

# FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY™

## Graduate Programs—PROGRAM CHANGE REQUEST

UGPC APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_

UFS APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_

CATALOG \_\_\_\_\_

 DEPARTMENT:  
SCHOOL OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

 COLLEGE:  
COLLEGE OF DESIGN AND SOCIAL INQUIRY

 PROGRAM NAME:  
MASTER OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

### EFFECTIVE DATE

(PROVIDE TERM/YEAR)

FALL 2016

PLEASE EXPLAIN THE REQUESTED CHANGE(S) AND OFFER RATIONALE BELOW AND/OR ATTACHED:

THIS PROGRAM CHANGE REQUEST IS TO MODIFY THE STRUCTURE AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MURP IN RESPONSE TO OUR RECENT ACCREDITATION REVIEW BY THE PLANNING ACCREDITATION BOARD (PAB). THE PAB RAISED A NUMBER OF ISSUES RELATED TO THE CURRICULUM THAT WERE ADDRESSED IN A SURP FACULTY RETREAT IN NOVEMBER 2015. THE FACULTY ALSO DECIDED TO MAKE ADDITIONAL CHANGES UNRELATED TO THE PAB'S CONCERNS, INCLUDING CLARIFICATION OF THE NUMBER OF CREDITS ASSIGNED TO COURSES THAT ARE CURRENTLY LISTED AS HAVING VARIABLE CREDIT. THE PRIMARY CHANGES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. **MODIFY THE CORE REQUIREMENTS BY DELETING TWO COURSES (URP 6310 SEMINAR IN URBAN PLANNING AND URP 6881 URBAN DESIGN) AND ADDING THREE COURSES (URP 6212 STATISTICS FOR URBAN PLANNING, URP 6873 SITE PLANNING, AND URP 6406 SUSTAINABLE CITIES). URP 6310 NO LONGER HAS A CLEAR PURPOSE IN THE CURRICULUM, SO IT WILL BE DELETED FROM THE CATALOG. URP 6212 IS BEING ADDED TO THE CORE BECAUSE THERE IS NOT ENOUGH ROOM IN URP 6200 (PLANNING METHODS) TO COVER ALL OF THE METHODOLOGICAL MATERIAL REQUIRED BY THE PAB. URP 6200 IS BEING REVISED AND A NEW COURSE DESCRIPTION IS PROPOSED. URP 6881 IS AN ADVANCED COURSE THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN AFTER URP 6873, AND URP 6873 COVERS MATERIAL THAT IS REQUIRED FOR MANY ENTRY-LEVEL POSITIONS IN URBAN PLANNING, SO WE ARE REPLACING URP 6881 WITH URP 6873 IN THE CORE. URP 6406 IS BEING ADDED TO THE CORE DUE TO THE PAB'S DESIRE FOR A GREATER FOCUS ON SUSTAINABILITY.**
2. **DELETE SPECIALIZATIONS AS WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH FACULTY AND STUDENTS TO SUPPORT THEM ADEQUATELY. THE NUMBER OF ELECTIVE CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED IS BEING INCREASED ACCORDINGLY.**
3. **ADD A THESIS OPTION (URP 6971 MASTER'S THESIS) PRIMARILY FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN CONTINUING ON TO A PH.D. PROGRAM.**
4. **DELETE TWO CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS BECAUSE THEY DUPLICATE OR OVERLAP EXISTING INTERDISCIPLINARY CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS.**

A COMPARISON OF THE CURRENT AND PROPOSED MURP CURRICULA IS ATTACHED, ALONG WITH THE EDITED CATALOG ENTRY.

Faculty contact, email and complete phone number:  
Steven Bourassa, Director, School of Urban and Regional Planning (SURP), sbourassa@fau.edu, (561) 297-4164

Consult and list departments that might be affected by the change and attach comments. The School of Public Administration (SPA) teaches a course similar to the proposed Statistics for Urban Planning, but with a prerequisite and no emphasis on urban planning applications. Note that the submitter is Director of both SPA and SURP.

