

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
PH.D. IN URBAN + REGIONAL PLANNING



PROGRAM GUIDE  
**2007-2008**

THEORY ANALYSIS ACTION

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
PH.D. IN URBAN + REGIONAL PLANNING

PROGRAM GUIDE  
**2007-2008**

This program guide provides an overview of policies, procedures and requirements for the U-M Ph.D. program in urban + regional planning. If you are planning to visit campus, tour the facilities, and meet with faculty, we encourage you to contact the college in advance of your visit.

The University of Michigan

**Ph.D. Degree in Urban + Regional Planning**

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2000 Bonisteel Boulevard

Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2069

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<http://www.tcaup.umich.edu/urphd/>

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## NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT

The University of Michigan, as an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding nondiscrimination and affirmative action, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The University of Michigan is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination and equal opportunity for all persons regardless of race, sex\*, color, religion, creed, national origin or ancestry, age, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, or Vietnam-era veteran status in employment, educational programs and activities, and admissions. Inquiries or complaints may be addressed to the Senior Director for Institutional Equity and Title IX/Section 504 Coordinator, Office of Institutional Equity, 2072 Administrative Services Building, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1432, (734) 763-0235, TTY (734) 647-1388. For other University of Michigan information call (734) 764-1817.

\*Includes gender identity and gender expression

## A. ALFRED TAUBMAN COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE + URBAN PLANNING POLICY STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH IMPAIRMENTS

The college desires to meet the educational needs of all persons, including those with physical or perceptual limitations, who are interested in the study of architecture, urban planning and/or urban design. The college will advise any applicant and develop, for both the prospective student and the program, a realistic assessment of all issues and circumstances that might be encountered in undertaking the program and fulfilling the degree requirements.

## CAMPUS SAFETY

Each year, the University of Michigan prepares an "Annual Security Report" and publishes it in the Campus Safety Handbook. The report, which is issued each October 1, contains detailed information on campus safety and security policies, procedures, and programs, including information on: emergency services, security telephone numbers, sexual assault policy, stalking laws, handling obscene phone calls, sexual harassment policy, dealing with workplace violence and threats, police agencies, health services, counseling services, safe transportation after dark, safety tips, and alcohol and drug policies and programs. The report also includes statistics concerning crimes on campus. If you would like to receive a complete copy, visit the University of Michigan Department of Public Safety website at <http://www.umich.edu/~safety/> or call (734) 763-3434.

A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture + Urban Planning strives for accuracy in this Bulletin, all policies, procedures, programs, and courses are subject to change without notice.

## THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Julia Donovan Darlow, Ann Arbor  
Laurence B. Deitch, Bingham Farms  
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## **PH.D. DEGREE IN URBAN + REGIONAL PLANNING**

### **U.R.P. PH.D. DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

The Ph.D. in Urban + Regional Planning trains scholars for careers in higher education, research and high-level policy positions. (The Ph.D. is one of two degrees offered by the Urban + Regional Planning Program; the other is the Master of Urban Planning (M.U.P.), which is a two-year professional degree program.) It is a doctoral degree with a flexible, interdisciplinary focus. Graduates work in universities, government, non-profits and the private sector, both in the U.S. and around the world.

The doctoral curriculum integrates analytical methods, research design, a rigorous understanding of urbanization dynamics, and an examination of broader social processes and policies. Students address complex systems that typically encompass an array of spatial, environmental, social, political, technical, and economic factors. The emphasis is on theory, analysis and action. Each student is also expected to demonstrate an understanding of the literature, theory, and research in a specialization area within the larger discipline of urban and regional planning.

Doctoral students specialize in a wide range of possible topics. Current students are engaged in subjects as diverse as the political economy of public transit, inner-city revitalization, global city urbanization, information technology and cyberspace, the crisis of modernist urbanism, regional planning institutions, the effects of environmental contamination on patterns of urban and regional development, the culture of suburban commuting, the impact of tourism on historical cities, and the application of complex systems analysis to sustainable development.

