General Information

The School of Public Affairs offers graduate study leading to the Master of City Planning degree. Research facilities provided include the Institute of Public and Urban Affairs and the Public Administration Center. The San Diego metropolitan community affords significant internship opportunities for the graduate student in federal, state, and local government agencies.

Master of City Planning Degree

Admission to Graduate Study

All students must satisfy the general requirements for admission to the university with classified graduate standing, as described in Part Two of this bulletin. The student must possess a bachelor’s or higher degree in sociology, geography, political science, economics, architecture, or landscape architecture, or any fields related to planning (students with degrees other than those listed may be allowed to enter the program under appropriate conditions). In the event that deficiencies occur in a student's background and training, the graduate committee will examine the student’s past record and recommend a program to make up the deficiencies.

Students seeking admission to the graduate program in urban planning which leads to the Master of City Planning degree should address their inquiries to the director of the program. As there are specific requirements for the program it is not sufficient merely to file the general university admission forms. Students are admitted to the program in the fall and spring semesters of each year.

Upon admission to the program, the student must meet with the graduate adviser to determine the number of units of internship needed to satisfy the degree requirements.

Students applying for admission should electronically submit the university application available at http://www.csumentor.edu along with the $55 application fee.

All applicants must submit admissions materials separately to SDSU Graduate Admissions and to the School of Public Affairs.

Graduate Admissions

The following materials should be submitted as a complete package directly to:

Graduate Admissions
Enrollment Services
San Diego State University
San Diego, CA 92182-7416

(1) Official transcripts (in sealed envelopes) from all postsecondary institutions attended;

Note:
• Students who attended SDSU need only submit transcripts for work completed since last attendance.
• Students with international coursework must submit both the official transcript and proof of degree. If documents are in a language other than English, they must be accompanied by a certified English translation.

(2) GRE scores (http://www.ets.org, SDSU institution code 4682);

(3) English language score, if medium of instruction was in a language other than English (http://www.ets.org, SDSU institution code 4682).

The following materials should be submitted by March 1 for the fall semester to:

School of Public Affairs
Graduate City Planning Program
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego, CA 92182-4505

(1) Two letters of reference from persons in a position to judge the student’s academic work and/or employment performance.

Advancement to Candidacy

All students must meet the general requirements for advancement to candidacy, as described in Part Four of this bulletin and be recommended by faculty. In order to be recommended for advancement, a student must have (1) achieved a grade point average of 3.0 in 15 units of city planning courses, or (2) passed satisfactorily a written examination in areas of deficiency. The examination will be offered at the end of the spring semester for all students who have completed 12 or more units of study toward the master's degree.

Specific Requirements for the Master of City Planning Degree

(Major Code: 02061)

In addition to meeting the requirements for classified graduate standing for the purpose of pursuing the Master of City Planning degree, the student must complete an approved program of study consisting of at least 48 units of approved 500-, 600-, and 700-numbered courses, with no more than nine units of 500-level courses, to include:

1. C P 625 Quantitative Techniques in Urban Planning (3)
   C P 630 Seminar in Urban Planning Implementation (3)
   C P 640 Seminar in Urban Planning Theory (3)
   C P 660 City Planning and Geographic Information Systems Applications (3)
   C P 670 History of Urban Planning (3)
   C P 675 Seminar in Environmental Policy and Planning (3)
   C P 690 Seminar in Land Use Planning Principles and Techniques (3)
   C P 695 Computer Applications for Urban Design (3)
   C P 700 Urban Design and Land Use Planning Studio (3)

2. Twelve units of 600- and 700-numbered courses in planning elective courses, readings and research.

3. C P 796 Internship in Urban Planning (3-6) Cr/NC
4. P A 604 Methods of Analysis in Public and Urban Affairs (3)

5. Other electives to complete program selected with the approval of adviser.

6. Students in Plan B are required to pass comprehensive written examinations in general city planning and in three areas of study. Students who have approval of the graduate adviser to pursue Plan A must include on their programs City Planning 799A, Thesis. At least 39 units must be completed in residence at San Diego State University, and at least 24 units of program courses shall be enrolled in and completed after advancement to candidacy.