Approved by:

Steven C Bourassa

Digitally signed by Steven C Bourassa  
DN: cn=Steven C Bourassa, o=Florida Atlantic University, ou=School  
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Date: 2016.02.03 14:28:23 -0500

Date:

Department Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

College Curriculum Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

College Dean: Wesley Hawkins Digitally signed by Wesley Hawkins  
DN: cn=Wesley Hawkins, o=Florida Atlantic University,  
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Date: 2016.02.26 14:29:01 -0500

UGPC Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduate College Dean: \_\_\_\_\_

UFS President: \_\_\_\_\_

Provost: \_\_\_\_\_

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Email this form and syllabus to [UGPC@fau.edu](mailto:UGPC@fau.edu) **one week before** the University Graduate Programs Committee meeting so that materials may be viewed on the UGPC website prior to the meeting.

## Comparison of current and proposed MURP curricula

Structure of program:

<b>Current:</b>	<b>Proposed:</b>
Core: 24 credits <sup>1</sup>	Core: 27 credits
Specialization: 12 credits	Specialization: 0 credits
Electives: 6 credits	Electives: 15 credits
Synthesis: 6 credits <sup>2</sup>	Synthesis: 6 credits
Total: 48 credits	Total 48 credits

Core courses (deletions and additions in italics):

<b>Current:</b>	<b>Proposed:</b>
URP 6101 History and Theory of Planning	URP 6101 History and Theory of Planning
URP 6115 Urban Governance	URP 6115 Urban Governance
URP 6131 Legal Aspects of Planning	URP 6131 Legal Aspects of Planning
URP 6200 Planning Methods	URP 6200 Planning Methods
URP 6270 Introduction to GIS in Planning	URP 6270 Introduction to GIS in Planning
<i>URP 6310 Seminar in Urban Planning</i>	<i>URP 6212 Statistics for Urban Planning</i>
URP 6840 Urban and Regional Theory	URP 6840 Urban and Regional Theory
<i>URP 6881 Urban Design</i> <sup>3</sup>	<i>URP 6873 Site Planning</i>
	<i>URP 6406 Sustainable Cities</i>

Specializations:

<b>Current:</b>	<b>Proposed:</b>
12 credits from one of four areas or students can design their own specializations with approval	No specializations

Electives:

<b>Current:</b>	<b>Proposed:</b>
6 credits	15 credits from the elective courses offered by SURP and relevant courses offered by other departments with approval

<sup>1</sup> Catalog says 27 credits, but this incorrectly includes URP 6920, which should be classified as a synthesis course.

<sup>2</sup> Catalog says 3 credits, but it is more accurate to say 6 credits (URP 6920 and URP 6979).

<sup>3</sup> URP 6881 will become an elective.

Synthesis:

<b>Current:</b>	<b>Proposed:</b>
URP 6920 Planning Workshop <sup>4</sup>	URP 6920 Planning Workshop <i>and</i>
URP 6979 Planning Project <sup>5</sup>	URP 6979 Planning Project <i>or</i>
	URP 6971 Master's Thesis (6 credits)

Course deletions and additions:

<b>Deletions:</b>	<b>Additions:</b>
URP 6251 Planning Urban Services	URP 6212 Statistics for Urban Planning (3 credits)
URP 6310 Seminar in Urban Planning	URP 6971 Master's Thesis (6 credits)
URP 6421 Environmental Planning and Society	URP 6958 Planning Abroad (3 credits)

Course description changes:

<b>Course name:</b>	
URP 6200 Planning Methods	

Course name changes:

<b>Current name:</b>	<b>Proposed name:</b>
URP 6549 The Public Sector and Economic Development Planning	URP 6549 Economic Development Planning
URP 6945 Guided Practicum	URP 6945 Planning Internship

Credit hour changes:

<b>Current:</b>	<b>Proposed:</b>
URP 6920 Planning Workshop: 1-3 credits	URP 6920 Planning Workshop: 3 credits
URP 6930 Special Topics: 3-6 credits	URP 6930 Special Topics: 3 credits
URP 6945 Guided Practicum: 3-6 credits	URP 6945 Planning Internship: 3 credits

Changes to certificates:

<b>Delete:</b>	<b>Retain:<sup>6</sup></b>
Environmental Planning Certificate	Economic Development and Tourism Certificate <sup>7</sup>
Visual Planning Technology Certificate	Sustainable Community Planning Certificate

<sup>4</sup> URP 6920 will involve group projects.