The highly individualized course of study operates under the premise that concepts and methods from a wide range of professions and academic disciplines are applicable to urban and regional systems. Accordingly, students rely on faculty resources not only from the Taubman College of Architecture & Urban Planning, but also from other schools, colleges, and institutes of the University of Michigan. Students commonly take courses in the social sciences (such as sociology, anthropology, history, and political science) and in the professional schools (such as architecture, business administration,



engineering, natural resources and the environment, public policy, public health, and social work). This emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration, and on the links between theory and action, are defining characteristics of the doctoral planning degree at the University of Michigan.

### **U.R.P. PH.D. HISTORY**

The doctorate in planning began in 1968 as the Ph.D. Program in Urban + Regional Planning under the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs. From its inception, it was a University-wide Ph.D. program with faculty participation from many colleges throughout the University.

In the late 1970s, the degree moved into the Rackham Graduate School. The name changed to the Ph.D. in Urban, Technological, + Environmental Planning (U.T.E.P.) in 1982. The degree moved into the College of Architecture + Urban Planning in 1989 and administratively merged with the professional program in planning to form the Urban + Regional Planning Program. The degree is now known as the “Ph.D. in Urban + Regional Planning,” a name change made in 2004. Over its 36 years of existence, the program has granted over 160 Ph.D. degrees. Graduates hold faculty positions in a range of departments in universities and work as consultants and staff of research organizations. Current affiliations of alumni are provided in the student handbook.

### **U.R.P. PH.D. EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES**

The Ph.D. in Urban + Regional Planning provides students with a broad range of faculty and institutional resources to support doctoral-level research.

Affiliated faculty includes nationally and internationally recognized members of the University of Michigan’s graduate faculty at Taubman College; the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; and the Schools of Education, Natural Resources and Environment, Public Health, Public Policy, and Social Work.

The strong research focus of the College and the University has resulted in research facilities that are among the best in the country. The university currently has over 14,000 students enrolled in graduate and professional programs (among a total student body of 38,000 students, plus 3,700 regular faculty). The 24 libraries on

campus have 7.5 million volumes and offer online access to data and documents. Extensive computing facilities are available at both the college and university levels. Doctoral students in the College have their own computing lab in the building, as well as access to several specialized computer labs in the College (for geographic information systems, building + environmental technology, high-end digital output, and other capabilities). In addition, students can access an array of university-wide computing facilities both in the building (including an instructional computing facility) and numerous labs across campus. Doctoral students also have access to the research and testing facilities of Taubman College. Doctoral students participate regularly in sponsored research projects directed by Urban + Regional Planning faculty.

The Urban + Regional Research Collaborative (U.R.R.C.) is the umbrella organization for research of the Urban + Regional Planning faculty and students, as well as others in the Taubman College interested in urban and regional issues. The U.R.R.C. provides space for student research assistants on funded and unfunded research projects, together with computer facilities. The U.R.R.C. sponsors a monthly seminar series highlighting the research of Taubman College faculty, students, and visitors, and provides a vehicle for collaborative research and venue for developing external funding.

Other research units on campus also provide specialized laboratory facilities, exposure to a broad range of research, and possibilities for field experience. Among the resources most commonly identified with Urban + Regional Planning doctoral student interests are the Institute for Social Research, the Center for Research on Learning and Teaching, the Population Studies Center, the Center for Statistical Consultation and Research, UM Transportation Research Institute (U.M.T.R.I.), Institute for Labor and Industrial Relations (I.L.I.R.), the UM Medical Center, and the National Poverty Center.

### **U.R.P. PH.D. ADMISSIONS**

Admission to the Ph.D. program is normally limited to the fall term. (In exceptional situations, the doctoral admissions committee may also consider applications for admission to start the program in the winter term.) Normally, only four to six new students can be admitted each year. This number represents a small percentage of those applying for admission.

