

Fast Track Masters in Urban and Regional Planning (MURP)

The graduate program leading to a degree of Master in Urban and Regional Planning (MURP) is committed to preparing students for professional planning careers in both the private and public sectors and seeks to develop both general planning knowledge and specific skills for practice. The program provides students with an advanced understanding of environment, economy and society related planning issues using scientific, social scientific or humanistic approaches. Current faculty research and teaching expertise covers a wide range of planning subjects including urban design; land use planning; land use law; housing; community, economic and real estate development; natural resources; research methods; international development; transportation; technology; environmental planning; and public policy. The MURP degree is a nationally accredited degree and admits students with a variety of academic backgrounds. Ideal students are those with strong intellectual ability; good written and verbal communication skills; basic statistical methods and have demonstrated a proven potential for leadership in the field of urban and regional planning.

A student entering the graduate program in urban and regional planning is expected to concentrate, under faculty guidance, on studies that provide an optimum learning experience in applying the various scientific principles, theories, techniques, and design skills of planning to specific field problems. The graduate student is immersed in significant planning studies and research. The graduate program is designed to provide professional competence. After graduation, the student should be capable of assuming responsibilities on an intermediate level of a professional planning operation. The master's program in Urban and Regional Planning has been accredited by the Planning Accreditation Board.

In addition to meeting the requirements of the university and of the College of Social Science, students must meet the requirements specified below.

Admission

Fast track option students will need a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher in all URP courses. All other admission requirements for the MURP program will be the same for all students applying to the program. These include:

- A personal/academic statement
- Three letters of recommendations
- All transcripts

Students who are required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) must submit scores.

Conditions for the Accelerated Master's in Urban and Regional Planning Degree

The URP program will welcome applications to the MURP program from undergraduate students in the middle of their junior year. Most BSURP students start taking planning courses in their Junior year. Based on their aptitude and achievements in URP courses, students that excel in their course work will be encouraged to consider the fast-track MURP program. Students who wish to be admitted to the MURP program will take graduate level courses in their Senior year.

At the end of the 4th year, students will have completed all coursework required for a BSURP degree while being dual enrolled in MURP courses. Effectively, they may choose to graduate with their BSURP degree at this time. If they choose to stay enrolled in the MURP degree, they will graduate with a BSURP and MURP degree in an additional (5th) year.

Admission to the MURP program allows the application of up to 11 credits toward the master's program for qualifying 400-level and above course work taken at the undergraduate level at Michigan State University or another postsecondary accredited institution of comparable academic quality. The number of approved credits, not to exceed 11, are applied toward the credit requirement of the master's degree. Credits applied to the MURP program are not eligible to be applied to any other graduate degree program.

MURP Degree requirements

MURP Degree requires a total of 43 credits. The foundation of the degree is contained in eight core courses (28 credits) required of all students.

1. BSURP students dual enrolled in the Fast Track MURP program will take the following MURP core courses in their Senior Year (11 credits). These will be counted towards both BSURP and MURP degrees.

UP	824	Geographic Information Systems and Design Tools for Planning	3
UP	854	Economics of Planning and Development	4
UP	894	Planning Practicum	4

2. Urban planning core courses in 5th Year (14 credits):

UP	801	Concepts and Issues in Planning and Development	4
UP	814	Applied Research Methods for Planning and Development	4
UP	823	Urban Land Management and the Environment	3
UP	844	Planning Theory and Ethics	3

3. In addition to the core courses, all students take 12 credits of Approved Electives (UP/PDC courses at or above 400 level). These may include up to 6 approved Study Abroad credits.

4. The final 6 credits can be completed in two ways: Research Track (Plan A) or Professional Practice Track (Plan B).

Additional Requirements for the Research Intensive Track (Plan A):

Students are expected to write a Masters Thesis. This is a two-step process whereby the student must enroll in UP 889 Masters Research for 2 credits with their major faculty advisor who will chair their research before they can enroll in 4 credits of UP899 Master's Thesis Research or additional elective courses usually in their second year. A maximum of 6 credits can be taken in UP889 and UP899.

Additional Requirements for the professional practice track (Plan B):

Students choose six (6) additional credits from the list of approved electives (UP/PDC courses at or above 400 level). If a student wishes to take electives not already approved by the program, they must get approval from the Program Director or their major research professor.

Course Sequencing

Please see Program Director, Graduate Student Advisor or Program website for suggested sequencing of courses.

Year 1 - (Junior Year)		Year 2 (Senior Year Official Start to MURP)		Year 3 (MURP)	
Fall 1	Spring 1	Fall 2	Spring 2	Fall 3	Spring 3
UP 201 (4)	UP 314 (4)	UP 801 (4)	UP 894 (4) (Dual)	UP 823 (3)	Elective (3)
UP 353 (4)	UP 365 (4) (W)	UP 824 (3) (Dual)	UP814 (4)	UP 844 (3)	UP 899 (4) or Elective (3)
CSS Req (3)	Elective (3)	UP 433 (4)	Elective (3)	Elective (3)	
CSS Req (3)	Elective (3)	UP 854 (4) (Dual)		UP 889 (2) or elective (3)	
CSS Req (3)	Elective (3)				
Credits 17	Credits 17	Credits 15	Credits 11	Credits 11-12	Credits 6-7

Notes:

(W) Waiver for UP865

(Dual) Dual Enrollment for 3 courses totally 11 credits.

MURP Degree requires a total of 43 credits

Academic Standards

Academic standards for graduation require that each student maintain an average of 3.00, or better, in all course work, including study undertaken in collateral courses; however, the accumulation of grades below 3.0 in more than two courses of 3 or more credits each removes the student from the degree program.