<sup>5</sup> URP 6979 will involve individual projects.

<sup>6</sup> The retained certificate programs are not currently accepting students; this will give us the opportunity to revise them and possibly make them interdisciplinary by including courses from other departments.

<sup>7</sup> URP 6421 is being deleted from the requirements for this certificate because the course is being deleted from the catalog; an elective will be required instead.

Proposed course sequence for a full-time student:

<b>1st year Fall semester:</b>	<b>1st year Spring semester:</b>
URP 6101 History and Theory of Planning	URP 6873 Site Planning
URP 6200 Planning Methods	URP 6131 Legal Aspects of Planning
URP 6840 Urban and Regional Theory	URP 6212 Statistics for Urban Planning
URP 6270 Introduction to GIS in Planning	URP 6406 Sustainable Cities
<b>2nd year Fall semester:</b>	<b>2nd year Spring semester:</b>
URP 6115 Urban Governance	Electives (9 credits)
URP 6920 Planning Workshop <i>or</i> URP 6971 Master's Thesis (3 credits)	URP 6979 Planning Project <i>or</i> URP 6971 Master's Thesis (3 credits)
Electives (6 credits)	

## MASTER'S PROGRAM

### Master of Urban and Regional Planning

The Master of Urban and Regional Planning (M.U.R.P.) is a fully accredited professional degree designed for individuals interested in careers as urban and/or regional planners. Individuals from a wide variety of undergraduate backgrounds, including architecture, design, applied arts, engineering, humanities, social sciences, geography and urban and environmental studies, are encouraged to apply.

#### Admission Requirements

Applicants for admission must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited school. Each applicant should have a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher in the last half of work attempted at the undergraduate level and scores of at least 150 (verbal) and 150 (quantitative) on the Graduate Record Examination (only GRE scores from within the last five years will be accepted). All applicants must submit their scores on the GRE, regardless of GPA, as well as a brief personal statement (approximately 500 words).

An international student for whom English is a second language is required to achieve a minimum score of 550 (CBT-213) or higher on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). A graduate of a college or university outside of the United States who has completed an academic program equivalent to an American bachelor's degree may apply for admission. All international applicants whose transcripts are from non-U.S. institutions must have their credentials evaluated course by course, including the GPA, by a professional evaluation service. A service may be found at [www.NACES.org](http://www.NACES.org).

If an applicant presents either a GPA of 3.0 or higher or GRE verbal and quantitative scores of 150 or higher, but not both, that applicant will be considered by the [College](#) graduate admissions committee. The committee will review all evidence of high promise, including, but not limited to:

- ~~1. T~~rend of undergraduate grades;
- ~~2. T~~ype of undergraduate degree program;
- ~~3. M~~mature work experience;
- ~~4. C~~ompletion of up to three graduate courses with a "B" or higher in each;
- ~~5. S~~scores upon retaking the Graduate Record Examination; and
- ~~6. P~~ersonal statement.

#### Degree Requirements

The M.U.R.P. curriculum is a two-year, 48-credit program. It is designed and structured to allow timely completion for both full-time (9-12 credits per semester) and part-time (6 credits per semester) students.

The M.U.R.P. curriculum is structured into ~~four~~three components: core courses (27 credits), ~~areas of specialization (12 credits)~~, electives (~~15-18~~6 credits), and synthesis (~~3-6~~3 credits).