The Urban and Regional Planning program is part of the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies, which is the overall administrative unit for graduate programs. Rackham works in conjunction with 17 schools and colleges to recruit applicants, administer the admissions process, and serve students through the final stages of degree attainment.

### **Office of Admissions**

Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies

The University of Michigan

915 E. Washington Street

Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1070

Phone: (734) 764-8129

Fax: (734) 647-7740

Email: rackadmis@umich.edu

Web: <http://www.rackham.umich.edu/>

### **U.R.P. PH.D. ELIGIBILITY**

Applicants will normally possess a master's degree in urban planning or a related field (such as public policy, environmental studies, geography, architecture, etc.). Applicants with other master's degrees will be considered, as will exceptionally well-prepared applicants with a bachelor's degree.

There is no foreign language requirement for Ph.D. students in urban planning. However, work in some areas of specialization and on certain research/dissertation topics may require knowledge of one or more foreign languages (obtained either before or during doctoral studies).

In addition to the above requirements, the following items are required for applicants to the Ph.D. program:

- 1. Records/ Transcripts** You must provide 2 sets of official/final undergraduate and/or graduate academic records/transcripts, with your degree posted. Official documents must be provided from the institution awarding the degree. One set must be submitted to the Ph.D. program and the second set must be sent to the

Rackham Graduate School Admissions. It is your responsibility to request the release of any such records from the institutions involved.

2. **Statement of Purpose** This is a vital component of your application. Explain how you arrived at the decision to pursue a Ph.D. in urban and regional planning, what you plan to do during the course of your studies, and how you hope to use your doctoral education in planning. In particular, discuss the intellectual and policy challenges that you hope to address in your doctoral studies, outline the methodological skills you plan to pursue, and briefly note any tentative dissertation research topics. (The typical length is 2–4 pages.)
3. **Letters of Recommendation** Three (3) are required. Where reasonable, two of these letters should be from the applicant's previous professors. Electronic submission of recommendations is preferred. You will be prompted to register recommenders using the online application, enabling recommenders to submit letters of recommendation electronically. Recommenders will complete the recommendation form online and submit the form and a letter electronically to the program of study. Do NOT send paper copies of recommendations if they are submitted electronically.
4. **GRE Scores** An official Graduate Record Examination(GRE) Score Report, sent from the Educational Testing Service, is required of all students. Institution code:1839, and Department code 4402. For further information visit the GRE website at <http://www.ets.org/gre>.
5. **Writing Samples** One or several examples of relevant work by the applicant. Submissions should support the statement of purpose and clearly demonstrate research and writing abilities. These may consist of academic papers (from previous coursework), published articles, and/or a portfolio that are representative of the applicant's work and potential for doctoral studies.
6. **TOEFL** Applicants whose native language is not English must demonstrate English proficiency. The TOEFL is required of all international students except those who have received a degree from an institution where the language of instruction is English.) Applicants who have earned a degree from an institution where the

language of instruction is English (e.g., U.S., United Kingdom, Australia) are exempt from submitting a TOEFL. Applicants are urged to take the TOEFL as early as possible and must request the scores be sent to the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor: Institution code:1839, and Department code:97. Note: Scores that are more than two years old will not be accepted as valid. For further information visit the TOEFL website at <http://www.ets.org/toefl/>.

	Minimum score required
Test (format)	by Planning Department
TOEFL (paper-based)	560
TOEFL (computer-based)	220
TOEFL (internet-based)	84

## **U.R.P. PH.D.** APPLICATION DEADLINES AND PROCEDURE

### DEADLINE

To receive full consideration for both admission and program financial aid, applications and supporting materials should be submitted by the **January 9, 2008** deadline. The deadline is the date by which all application materials must be received by both the graduate program and Rackham. Early submission may avoid unnecessary delays.

