

URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING, MS

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum degree requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#requirements>) and policies (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policies>), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Face to Face	Evening/ Weekend	Online	Hybrid	Accelerated
Yes	No	No	No	No

Mode of Instruction Definitions

Accelerated: Accelerated programs are offered at a fast pace that condenses the time to completion. Students typically take enough credits aimed at completing the program in a year or two.

Evening/Weekend: Courses meet on the UW-Madison campus only in evenings and/or on weekends to accommodate typical business schedules. Students have the advantages of face-to-face courses with the flexibility to keep work and other life commitments.

Face-to-Face: Courses typically meet during weekdays on the UW-Madison Campus.

Hybrid: These programs combine face-to-face and online learning formats. Contact the program for more specific information.

Online: These programs are offered 100% online. Some programs may require an on-campus orientation or residency experience, but the courses will be facilitated in an online format.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Requirement Detail

Minimum Credit Requirement	46 credits
Minimum Residence Credit Requirement	24 credits
Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement	23 credits must be graduate-level coursework. Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) Requirement policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244/).
Overall Graduate GPA Requirement	3.00 GPA required. Refer to the Graduate School: Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirement policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203/).

Other Grade Requirements In addition to Graduate School requirements, the Department of Urban and Regional Planning requires that all core courses and all courses in a student's area of specialization (other than research credits) be taken on a graded (i.e., not satisfactory/unsatisfactory) basis.

In all core courses and all courses in a student's area of specialization, a minimum grade of BC is considered satisfactory. Grades of C or below in core and specialization courses may not be counted toward degree requirements, but are still counted in the cumulative GPA. If a student receives a grade of C or below in a department required core course, the student must retake the course and achieve a satisfactory grade.

In elective courses, a grade of C or above is considered satisfactory.

Any course in which a student receives a grade of D or F may not be used to satisfy any department graduation requirements. However, these courses will still be counted in the cumulative GPA.

Assessments and Examinations Students must complete either a thesis or a professional project. See details in the handbook.

Language Requirements No language requirements.

REQUIRED COURSES

Code	Title	Credits
Planning Core		
URB R PL/ SOC WORK 721	Methods of Planning Analysis	3
URB R PL 742	Planning Orientation Seminar	1
URB R PL 781	Planning Thought and Practice	3
URB R PL 833	Planning and the Legal System	3
URB R PL 791	Visual Communication for Planners	3
URB R PL 912	Planning Workshop	4
Structure and Functions of Cities and Regions		
Select one of the following to satisfy the Structure and Functions of Cities and Regions requirement:		3
URB R PL 512	Gentrification and Urban Restructuring	
URB R PL 550	Transportation and the Built Environment	
URB R PL 601	Site Planning	
URB R PL 611	Urban Design: Theory and Practice	
URB R PL 731	Introduction to Regional Planning	
URB R PL/ECON/ PUB AFFR 734	Regional Economic Problem Analysis	
URB R PL 751	Introduction to Financial Planning	
URB R PL 761	Central City Planning: Issues and Approaches	

URB R PL 841	Urban Functions, Spatial Organization and Environmental Form	
URB R PL 844	Housing and Public Policy	
Geospatial Methods		
Select one of the following to satisfy the Geospatial Methods requirement:		2
LAND ARC 311	Introduction to Design Frameworks and Spatial Technologies	
LAND ARC 511	Geodesign Methods and Applications	
LAND ARC/ ENVIR ST/ SOIL SCI 695	Applications of Geographic Information Systems in Natural Resources	
GEOG/ CIV ENGR/ ENVIR ST 377	An Introduction to Geographic Information Systems	
GEOG 378	Introduction to Geocomputing	
GEOG/ENVIR ST/ LAND ARC/ URB R PL 532	Applications of Geographic Information Systems in Planning	
GEOG 578	GIS Applications	
GEOG 579	GIS and Spatial Analysis	
Planning Concentration		12
Electives¹		12
Professional Practice Internship		
Total Credits		46

¹ Students may enroll in up to 2 credits of URB R PL 999 Independent Work concurrent with work on their final professional project.

Urban and Regional Planning and Public Affairs or International Public Affairs (MS in URPL/MPA or MIPA)

The Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture and the La Follette School of Public Affairs offer a double degree Master of Science in Urban and Regional Planning and either a Master of Public Affairs or Master of International Public Affairs.

Students completing the double degree must follow the double degree plan.

- The Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture requires 46 credits for the Master of Science in Urban and Regional Planning.
- The La Follette School requires 42 credits for the Master of Public Affairs/Master of International Public Affairs.

Per UW-Madison Graduate School policy, an overlap of 25% of credits is permitted (11 credits can count toward both degrees). Students can graduate with both degrees by completing 77 credits in three years.

Graduate coordinators for both programs have sample curricular plans that they will share with prospective or current students to assist with successful completion of all degree requirements.