M.U.R.P. Core Courses		
History and Theory of Planning	URP 6101	3
Urban Governance	URP 6115	3
Legal Aspects of Planning	URP 6131	3
Planning Methods	URP 6200	3
<del>Statistics for Urban Planning</del>	<del>URP 6212</del>	<del>3</del>
Introduction to GIS in Planning	URP 6270	3
<del>Seminar in Urban Planning</del>	<del>URP 6310</del>	<del>3</del>
Urban and Regional Theory	URP 6840	3

Urban Design	URP 6884	3
Site Planning	URP 6873	3
Planning Workshop	URP 6920	3
Sustainable Cities	URP 6406	3
Planning Project	URP 6979	3

The core component provides planning knowledge, skills and values. Planning knowledge includes: the structure and functions of urban settlements, history and theory of planning processes and practices, and administrative, legal and political aspects of plan-making and policy implementation. Planning skills focus on: problem formulation, research skills and data gathering; quantitative analysis and computers; written, oral and graphic communications; collaborative problem solving, plan-making and program design; and the synthesis and application of knowledge to practice. Discussion of planning values provides students with the basis for becoming ethical practitioners who are aware of, and responsible for, the ways their activities affect and promote societal and individual concerns.

The specializations Electives permit advanced study in planning subfields. Specializations Elective courses are offered in areas such as:

1. Environmental and Land Use Planning
2. Housing, Community and Economic Development
3. Sustainable Urban Design and
4. Transportation and Land Use Planning

Each specialization is structured to include two required foundation courses and two electives. Students also have the option of tailoring their own specialization with the approval of the program coordinator.

The synthesis component consists of Planning Workshop (URP 6920) and an individually designed and executed Planning Project (URP 6979) or Master's Thesis (URP 6971). Students choosing the Master's Thesis option must enroll in 3 credits of URP 6971 in each of their last two semesters in the program. A acceptable proposal must be developed in the first semester in order to continue on to the second semester. Students who do not continue on to the second semester of Master's Thesis must instead complete either URP 6920 or URP 6979.

Students who do not already have substantial planning work experience, Students are also expected to gain planning worksuch experience during their program through the Guided Practicum Planning Internship (URP 6945).

### Academic Standing

Students are considered to be in good academic standing if they are making satisfactory progress toward the M.U.R.P. degree. Students are expected to maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative average throughout the course of study; failure to maintain this average for two successive semesters will result in recommended dismissal. Students admitted conditionally shall satisfy all the conditions prior to earning 18 M.U.R.P. credits to avoid recommended dismissal. Only grades of "C" or higher are acceptable in fulfilling the requirements for the M.U.R.P. degree. Students may not graduate with more than one grade below a "B-" in core courses (in such cases, these courses must be repeated for a grade of "B-" or higher).

Acceptance of transfer credits from approved institutions is dependent upon the pertinence of the work to the M.U.R.P. degree requirements. Transfer of credit should normally occur at the time of admission and is limited to 6 credits. Transfer credit can be given only for courses that have not been applied to another degree or preparatory work.

Waivers from specific course (but not the associated credit) requirements may be granted upon approval of the Director of the School.

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### Certificate Programs

The School has two offers five certificate programs, four of which that are described below and must adhere to the requirements below. These include Economic Development and Tourism, Environmental Planning, Sustainable

~~Community Planning and Visual Planning Technology.~~ Students pursuing these certificate programs are required to maintain a 3.0 cumulative grade point average throughout the completion of the certificate. Students cannot complete a certificate program with more than one grade below a "B-."

~~A fifth certificate program~~ The School also participates in interdisciplinary certificate programs, including the graduate Geographic Information Systems certificate and the graduate Environmental Restoration certificate, is offered jointly by the School of Urban and Regional Planning and the Department of Geosciences in the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science. The requirements for these certificates are found in the College of Science section of this University Catalog under Department of Geosciences.