Applicants who have been recommended for admission are notified by the department and the Rackham Graduate School by mid-April. Only the written notice from the Dean of the Graduate School constitutes approval of admission. When your application and application fee have been received by the Rackham Graduate School and entered into our system you will receive an Acknowledgement Email. This email will direct you to the Web Application Status page for your application and gives you details on how to access this information. The Web Application Status page gives you the ability to verify you application data, view the application decision, and accept or decline (with a reason) an offer of admission.

### PROCEDURE

Students seeking admission for the Ph.D. in Urban + Regional Planning are required to complete the Rackham online admissions application at <https://apply.embark.com/Grad/UMich/Rackham/ProgramA/36/>.

Submit the following materials to the URP Doctoral Program:

- Statement of Purpose
- Letters of Recommendation (3)
- One official set of transcripts
- Writing samples/portfolio/publications
- TOEFL (required)
- GRE (required)

### **Mailing Address**

Urban + Regional Planning Ph.D. Program

A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture + Urban Planning

The University of Michigan

2000 Bonisteel Boulevard Rm 2224

Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2069

Email: [urpdoc@umich.edu](mailto:urpdoc@umich.edu)

Web: <http://www.tcaup.umich.edu/urp/>

Submit the following materials to the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies:

- Online admissions application
- Non-refundable application fee
- One official set of transcripts

### **Office of Admissions**

Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies

The University of Michigan

915 E. Washington Street

Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1070

Phone: (734) 764-8129

Fax: (734) 647-7740

Email: [rackadmis@umich.edu](mailto:rackadmis@umich.edu)

Web: <http://www.rackham.umich.edu/>

**Send the departmental application packet to:**

Ph.D. in Urban + Regional Planning

Urban + Regional Planning Program

A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture + Urban Planning

The University of Michigan

2000 Bonisteel Boulevard

Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2069

Phone: (734) 763-3075

Fax: (734) 763-2322

Email: [urp@umich.edu](mailto:urp@umich.edu)

Web: <http://www.tcaup.umich.edu/urp/>

**U.R.P. PH.D. INTEGRATED CURRICULUM**

The program also offers the ability to do a combined M.U.P./Ph.D. course of study. The students who could benefit from such a program fall into two categories:

1. Students admitted to the Ph.D. program who do not have a master's degree or who do not have a master's in urban and regional planning and are interested in obtaining the professional degree;
2. Students currently in the master's program who are admitted to the Ph.D. during or after their first year in the M.U.P. program. To participate in the integrated M.U.P./Ph.D., a student must be admitted to both degree programs.

The master's degree is the professional degree in the field of urban and regional planning, and the Ph.D. is the research degree. In contrast to traditional disciplines, where the master's is granted on the way to a research-oriented Ph.D., the Master of Urban Planning (M.U.P.) implies a mastery of the professional skills needed for urban planning practice. For this reason, the advisor is responsible for ensuring that students participating in the integrated program take the appropriate set of courses to develop professional competency in their chosen areas of study. In order to enable such candidates to complete both degrees while adding the minimum amount of time to their program, degree requirements may be double-counted in certain areas (such as the statistics requirement). All coordination is optional; in any category, the candidate is free to fulfill the requirements of the M.U.P. and the Ph.D. curricula separately.

## **U.R.P. PH.D. FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

The Urban + Regional Planning Ph.D. program is committed to funding each admitted student for four years of the expected time to complete the degree, including a stipend, full tuition, and health care during the academic year (September–April); students typically work and/or are funded through campus or outside research projects during the four summer months.

Additional years of funding may be available through graduate student instructorships, research assistantships, and other sources. We do encourage students to apply for funding from independent sources. With a student admissions application no additional documents or materials are required to be considered for departmental funding.

## **PH.D. FUNDING**

Though funding packages vary from student to student, a typical departmental package for a student admitted to the Ph.D. program consists of:

### **Years 1–2**

Annual stipend, full tuition and health care coverage during the academic year (Sept–April). Graduate Student Instructorship (GSI) in which the student teaches one class per term OR GSRA (Graduate Student Research Assistant) in which the student assists a faculty member. Typically requires a 12–14 hour work week.