Not more than a total of nine units in courses 797 and 798 will be accepted for credit toward the degree.
Courses Acceptable on Master’s Degree Program in City Planning (C P)

C P 625. Quantitative Techniques in Urban Planning (3)
Prerequisite: Public Administration 604.
Advanced techniques for analyzing problems in city planning; emphasis on computer applications.

C P 630. Seminar in Urban Planning Implementation (3)
Analysis of the content and function of zoning, subdivision regulation, codes, capital budgeting, urban renewal, model cities, and other implementation methods and programs.

C P 635. Seminar in Housing and Housing Policy (3)
Study, definition and analysis of housing needs and problems. Public policies and programs addressed to housing issues. Alternative solutions and the role of the private and public sectors.

C P 640. Seminar in Urban Planning Theory (3)
Prerequisite recommended: City Planning 630.
Alternative theories of planning and organization of the planning function. Emphasis on conceptual foundations, relationship to governmental structure, decision making, and ideological and ethical orientations.

C P 660. City Planning and Geographic Information Systems Applications (3)
ArcGIS mapping software extensively utilized in city planning. Proficiency necessary to use software in professional context for work required by public and/or private sector planning employment.

C P 665. Seminar in Urban and Regional Planning Analysis (3)
Theories and techniques of urban and regional planning analysis.

C P 670. History of Urban Planning (3)
History of urban development and of the field of urban planning.

C P 675. Seminar in Environmental Policy and Planning (3)
Theoretical elements of environmental policy, sustainability; application to urban planning. Green site planning, urban design, and transportation policy.

C P 690. Seminar in Land Use Planning Principles and Techniques (3)
Two lectures and three hours of laboratory.
Prerequisite: City Planning 660.
Land-use and physical planning principles and techniques at the regional, community, specific and subdivision planning levels.

C P 695. Computer Applications for Urban Design (3)
One lecture and six hours of laboratory.
Acquisition of computer graphics skills to successfully communicate urban design ideas and plans. Focus on laboratory work and the production of planning related graphic pieces.

C P 700. Urban Design and Land Use Planning Studio (3)
Two lectures and three hours of laboratory.
Prerequisites: City Planning 690 and 695
Preparation of land-use plans and planning reports at the regional, community and subdivision levels.

C P 710. Seminar in Theories of Urban Design (3)
Perspectives and methodologies of contemporary urban design and its contribution toward improving the quality of the physical, social and economic environment.

C P 730. Seminar in Urban Transportation Planning (3)
Issues, techniques and practices in urban transportation planning with general emphasis on interrelations between transportation and land use planning.

C P 796. Internship in Urban Planning (3-6) Cr/NC
Students will be assigned to various government agencies and will work under joint supervision of agency heads and the course instructor. Participation in staff and internship conferences. Maximum credit six units.

C P 797. Research in Urban Planning (3) Cr/NC/RP
Prerequisite recommended: Consent of director of city planning program.
Research in one of the areas of urban planning. See Class Schedule for specific content. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master’s degree.

C P 798. Special Study (1-3) Cr/NC/RP
Prerequisite recommended: Consent of staff.
To be arranged with director of city planning and instructor. Individual study. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master’s degree.

C P 799A. Thesis (3) Cr/NC/RP
Prerequisite: Prior registration in Thesis 799A with an assigned symbol of RP.
Preparation of a project or thesis for the master’s degree.

C P 799B. Thesis Extension (0) Cr/NC
Prerequisite: Prior registration in Thesis 799A with an assigned symbol of RP.
Registration required in any semester or term following assignment of RP in Course 799A in which student expects to use the facilities and resources of the university; also student must be registered in the course when the completed thesis is granted final approval.

C P 799C. Comprehensive Examination Extension (0) Cr/NC
Prerequisite: Completion or concurrent enrollment in degree program courses.
Registration required of students whose only requirement is completion of the comprehensive examination for the master’s degree. Registration in 799C limited to two semesters.

Additional course applicable to the Master of City Planning degree:
Public Administration 525. The U.S. City Planning Process

Civil Construction and Environmental Engineering
Refer to “Engineering” in this section of the bulletin.