**Economic Development and Tourism Certificate**

[\(This certificate is not currently accepting students.\)](#)

This certificate provides students with the knowledge and skills needed to help cities with their built and natural attractions to enhance their revenue base and improve their citizens' quality of life. The role of the economic development planner today is frequently directed at tourism in the form of urban entertainment centers, reinvigorated downtowns and waterfronts or assessing the potential value to the cost of a convention center or stadium. Urban physical attributes like greenways, urban river trails and parks also provide a base for enhancing economic development while contributing to the area's quality of life. The certificate program consists of four courses that emphasize the varied inputs to a good economic development plan. The courses are:

<del>Environmental Planning and Society</del>	<del>URP 6421</del>
<del>Introduction to Economic Development and Tourism</del>	<del>URP 6540</del>
<del>Urban Revitalization Strategies</del>	<del>URP 6545</del>
<del>The Public Sector and Economic Development Planning</del>	<del>URP 6549</del>
<del>Elective</del>	

**Environmental Planning Certificate**

~~The Environmental Planning certificate program addresses issues related to brownfield redevelopment, water quality and availability and opportunities for improving the quality of life in the urban community. This certificate program is open to anybody with a bachelor's degree. The program consists of four courses that are all offered at night. The program caters to both local residents and government employees who want to increase their knowledge about the environment. It consists of three required courses and one elective. The three required courses present the history of environmental thinking and sustainable development, introduce students to the science behind environmental issues and cover federal and state environmental policy. The elective can be selected from a wide range of courses taught at FAU.~~

<del>Environmental Planning and Society</del>	<del>URP 6421</del>
<del>Environmental Analysis in Planning</del>	<del>URP 6425</del>
<del>Environmental Policy Planning</del>	<del>URP 6429</del>
<del>Elective</del>	

**Sustainable Community Planning Certificate**

[\(This certificate is not currently accepting students.\)](#)

This certificate is directed at practicing planners, public administrators, civic leaders and neighborhood activists with social science backgrounds who wish to improve existing skills or gain new skills in reviving urban core areas, encouraging economic development and creating sustainable communities. Community revitalization is a critical element that will ultimately determine how our cities cope with increasing challenges associated with growth and change. The certificate program consists of three required courses covering economic development, environmental planning and site planning, and one elective course. They are:

Environmental Analysis in Planning	URP 6425
Urban Revitalization Strategies	URP 6545
Site Planning	URP 6873
Elective	

### Visual Planning Technology Certificate

This four-course certificate program is designed to build working knowledge and skills in understanding, applying and managing geographic information systems (GIS) as well as other visual technologies within the planning environment. It gives students a comprehensive survey of the visual technologies used by public agencies as geographic information for strategic planning and policy formulation. The program also provides hands-on experience with one of the GIS software packages—Environmental Systems Research Institute's (ESRI) ArcInfo, ArcView, Network Analyst and Spatial Analyst. Visual Planning Technology courses are:

Introduction to GIS in Planning	URP 6270
Managing GIS Projects	URP 6272
GIS Applications in Planning	URP 6277
Elective	-

### URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING GRADUATE COURSES

#### History and Theory of Planning (URP 6101) 3 credits

Covers the emergence and evolution of the planning profession, as well as the design and theoretical concepts that underpin contemporary planning practice.

#### Urban Governance (URP 6115) 3 credits

*Prerequisite: Graduate standing*

Provides an overview of the literature on planning and governance. Focuses on the relationship between government and governance, governance in the networked society and participatory governance and conflict management.

#### Legal Aspects of Planning (URP 6131) 3 credits

*Prerequisite: URP 6101*

An overview of the legal issues in planning and discussion of the regulatory processes that enable planners to shape community growth and development.

#### Planning Methods (URP 6200) 3 credits

~~This course covers demographic, economic, and business analytical tools commonly used in urban and regional planning. Quantitative reasoning skills in urban and regional planning; development of appropriate computer skills.~~

#### Statistics for Urban Planning (URP 6212) 3 credits

~~This course provides an introduction to statistics, with emphasis on applications to practical problems relevant to urban planning.~~

#### Planning Urban Services (URP 6251) 3 credits

~~Measuring growth impacts on service delivery techniques for projecting service delivery demand; the multiyear budgeting and service delivery planning; funding the cost of increased service delivery.~~

#### Introduction to GIS in Planning (URP 6270) 3 credits

Overview of planning information systems, including basic terminology, tools, and policy issues. Lab fee: \$10 per student.