### **Year 3–4**

Annual stipend, candidacy tuition, and health care coverage

The program will cover 2 years of pre-candidacy tuition and 2 years of candidacy tuition. Achieving candidacy before the third year is expected.

## **STUDENT EXPENSES**

The Office of Financial Aid (<http://www.finaid.umich.edu/index.asp>) establishes standard student budgets each year as a basis for awarding financial aid funds. These budgets reflect typical “modest but adequate” expense patterns of University of Michigan students based on research conducted by the Office of Financial Aid. While



actual expenses will vary based on your lifestyle and level of enrollment, the estimated costs listed below should assist you in planning your own budget.

	<b>Michigan Residents (In-State)</b>	<b>Nonresidents (Out of State)</b>
Tuition and Fees	\$15,135	\$30,281
Room and Board	\$10,884	\$10,884
Books and Supplies	\$1,160	\$1160
Personal and Misc.	\$3,936	\$3936
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$31,115</b>	<b>\$46,261</b>

For more information about tuition and fees, visit:

**<http://www.umich.edu/~regoff/tuition>.**

## RESEARCH FUNDING

A limited amount of funding may be available for research related expenses if those expenses are in connection with a student's dissertation work. Students should submit a request for a Rackham Student Research Grant (**<http://www.rackham.umich.edu/Fellowships/guideln/2409.html>**). These grants are designed to support Rackham graduate students who need assistance to carry out research that advances their progress toward their degree. To be eligible for additional departmental research support, students must submit a request, along with a complete description of the project, and letter from the advisor supporting the need for such funding.

## PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

The Urban + Regional Planning program wishes to encourage the development and presentation of papers to conferences if those papers relate to a student's academic program. Students should submit a request for a Rackham Conference Travel Grant (**<http://www.rackham.umich.edu/Fellowships/guideln/2195.html>**). These grants are intended to assist doctoral students to participate and attend conferences and professional meetings. Students must apply prior to the conference dates. To be eligible for additional departmental support, students must submit a request, along with a detailed budget and letter of invitation to present, to the chair of the doctoral program. Students are eligible for support for one national or international conference per academic year.

## TEACHING AND RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

- **Graduate Student Instructorship Positions (GSI)**

<http://www.umgeo.org/>

Doctoral students are eligible for Graduate Student Instructorships (GSI) within the College. The teaching assignments are within the Urban + Regional Planning program and are negotiated by the program chair of Urban Regional Planning and the doctoral program coordinator and the individual faculty members who requires a position.

As a general Rule, these positions will be limited to four terms or two years. Any exceptions to this policy must be clearly in the best interests of the student and must be agreed upon by the Chair of the Urban + Regional Planning program and the faculty member involved. Graduate student instructorship positions are reviewed at the end of each semester. Reappointment of a GSI is contingent upon evidence of satisfactory performance and the teaching needs of the Urban + Regional Planning Program. This award allows for a tuition waiver, stipend and health benefits.

- **Graduate Research Assistant Positions (GSRA)**

<http://www.hr.umich.edu/acadhr/grads/gsra/what.html>

The number of research assistant positions (GSRA) and hourly positions that are available varies, depending on the amount of sponsored research that is currently in progress. In general, project directors have complete responsibility for the management of their projects. Project directors will generally hire those students (either Masters or Doctoral) who they feel have an appropriate background for the project and will contribute the most towards its successful completion. The doctoral program helps to facilitate the communication between project directors who are looking for research assistants and doctoral students who are seeking employment. Typically requires a 12-14 work hour work week.

## OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES

### **Rackham School of Graduate Studies**

<http://www.rackham.umich.edu/Funding/fullListing.html>

### **Fellowships Office**

<http://www.rackham.umich.edu/Fellowships>

### **Fellowship Finder**

<http://www.rackham.umich.edu/Fellowships/ff/index.php>

### **Rackham Pre-doctoral Fellowship**

<http://www.rackham.umich.edu/Fellowships/guideIn/2110.html>

### **Rackham Student Emergency Fund**

<http://www.rackham.umich.edu/Fellowships/rackhamf.html>

### **Barbour Scholarship**

<http://www.rackham.umich.edu/Fellowships/guideIn/2120.html>

### **Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant**

<http://www.rackham.umich.edu/Fellowships/guideIn/2409.html>

### **Susan Lipschutz Margaret Ayers Host Fellowship**

<http://www.rackham.umich.edu/Fellowships/guideIn/2445.html>

### **Michigan Society of Fellows**

<http://www.rackham.umich.edu/Faculty/society.html>

### **Rackham One-Term Dissertation Fellowship**

<http://www.rackham.umich.edu/Fellowships/guideIn/2050.html>

### **Rackham International Research Award**

<http://www.rackham.umich.edu/Fellowships/guideIn/rira.html>

### **Lurcy Scholarship**

<http://www.rackham.umich.edu/Fellowships/guideln/2330.html>

### **Rackham Shapiro Award**

<http://www.rackham.umich.edu/Fellowships/guideln/2255.html>

## **U.R.P. PH.D. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

Degree requirements are set both by the university's Rackham Graduate School and by the Urban and Regional Planning Program. Degree requirements are divided into two parts: pre-candidacy and candidacy/dissertation research. The former involves course work, qualifying examinations, and a dissertation prospectus. Candidacy is certification that all requirements have been met except the dissertation. The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in Urban and Regional Planning is granted upon the successful completion and defense of the dissertation.

## **U.R.P. PH.D. PRE-CANDIDACY REQUIREMENTS**

Pre-candidacy requirements include five areas:

- Planning theory
- Analytic methods
- Research design
- Primary area of specialization
- Secondary area of specialization

Students meet these requirements through coursework and exams over a two year period. During this time, a student's cumulative grade point average may not fall below a B without academic discipline or probation.

## **REQUIRED COURSES**

Three courses are required of all Ph.D. students, including two doctoral-level planning theory courses and a two-semester research seminar sequence. The two theory courses, Advanced Urban Theory (UP 650) and Epistemology and Reasoning for Planning Research (UP 660), are offered during the fall term in alternating years. These courses are designed to provide doctoral students a solid theoretical foundation for conducting rigorous scholarly inquiry within the planning field. Second-year students are required to take UP 835 (Ph.D. Research Seminar) over the fall and winter terms

(for a total of four credit hours). This year-long seminar has three objectives. First, it exposes students to various approaches to research related to planning. Second, it enables students to formulate and test out researchable topics among faculty and student peers. Finally, it enables students to gain experience in developing an appropriate research design, in writing a detailed research proposal, and in formally presenting the proposal to an audience of faculty and students in a seminar during winter semester.

#### OVERVIEW OF CORE CURRICULUM + EXAMS

##### THEORY

Courses.....	Credit Hours
UP 540 Planning Theory (required for students without a masters degree in urban planning or without a previous equivalent course).....	3
UP 650 Advanced Urban Theory (offered fall term in even number years).....	3
UP 660 Epistemology and Reasoning for Planning Research (offered fall term in odd number years).....	3
Total.....	6–9

NOTE: A written theory examination is given to all eligible students once per year, normally in May (after two years of coursework).

##### RESEARCH DESIGN + METHODS

Courses.....	Credit Hours
UP 835 Research Design (a two-semester sequence, normally taken fall and winter of the second year).....	4
Analytical Methods (2 semesters graduate level statistics).....	6
2 areas of dissertation-related methods (e.g., GIS, qualitative methods) satisfied through 9 credit hours of coursework.....	9
Total.....	19

NOTE: No examination. Requirement is satisfied through grades of B- or better (median of B+) in all courses.

