive and inferential statistics, sampling, regression analysis, and modeling.

URP 506 Legal Aspects of Planning. (3 hours) Introduction to the basis in constitutional, common, and statutory law for the authority of plan effectuation. This course delineates the legal and legislative bases for planning at the local, state, and federal levels.

URP 508 Introduction to Urban Design (3 hours) This course provides an understanding of the dynamics that created contemporary urban and regional spatial patterns, elements of physical planning in relation to social, economic, and political forces as well as the role of the urban designer in the planning process.

Community Development and Housing

URP 520 Housing Policy. (3 hours) Thorough review of the problems and issues related to housing planning and policy dealing primarily with inter-relationships and interdependencies among socio-cultural, economic and physical aspects of housing. This course focuses on the social, political, and economic aspects of housing policy in the United States.

URP 521 African American Community. (3 hours) Investigates processes of community development for their application in community building in African American communities. Explores the development of a model for development and discusses various roles of participants in the community development process.

URP 522 Introduction to Community Development. (3 hours) Overview of the elements of the community development process including housing, economic development, education, public safety, social services, transportation, infrastructure, the environment, citizen participation and leadership. This course places an emphasis on the application of planning methods and theory to the resolution of community problems.

URP 523 Social Policy Planning. (3 hours) Introduction to the theory and practices of social policy planning with attention to spatial, policy, resource, and advocacy relationships. This course focuses on matters of social services, income maintenance, education, and health.

URP 524 Neighborhood Revitalization. (3 hours) Exploration of planning and political activities that contribute to the restoration of older neighborhoods. Impacts of economic, social, and political processes that govern decision making and funding for revitalization efforts.

URP 525 Land Development Dynamics. (3 hours) Emphasizes private decision making and development, public/private relationships, and regulatory activities. This course explores patterns of land utilization from the perspectives of the neighborhood, city, and metropolis.

URP 526 Citizen Participation. (3 hours) Introduction to the issues, policies, and techniques related to the role of citizens in the public decision making process. Consideration will be given to legislative requirements for public involvement as well as the role of survey research in the citizen participation process. Techniques for developing local capacity through citizen mobilization and a focus on community building are explored.

URP 527 Public Finance Planning. (3 hours) Overview of the principle of public budgeting, capital budget planning and public finance strategies. This course considers issues surrounding local development and fiscal decision making as they relate to project planning, revenue sources and project evaluation.

URP 528 Economic Development Planning. (3 hours) Strategies and tools for developing employment, business ownership, and investment in local, state, and regional economies. This course focuses on contemporary economic development patterns and practices in central cities and urban areas in the South.

URP 529 Planning in Local Government. (3 hours) Examination of the role of local government in the city planning process. Special consideration is given to the functional areas of planning such as transportation, housing, neighborhoods, environmental constraints, and land use.

Environment and Land Use

URP 530 Introduction to Environmental Planning. (3 hours) Comprehensive overview of the field and the efforts being made to organize, control, and coordinate environmental, aesthetic, and uses of nature and of man-made substances. This course focuses on the problems, potential solutions, and methodologies of public policy, law, and economics as they affect environmental issues in planning.

URP 531 Growth Management. (3 hours) Techniques employed to manage growth-related change and to implement plans. This course focuses on matters of capital

investment, development impact analysis, impact mitigation, ethical implications, and alternative growth potentials.

URP 532 Environmental Planning Ethics. (3 hours) Investigation of the issues and affects of decision making related to environmental justice. This course focuses on the history of the development, cases, and advocacies for ethical decision making related to the environment.

URP 533 Rural Land Use Planning. (3 hours) Small-town planning, rural populations, and development dynamics are explored. This course focuses on the social, economic, political, and environmental factors that are employed by planners to assist citizens plan for quality futures.

URP 534 Environmental Impact Assessment. (3 hours) Reviews the theory and methodology of evaluating the potential impacts of development on the natural and social environments. This course gives attention to the legal and planning practice elements of assessing environmental impacts.

URP 535 Comprehensive Planning. (3 hours) Introduction to the theory and practice of urban and regional planning. Planning as a method of decision making and strategic choice, goal setting, alternative development, and implementation solutions.

URP 536 Developing Nations Environmental Planning. (3 hours) Examines urban development issues and impacts in Third World nations. This course explores issues of environmental quality, policy responses, housing production, biological diversity, agriculture, conservation, wildlife management, and socio-economic pressures.

URP 537 Plan Implementation. (3 hours) Interactive community and governmental dynamics in plan implementation are explored. This course focuses on the use of land-use regulatory tools and community facilities in implementing the plan.