#### Managing GIS Projects (URP 6272) 3 credits

*Prerequisite: URP 6270 or permission of instructor*

Organizational and management issues involved in implementing geographic information systems.



**GIS Applications in Planning (URP 6277) 3 credits**

*Prerequisite: URP 6270 or permission of instructor*

This course provides urban and regional planning applications of GIS. Included are demonstrations of environmental planning, community and economic development planning, urban design, and land use planning. Students learn to use GIS as a tool for decision-making.

**Seminar in Urban Planning (URP 6310) 3 credits**

*Prerequisite: Planning experience*

~~Review and analysis of the community planning process for development and services; responsibilities and required knowledge for practicing professionals in community planning.~~

**Sustainable Cities (URP 6406) 3 credits**

Explores the intellectual foundations and historical development of sustainability as a concept, places it within the larger context of various development theories and looks at how it has influenced real-world practice in planning and public policy.

**Environmental Planning and Society (URP 6421) 3 credits**

~~Overview of environmental planning systems, including basic terminology, tools, and policy issues.~~

**Environmental Analysis in Planning (URP 6425) 3 credits**

Analysis of natural and urban environments, and the application of planning systems.

**Environmental Policy and Programs (URP 6429) 3 credits**

Policy and analytic perspectives on major issues in environmental planning systems.

**Introduction to Economic Development and Tourism (URP 6540) 3 credits**

An overview of urban and local economic development including methods and techniques, development, finance, and instruments for system change.

**Urban Revitalization Strategies (URP 6545) 3 credits**

Detailed examination of economic, management, and design tools in local economic development planning.

**~~The Public Sector and Economic Development Planning (URP 6549) 3 credits~~**

~~Policy and analytic perspectives on major issues in community and economic development planning systems.~~

**Introduction to Transportation Planning (URP 6711) 3 credits**

Overview of transportation planning, methods, and emerging planning issues.

**Capital Facilities Planning (URP 6732) 3 credits**

Planning systems and analytical techniques for urban infrastructure.

**Seminar in Housing (URP 6742) 3 credits**

Private sector production of housing; public sector regulation of housing. Development regulations and rent control; federal, state, and local government roles in providing housing.

**Urban and Regional Theory (URP 6840) 3 credits**

The city and region as object of normative, empirical, and planning analysis.

**Urban Development and Design (URP 6841) 3 credits**

Overview of urban development processes, including basic terminology, tools, and policy issues.

**Site Planning (URP 6873) 3 credits**

Principles and basic methods of site planning and site plan evaluation; development design guidelines; site plan approval process.

**Urban Design (URP 6881) 3 credits**

Elements, concepts, and methods of urban design. Analysis of urban form; methods of implementation.

**Urban Design Workshop (URP 6886) 3 credits**

Application of physical planning skills to a selected urban design problem; district or project scale.

**Directed Independent Study (URP 6905) 1-3 credits**

Research on analysis of a problem-oriented planning topic or project.

**Planning Workshop (URP 6920) 1-3 credits**

Individual and team approaches to resolving planning problems and issues.

**Special Topics (URP 6930) 3-6 credits**

Special topics in urban and regional planning.

**Guided Practicum/Planning Internship (URP 6945) 3-6 credits**

Supervised work experience in a public planning agency or private organization with planning concerns. *Grading: S/U*

**Planning Abroad (URP 6958) 3 credits**

An opportunity to study urban and regional planning practice in another country.

**Master's Thesis (URP 6971) 3 credits**

Prerequisite: 24 credits of courses toward the MURP degree

Master's thesis for planning students who are interested in research careers and further study at the doctoral level.

To be repeated for a total of 6 credits.

**Planning Project (URP 6979) 3 credits**

*Prerequisite: 30 credits of urban planning courses*

Synthetic work resulting in: (a) research paper; (b) planning document; or (c) film or three-dimensional model.