##### SPECIALIZATION

Courses.....	Credit Hours
UP 680/681 Directed Study (literature review in area of specialization, generally completed during the second or third semester).....	3

3 or 4 courses in student-defined area of specialization .....	9-12
2 or 3 courses in secondary area of specialization.....	6-9
Total .....	18-24

NOTE: Comprehensive examination (written take-home and oral) on primary and secondary areas of specialization. Exam tailored to, and scheduled by the student.

Total core curriculum credit hours .....	43-52
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## PLANNING THEORY COURSES AND EXAM

The requirements for demonstrating qualifications in the area of planning theory are the following:

### 1. Course Work

Satisfactory performance (B or higher) in UP 650 and UP 660. In addition, students entering doctoral study without a M.U.P. or equivalent must take UP 540 (Planning Theory) unless they have previously taken an equivalent course. (Students are also encouraged to enroll in UP573, Urban & Regional Theory.)

### 2. Planning Theory Exam

After completion of both UP 650 and UP 660, the student completes a take-home planning theory exam. Students normally take the exam during May following the second year of coursework. (In exceptional situations a student may request to take the exam at another time of year.) The examination committee consists of three faculty members (generally the two instructors of UP 650 and UP 660, plus a third faculty member such as the student's advisor). While the exam may be tailored somewhat to the particular interests of a given student, it is standardized for the most part and is intended to evaluate the student's comprehension of the various literatures covered by the theory course and ability to synthesize those materials. The exam is graded on a "Pass," "Conditional Pass" or "Fail" basis. If the student does not achieve a passing evaluation, he/she may take the exam one additional time to achieve a "Pass" or "Conditional Pass" status. A "Conditional Pass" indicates that additional requirements must be met, but the exam need not be retaken. (Note: the theory exam has no oral exam component.) On format: for the planning theory exam and all other requirements, please submit your work

to each committee member in hard copy (paper) format unless the instructor requests an electronic file version.

## **ANALYTIC METHODS**

Students are expected to be skilled in at least two analytic research techniques (in addition to statistics) and reasonably knowledgeable about several others. They are also expected to display substantive knowledge of planning theory, and a primary and a secondary area of specialization. The means for demonstrating these qualifications are as follows.

### **ANALYTIC METHODS**

Students qualify in analytic techniques by completing the following:

1. Satisfactory performance (B or higher) in two cumulative graduate level statistics courses. Students entering with previous statistics experience may wish to enter directly into a second semester statistics course.

In the past, students have typically selected one of the following sequences:

- Statistics 402 (Introduction to Statistics & Data Analysis), Statistics 403 (Statistics & Data Analysis II)
- Sociology 510 (Statistics); Sociology 610 (Statistical Methods)
- Natural Resources 438 (Natural Resources Biometrics), Natural Resources 538 (Natural Resources Data Analysis)
- Biostatistics 503 (Introductory Biostatistics), Biostatistics 523 (Biostatistical Analysis for Health-Related Fields)

NOTE: Students wishing to study statistics during the Spring or Summer Terms may want to check out the Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research sponsored by the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) and/or the Summer Institute in Survey Research Techniques conducted by the research staff of the Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research. Choice of courses to meet requirements should be discussed with your advisor.

2. Competence in at least two analytic/research methods. These are methods used in planning research and should prepare the student for his/her likely area of dissertation work. The requirement is met through completion of nine credits

of course work in two analytic/research methods (in addition to statistics), to be defined by the student in conjunction with his or her advisor. (The two methods may be interrelated.) Depending on the research method and the student's background, more courses may be needed. Courses in these two areas must be completed with median grade of B+ or better in order to fulfill this requirement; no course completed with a grade of lower than a B- may be used. Graduate level courses that are audited can count for this requirement, as long as the student completes all the work of the course and the instructor provides a letter indicating the grade the student would have received had he or she been enrolled. Normally, students are expected to take coursework to expand their expertise in research methods; however previous graduate level coursework in research methods (completed with a B+ or better) can be considered for this requirement. All plans for satisfying this requirement are the joint responsibility of the student and his or her advisor.

