

PUBLIC INFORMATION: 2025 - 2026

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF URBAN & REGIONAL PLANNING

Student Achievement: Master of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP) Program

The Master's in Urban and Regional Planning (MURP) program at Jackson State University is a mission-driven, student-centered graduate program dedicated to preparing the next generation of planners to advance equitable, sustainable, and resilient communities. Student achievement is measured through multiple direct and indirect indicators aligned with the Planning Accreditation Board (PAB) standards and the program's learning goals.

Definition of Student Achievement

Student achievement in the MURP program is defined as the demonstrated mastery of planning knowledge, applied analytical skills, professional leadership, and ethical judgment necessary for effective practice in urban and regional settings. Achievement is evaluated through a combination of coursework, applied studios, civic engagement projects, and rubric-based assessments that measure both knowledge acquisition and demonstrated professional competence.

Results of the 2024-2025 Assessment

APPLICATION OF QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE RESEARCH SKILLS

Learning Outcome: Students apply quantitative and qualitative research skills to design actionable plans, develop strategies for implementation, and evaluate planning outcomes.

Assessment Method: Midterm and final exams in URP 504: Quantitative Methods.

Benchmark: At least 80% of students should score at the *Proficient* or *Exceptional* level.

Fall 2024

- 67% of students scored *Proficient* or above in the overall scoring summary.
- Students demonstrated strong ability to integrate multiple analytical methods and synthesize findings into thoughtful conclusions.

Use of Results

The program implemented additional one-on-one tutoring, peer mentoring, and mid-semester progress monitoring to strengthen foundational skills and raise overall proficiency rates in subsequent cohorts.

LEADERSHIP AND COLLABORATION IN DIVERSE SETTINGS:

Learning Outcome: Students demonstrate the ability to lead and productively participate in interdisciplinary and multicultural group environments.

Assessment Method: Civic engagement panels, assessed via the Leadership and Group Participation in Diverse Settings Rubric. Students must demonstrate:

- Active Engagement
- Leadership Behavior
- Cultural Competency
- Conflict Navigation
- Relationship Building

Benchmark: Average score per semester of 85% or higher across five leadership and collaboration elements.

Results

Semester	Overall Average	Cultural Competency	Results Summary
Fall 2024	84%	14	Met expected range; identified growth need in cultural competence
Spring 2025	89%	17	5-point overall increase from Fall; improvement in cross-cultural awareness

Use of Results

The program enhanced community representation at panel events, introduced cultural competency exercises in pre-event preparation, expanded participation across courses, and added structured reflection sessions. These actions strengthened both engagement depth and measurable intercultural learning outcomes.

INTEGRATION OF PLANNING THEORY AND PRACTICE IN DECISION-MAKING

Learning Outcome: Students demonstrate understanding of the role of planning theory and principles in solving complex public problems and supporting effective decision-making.

Assessment Method: Civic engagement and round table discussions, assessed with the Understanding Planning's Role in Problem-Solving and Decision-Making Rubric. Students must demonstrate:

- Planning Concept Identification
- Theory-Practice Connection
- Problem-Solving Analysis
- Interdisciplinary Understanding
- Community Engagement Recognition
- Implementation Awareness

Benchmark: Average score of 90% or higher across six key competency areas.

Results

Semester	Overall Average	Highlights
Fall 2024	90% (108/120)	Strong comprehension of theory–practice connections
Spring 2025	92.5% (111/120)	Continued mastery; demonstrated interdisciplinary understanding and community engagement insight

Use of Results

The high averages prompted rubric refinement to provide more nuanced scoring distinctions between *proficient* and *exemplary* levels and to incorporate complex analytical tasks. The program also plans to validate student performance using internship supervisor feedback and longitudinal tracking of student growth.

Summary of Student Achievement Benchmarks

Student Learning Outcome	Assessment Method	Benchmark	Most Recent Results	Status / Trend
Leadership & Collaboration	Civic Engagement Panel (“Chat & Chew”)	≥85% Average Score	Fall 84%, Spring 89%	Met and Improving
Planning Theory in Decision-Making	Planning in a Globalized World Roundtable	≥90% Average Score	Fall 90%, Spring 92.5%	Exceeded Benchmark

Program Strengths and Continuous Improvement

- **Data-Driven Evaluation:** Assessment data are reviewed annually by faculty to identify strengths, address learning gaps, and adjust curriculum sequencing.
- **Community-Engaged Evidence:** Partner feedback and student reflections document measurable community impact and professional skill development.
- **Leadership & Equity Emphasis:** Achievements reflect the program’s commitment to equity, justice, and ethical planning practice.
- **Sustained Growth:** Results indicate year-over-year improvement in professional readiness, communication effectiveness, and leadership in applied contexts.

The MURP program at Jackson State University demonstrates consistently high levels of student achievement and uses assessment results strategically to enhance student learning outcomes. Graduates emerge as analytically skilled, community-engaged, and ethically grounded planning professionals equipped to lead meaningful change in urban and regional environments.

2025-2026 Tuition and Fees

In State Residents, per full-time academic year	\$9,635
Out of State Residents, per full-time academic year	\$11,635

<https://www.jsums.edu/businessfinance/files/2025/06/JSU-Tuition-Fee-Sheet-2025-2026-06.16.2025-update.pdf>

Student Retention Rate

Percentage of students who began studies in fall 2024 and continued into fall 2025	100%
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Student Graduation Rate

Percentage of students graduating within 4 years, entering class of 2021	95%
Percentage of students graduating within 6 years, entering class of 2019 (for accredited undergrad)	NA

Number of Degrees Awarded

Number of degrees awarded for 2024-2025 Academic Year	4
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AICP Pass Rate

Percentage of master's graduates taking the AICP exam within 3 years who pass, graduating class of 2021	NA
Percentage of bachelor's graduates taking the AICP exam within 5 years who passed, graduating class of 2019 (for accredited undergrad)	NA

Employment

Percentage of all graduates obtaining professional planning, planning-related, or other positions within 12 months of graduation, graduating class of 2024	80%
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