

PHD IN CITY AND REGIONAL PLANNING

Students in the PhD program come from a variety of backgrounds, so the time required to complete the program will vary. Typically, a student will complete three years of course work and one year for their dissertation research, or two years for their coursework and two years for their dissertation.

CATEGORY	COURSE	CREDIT
Fundamentals Core	CRPLAN 7000 Contemporary Planning Research, 3 cr CRPLAN 7300 Planning Dissertations and Theses from Start to Finish, 3 cr	6
Planning Theory Core	CRPLAN 7100 Advance Planning Theory	3
Teaching Practicum	CRPLAN 8200 Planning Teaching Practicum	1
Major Field of Specialization	Field within City and Regional Planning, courses agreed upon with advisor	15
Minor Field of Specialization	Field within or outside of City and Regional Planning, courses agreed upon with advisor	9
Electives	Electives to support fields of specialization	16

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED TO GRADUATE: 50

STAGES OF THE PHD PROGRAM

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in City and Regional Planning trains students to undertake interdisciplinary, independent, applied research on urban and regional problems and planning processes. Students go on to careers in academia or research organizations. The program flows in three stages:

1. Coursework to master theory, analytic tools in planning, and specializations, culminating in the Candidacy Examination. Students develop two areas of specialization, one from program-designated topics and the other developed with their advisor, depending upon their interests.
2. Formulation of a topic for dissertation research that must be approved by the dissertation committee. Students take an oral examination in which the dissertation proposal is presented and approved.
3. Dissertation research, writing, and defense (presentation) in the Final Oral Examination.

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION (CONTINUED ON BACK)

Students must complete course work in two fields of specialization for at least 24 credit hours (a minimum of 15 credit hours in the Major Field of Specialization, and 9 credit hours in the Minor). The Major Field of Specialization must be centered in City and Regional Planning, and be selected from those listed below. The Minor field of specialization may be within or outside of City and Regional Planning. Students may specialize on topics from a variety of disciplines such as Geography, Public Policy, Civil Engineering, etc. Some examples of minor fields include: econometrics, cultural anthropology, statistics, public health planning, etc.

The student and the advisor decide together on the courses that support their doctoral study. The courses may be taken within the CRP program or from other departments consistent with student interest, and field requirements. Independent study courses may also qualify for the requirements. The courses are expected to cover the theory and evolution of the field, current debates and analysis methods.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

Our cities and towns are comprised of a network of neighborhoods and districts that provide amenities and resources such as housing, education, places of worship, access to food and nourishment, and connect communities of individually socially for improved quality of life. By understanding the strengths and strains of this 'togetherness', planners work to guide community or neighborhood development in ways that are inclusive, sustainable and equitable. The specialization in community development and housing has a long tradition in city and regional planning. Community development research can focus on urban, suburban or rural environments and includes issues such as leadership development, social capital formation, community economic development, infrastructure or modification to the built environment or efforts to support community improvement in education, health or employment.

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING (CONTINUED)

Historically, many social issues in community development have had a housing dimension, including problems associated with racial segregation, slum development, poverty and unemployment. Housing policy has traditionally been central to community development practice and is one of the most influential policy interventions to impact neighborhoods. Housing policies such as zoning laws, building codes, rent control, urban renewal, public housing and fair housing regulations all impact the built and social environment. Housing includes the delivery of land, shelter, community facilities and physical infrastructure. Research might deal with such topics as increasing the supply of affordable housing, expanding home ownership among low income groups, understanding the effectiveness of various incentives and constraints to encourage the development of safe and affordable housing, the relationship between socio-demographic characteristics of people and their housing and neighborhood choices, or the effect of housing and neighborhoods characteristics on quality of life.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Why do some cities and regions grow while others decline? Is all growth good? Under what conditions does economic development support sustainable and equitable growth? How does the built environment and the systems that operate within it (e.g. transportation, energy, land use) affect regional economic development?

The answers to these questions are crucial because economic development priorities and practices frame much of what is defined as profitable, desirable, and possible across all the domains of urban and regional planning. For example, whether to make infrastructure investments in high speed rail, or where to locate new affordable housing or a linear park.

Our approach at Ohio State is multidisciplinary by design, as the challenges that cities and regions face are complex ones that do not respect disciplinary boundaries or benefit from only one approach. City and regional planning is uniquely situated to tackle these complex, multidisciplinary challenges by integrating research from both planning and its cognate disciplines including economics, business administration and management, geography, public policy, sociology, and political science. With a PhD concentration in economic development, your research will contribute to the discovery of long-term development strategies for communities and regions that balance economic prosperity, environmental sustainability, social equity, and resilience to external shocks.

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY

The Environmental Planning & Sustainability specialty allows students to pursue planning questions relating to the, conservation, development and restoration of socio-ecological systems, particularly (but not exclusively) in cities and regions. From the creation of green infrastructure to the preparation for natural hazards, individuals and communities interact with their environments in ways that include planning. Research in this area ranges from questions of the incorporation of sustainable development principles in plans and policies, the resilience of built and natural environments and their connections, the social, economic and environmental impacts of various activities, and questions related to the processes that produce plans for socio-ecological systems and their health consequences. It might also address energy conservation, generation and infrastructure.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation or movement across space is an integral part of the planning process. As new transportation technologies emerge in the 21st century, there is potential for significant changes in mode choice, travel behavior, goods movement, land use patterns, and infrastructure. The transportation specialization in the PhD program addresses these concerns through a variety of possible topics, ranging from measuring and providing access and equity, sustainable mobility, new mobility technologies and cities, understanding and projecting travel behavior, transportation policy making, mobility management and system resilience. Our faculty has expertise studying mobility at diverse geographical scales (local, regional and international) and with various travel modes (active modes, rail, air, transit and autos).

URBAN DESIGN AND PHYSICAL PLANNING

The urban design and physical planning specialization aims to plan and design places that are environmentally, socially, and culturally sustainable, and are conducive to accommodate new people, new uses and new buildings. It also includes the exploration of how urban sprawl and growth management can and do inform urban design and contribute to more resilient urban environments. This field covers scales from neighborhoods to metropolitan areas, and addresses interrelationships between the physical environment, the built environment, and the social, economic and political institutions and processes that shape urban areas. Students will learn methods, theory including environmental programming and research, geographic information systems, health impact assessments, social/cultural factors in environmental design and application of information to the resolution of environmental design problems.