URP 538 Zoning and Land Use Regulation. (3 hours) The theory, practice, and consequences of zoning as a land use tool in the implementation plans. This course includes the legal and administrative elements employed in zoning law, ordinance preparation, and other regulatory devices.

URP 539 Risk Analysis. (3 hours) Introduces students to the concepts of risk and uncertainty and explores techniques for characterizing, framing, estimating, and communicating environmental risks. This course covers both human-related and natural risks and hazards.

Urban Design

URP 540 Historic Preservation and Conservation. (3 hours) Issues of revitalizing and preserving historic resources are explored. This course focuses on the history, context, methods, and public policies related to historic preservation movements and programs.

URP 541 Technical Skills of Composition and Communication. (3 hours) Studio introducing graphic communication (in two and three dimensions) as visual organization and sequencing of the complex and varied information considered in the decision-making process of planning. Exercise of cognitive and aesthetic judgement by selective use and drawing of lines, planes, perspective, solids, shade, shadow and color; including introduction to the examination of aesthetic, symbolic and cultural elements of design.

URP 542 Infrastructure and Community Facilities. (3 hours) Examines planning and policy issues surrounding public services and facilities. Topics include the distribution of the benefits and costs of various public services and fiscal, traffic, and environmental impacts of land development.

URP 543 Computer-Aided Design I: Introduction. (3 hours) Studio introducing the concepts, issues and methods of computer-aided design as a tool in the planning and urban design process. A previous knowledge of computers is not required. (Prerequisite: URP 541)

URP 544 Design of Cities. (3 hours) Investigates the development of physical form of cities through models, geographic landscape, and intentional human use. This course focuses on the manner in which people exploit land and human experiences that determine design principles.

URP 545 Computer-Aided Design II: Applications in Urban Design. (3 hours) Studio stressing advanced concepts and methods in computer-aided design as applied in urban design and site development. Topics include interactive and procedural approaches, parametric design, and integration of spatial modeling with other information-processing activities. Emphasis is placed on the creation of three-dimensional models. (Prerequisite: URP 543)

URP 546 Site Development. (3 hours) Introduction to site analysis, using environmental and engineering principles and modeling exercises to analyze and understand the use of land for development purposes. This course focuses on elements of grading, drainage, and landscape architecture.

URP 547 Behavioral and Cultural Factors in Planning and Urban Design. (3 hours) Seminar concerning the relationship of social patterns, cultural values, and the formation of urban patterns. Explores the complexities involved in giving expression to human needs and desires in provision of shelter and movement systems, possibilities and limitations of building forms and public policies, and issues involved in relating the human-made to the natural environment.

Other Courses

URP 550 Special Topics. (3 hours) Students electing to not pursue the thesis option may enroll in this course to conduct a special project topic. A maximum of three credits are allowed for this course.

URP 551 Regional Planning. (3 hours) This course provides students with an in-depth understanding of regional planning - its historical roots, current practices, regionalism. Regional planning, metropolitan planning, and similar terms are constantly being used by planners. What do these terms mean? How can they influence practice and scholarship in this field?

URP 555 Independent Study. (3 hours) Students wishing to explore an in-depth study of a topic not directly offered in the curriculum may enroll in this course. A maximum of six credit hours of independent study may be accrued. Permission of the faculty is required.

URP 560 Thesis Research. (3 hours) Students pursuing the thesis option must enroll in this course. This course focuses on the methodology and techniques of writing a thesis, including the research and presentation of the document.

URP 566 Master's Thesis. (3 hours) Students electing the thesis option must obtain approval from the faculty for the prospectus. All requirements of the Graduate School for submission dates must be met.

Doctoral-Course

Core Courses

URP 700 Historical Development of Cities. (3 hours) Intensive investigation and discussion of major contributing factors to the economic, social and ecological development of cities. The course will require students to apply historical research methodologies in the analysis of urban agglomerations.

URP 702 Theoretical Perspectives in Planning. (3 hours) Study of the advanced theoretical concepts in urban planning and the relationship between planning theory and social science precepts. Comparative analysis of theories that stimulate planning thought and philosophy.

URP 710 Advanced Statistical Methods. (3 hours) The course is designed to offer state-of-the-art procedures and paradigms in statistical applications. Prerequisite: URP 502 or equivalent.

URP 712 Research Methodology. (3 hours) Students acquire a foundation in conceptualization, measurement, research design, prospectus preparation, data collection, approaches to data analysis, documentation, and presentation of substantive research.

URP 714 Ethics in Planning. (3 hours) In this course students examine the theory and practice of professional ethics. The principles of ethical thinking and behavior in the planning profession are covered extensively.

Community Development and Housing

URP 720 Urban Housing Policies. (3 Hours) This course examines the policies that impact housing systems in the United States. Factors contributing to housing shortages and housing costs are analyzed, and programs developed to address these issues are evaluated. Additionally, the role of housing advocacy is studied.

