

Final Project Rubric – URP-5393: Urban Planning Methods II

Objective: Assessment of students' knowledge and application of Urban Planning Methods

Poster – 20%: (80 points total)

- [10 points] Abstract:
 - Good: Summarizes clearly in 100 words:
 - the context – background information
 - problem description – points to the specific issue causing loss of wellbeing
 - proposed solution (research question) – research question is clearly connected with context and problem description (arises naturally as a question that needs to be answered)
 - methods used – brief description of what statistical method was used
 - main results – brief description of the main result
 - relevance – brief description about the importance of the result.
- [20 points] Background:
 - Good: Describes clearly in 50-100 words
 - Description is clear by stating the relationships between concepts (causal mechanism).
 - A paragraph or flow diagram is provided describing a clear conceptual map and relationship between variables.
 - Variable of interest are clearly identified in how they could be operationalized to answer the research question.
 - Potential biases are mentioned arising from missing, confounder, moderator, and mediator variables; or sample selection, measurement error, and reverse causality.
- [10 points] Research question and hypotheses:
 - Good:
 - 1 sentence (no more than 15 words) clearly stating the research question
 - 2 to 3 bullet points with the specific null hypotheses to be tested. Null hypotheses need to be stated as statements that the researcher is seeking to disprove (e.g., there is no real difference between group A and B)
- [20 points] Methods and data:
 - Good: Describes clearly in 100-150 words
 - Data is clearly described (unit of analysis, data source, measurement units, main variables of interest, cross-sectional or longitudinal, dependent vs. independent variables and variable types, etc.)
 - At least two variables are selected to become part of the analysis and a clear description and justification is provided.
 - At least two methods of inferential statistics are used to test previously stated hypotheses.
 - A clear description and justification of the choice of methods is provided.
- [20 points] Results:
 - Good:
 - 3-5 bullet points are provided for summarizing the main results
 - bullet points answer the research question and hypotheses.
 - At least one bullet point shows a connection to policy implications
 - At least one bullet point shows a connection to future research.
 - At least 2 figures or plots are provided and effectively used to communicate

Software usage – 5 %: (20 points total)

- [10 points] Coding:
 - Good:
 - Demonstrates clear knowledge and usage of: object creation, indexing, data loading, package usage, data manipulation (variable creation, filtering, merging, etc.), usage of functions, and plotting.
 - Provides a well-organized R Script or RMarkdown document with coding and verbal answers that is easy to follow.
 - Code is error free when replication is attempted.
 - Final commit is pushed on time and description is clear.
- [10 points] Mechanics of methods' application
 - Good:
 - Variable type match method requirements and/or variable manipulation was done to make sure it does.
 - All required methods are correctly applied, and if necessary, an explanation is provided to support the appropriacy of applying a method.
 - Results from methods' application is clearly communicated either in figures and/or tables.

Notes:

Point deductions will take place whenever a required element is not present as:

- Adequate: (-3 to -10 points)
 - Some elements are missing, but the objective is adequately achieved.
- Inadequate: (-11 to -20 points)
 - Several elements are missing. The objective is not achieved.