COLLEGE FOR DESIGN AND SOCIAL INQUIRY

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment

The Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning is carefully crafted to provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to obtain positions in a variety of public and private organizations, including local and state planning departments, nonprofit organizations, and private sector planning and development firms.

Students complete the following core courses:

FALL 1:   URP 3000 Planning & Growth Management
                    URP 4011 Planning Methods
                    URP 4055 City Structure

SPRING 1:   URP 4730 Capital Facilities
                    URP 4343 Plan Making and Design

FALL 2:   PAD 4223 Public Budgeting & Finance
                    URP 4870 Site Planning
                    URP 4920 Planning Design Studio

SPRING 2:   URP 4120 Planning Implementation Strategies
                    URP 4403 Sustainable Cities
                    URP 4979 Planning Project

Any Semester: URP 4254 Intro to Visual Planning technology
                    URP 4945 Planning Practice

CONTENT KNOWLEDGE (Declarative Knowledge):
Students will demonstrate knowledge of the following core planning areas:
(1) Structure and Functions of Urban Settlements,
(2) History and Theory of Planning Processes and Practices,
(3) Administrative, Legal, and Political Aspects of Plan-Making, and
(4) Policy Implementation.

Students will demonstrate active knowledge of the city and its regional context--its geography, changing forms, and political, economic, and social structure, including multicultural and gender dimensions--as well as an understanding of urban finance, infrastructure, land use, and social and economic conditions. Students will be familiar with the history of urbanization and the planning profession and will explore this history in relation to social and economic structures. Students will understand planning both as a process and theory of practice.

Students will maintain a portfolio containing copies of all their completed assignments, tests and examinations in the core planning courses. Portfolios are reviewed by the undergraduate coordinator to determine whether students are proficient in the core planning areas identified above. In addition, the faculty members in the undergraduate program meet once a semester to review progress and knowledge of individual students as well as the student cohort.

CRITICAL THINKING (Analytical Skills, Practical Skills) and CONTENT KNOWLEDGE (Research Skills, Technical Skills):
Students will develop skills in:
(1) Problem Formulation, Research Skills, and Data Gathering,
(2) Quantitative Analysis and Computer Skills, and
(3) Synthesis. Students will synthesize their planning knowledge and apply it to actual planning problems. They will conceptualize problems from complex, real world situations so that the problems are meaningful to clients This includes the ability to apply statistical and other analytic techniques, as well as computer methods, to define planning problems, generate alternatives, and evaluate their consequences.

In URP 4945 (Planning Practice), URP 4920 (Planning Design Studio) and URP 4979 (Planning Project), students complete planning projects that are evaluated by the instructor and by professional planners, other faculty, or both. In addition, projects are included in student portfolios which are reviewed by the undergraduate coordinator.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS (Written Communication; Oral Communication, Visual Communication):
Students will communicate effectively in writing, through public speaking, and by expressing concepts visually.

Students submit written and graphic work in 6 different courses in the planning core. In addition they give oral presentation in 6 courses. Written skills will be evaluated through review of student work in URP 3000 (Planning & Growth Management) and review of the portfolios by the undergraduate coordinator. Oral presentation skills are evaluated during the final presentation in URP4979 (Planning Project). Presentation skills will be evaluated based on standard criteria for oral presentations such as voice projection, contact with audience, response to questions, mastery of topic, use of appropriate language, and appropriate use of audiovisual aids. Graphic communication skills are addressed in URP 4254 Intro to Visual Planning Technology and URP 4343 Plan Making and Design.