URP 722 Community Development and Housing. (3 Hours) A thorough analysis and evaluation of the principles and practices of community development. Substantive areas of housing, economic development, education, public safety, social services, transportation, infrastructure, the environment, citizen participation and leadership will be selectively covered. This course places an emphasis on the application of planning methods and theory to the resolution of community problems.

URP 724 Urban Revitalization Studio. (3 Hours) In-depth study of a selected problem related to urban revitalization. Students will be required to prepare a detailed planning document addressing the redevelopment needs of a specific urban neighborhood or area. Topics vary each semester depending on research opportunities. Prerequisite: Specialization in community development and housing.

URP 726 Citizen Participation Strategies. (3 Hours) This course provides an intensive study of the roles of citizen participation influencing the public planning process. Consideration is given to emerging methods and programs for public involvement as well as the role of survey research in the citizen participation process. Techniques for developing local capacity through citizen mobilization and a focus on community building will be explored.

URP 728 Local and Regional Economic Development Strategies (3 Hours) An in-depth examination and evaluation of strategies and tools for developing employment, business ownership, and investment in local, state, and regional economics. This course allows students to conduct research on a specialized interest in the areas of economic development and finance, while gaining a greater understanding of the relationship between local and regional economic development patterns and practices.

Environment and Land Use

URP 730 Environment and Land Use (3 Hours) This course investigates the major competing theories and policies related to the built environment and natural world. Methods of classifying and evaluating the effects of pollution upon natural and social systems are discussed.

URP 735 Brownfields Planning Studio. (3 hours) Selective problems related to urban and/or rural issues are presented. Students are required to prepare (individually or in teams) area or comprehensive plans that are designed to provide alternative solutions to identified problems.

URP 736 International Human Settlements. (3 Hours) An overview of conditions, policies, and programs that characterize living patterns in international settings. Students are required to conduct research and make scholarly presentations regarding the diverse settlements found in western and non-western nations.

URP 737 Urban Implementation Strategies (3 Hours) The theories, practices and rationalizations for planner involvement in the implementation of alternatives

are investigated. Students are required to present a formal strategy for the implementation of a planning proposal.

Urban Design

URP 740 Foundations in Urban Design. (3 Hours) Examination of the social, physical and cultural determinants of form, pattern, and space that expresses the heritage of urban design and city building; and the role of urban design in the fields of architecture, landscape architecture and urban planning. Prerequisite: URP 700 or permission of the instructor.

URP 742 Analytical and Evaluative Methods of Urban Design Research (3 Hours) Exploration of the theoretical, methodological and practical issues of urban design, including urban space and morphology, conceptions of place, cognition, perception and information field theory. Students will gain a working competence in at least one of the methods analyzed. Focus on selected contemporary issues in commercial and neighborhood design and planning. Prerequisite: URP 740.

URP 744 Urban Design Studio. (3 Hours) Systematic study of specialized subject matter leading to the design and effectuation of physical improvement plans, program design, and public policies. Synthesis of urban design and planning issues and research methods in a laboratory setting. Topics vary each year, depending on current planning interest and needs.

URP 746 Urban Design Doctoral Seminar (3 Hours) Discussion and critique of selected research work and analytical methods involving issues of urban design. Presentation and critique of research proposed by members of the seminar. Prerequisite: Completion of Ph.D. core courses and required urban design concentration courses.

Other Courses

URP 750 Professional Practice Issues in Planning. (3 Hours) The course is designed to study the most current and effective practices in the profession. A range of considerations related to the techniques of intervention, methods of design, and public involvement in the planning and decision making process are selectively covered.

URP 760 Advanced Readings. (3 hours) In this colloquium students read and discuss the assigned books. The instructor facilitates the discussion. Each student will be responsible for at least two readings and weekly discussions.

URP 770 Independent Study or Research Practice (3 hours) By arrangement with the advisor and approval with the faculty, students may pursue a topic of special academic or research interest. The independent research must be at an advanced graduate level and related to the field of planning. May be repeated with change of topic.

URP Doctoral Research Preparation (1-6 hours)

The course is designed to specifically and exclusively for those students who have completed all required coursework,

obtained permission to enroll from the Department Chair, and seek time to prepare for the Comprehensive Examination. The course will permit qualified students to interact with faculty and colleagues to properly prepare for the Comprehensive Examination. Permission from the Department Chair is required.

URP 899 Dissertation (3 hours) Working with a faculty approved committee, the student is required to undertake dissertation research. Prerequisites: completion of all Ph.D. course work, approved dissertation proposal, and dissertator status with the Graduate School. Course may be repeated provided progress is being made on the dissertation.