Numerous analytic/research methods are appropriate. The methods a student selects should relate to his/her dissertation area. Below are several analytic/research methods in which students have been examined in recent years. Students need not be restricted to choices on the list. These methods include: anthropological methods; case study methods; complex systems analysis; cost benefit & cost effectiveness analysis; decision theory & general risk analysis; demographic analysis; discrete choice analysis; differential equations; diffusion models; economic & other forecasting models; evaluation research; graph theory; historical analysis; institutional analysis; interview techniques; linear programming and general analysis using linear models; network & flow methods; population growth models; probability, both theoretical & heuristic; simulation/gaming & game theory; spatial analysis/geographic information systems (GIS); survey research; time series; Markov processes.

## **PRIMARY AND SECONDARY AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION**

### **PRIMARY AREA OF SPECIALIZATION (I.E., MAJOR FIELD REQUIREMENT)**

Students are expected to demonstrate an understanding of the literature, theory, and methods from a primary area of specialization. Each student defines this area of specialization in consultation with his/her faculty advisor(s). An area of specialization



might be, for example, transportation planning, community development planning, regional planning, environmental planning, and so on. (If appropriate, a student may further focus their area of specialization by demarcating a subfield within a broader planning topic, such as economic development finance within local economic development.) Students take graduate-level course work in the appropriate discipline(s) and complete a comprehensive examination (described below). During the first semester in the program, each student should meet with his/her advisor(s) to:

- a. Discuss the student's goals and interest in doctoral study and identify an area of specialization.
- b. Develop a program of study indicating courses to be taken, or courses that have been taken, covering the appropriate literature (theory and method) for the area of specialization. Students will normally take coursework totaling approximately 12 to 15 credit hours for the area of specialization. (Note: One or two courses taken for the master's degree may apply for either the primary or secondary areas of specialization, but master's level work normally should not be relied upon too extensively for the purposes of doctoral-level study.)
- c. As three of these credit hours, a student is expected to take a directed study course with his/her primary advisor and a second faculty reader during either the winter term of the first year or the fall term of the second year of study. The purpose of this directed study is to conduct a literature review that will demonstrate the student's ability to review and synthesize a body of academic work and that will advance the student's efforts toward identifying a topic for dissertation research. The directed study is evaluated on a pass/fail basis; initial drafts must be revised until they are of passing quality.

#### SECONDARY AREA OF SPECIALIZATION (I.E., MINOR FIELD REQUIREMENT)

In addition to the primary area of specialization, each student must also identify a secondary area of specialization (i.e., a "minor field" or "outside field") in consultation with his/her faculty advisor(s). The secondary area of specialization is typically from a discipline outside urban and regional planning (examples include urban politics, urban history, urban sociology, demography, development economics, environment and behavior, etc.). Students normally take at least 6 to 9 credit hours in this secondary

area. Students demonstrate sufficient knowledge in this secondary area (and their ability to integrate the secondary area into their main area of specialization) through their comprehensive examination.

## COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

The comprehensive exam tests a student's knowledge of both their primary and secondary areas of specialization. The exam consists of a take-home, written examination followed by an oral exam. The examination normally occurs during the third year in the Ph.D. program, after completion of all relevant coursework.

### 1. The Committee

The student convenes an examination committee of three faculty members, choosing faculty who have expertise in the areas of specialization. At least one member of the committee should be a member of the Urban and Regional Planning faculty. The chair or co-chair of the committee must be a regular member of the URP faculty and cannot be an affiliate faculty member. At least one committee member should represent the student's secondary area of specialization. (If the student has identified a secondary area of specialization that is traditionally housed in another department on campus, then the student is encouraged to select a faculty member from that outside department as their third committee member.) On occasion, examiners from outside the University have served on students' examining committees. While this practice is generally discouraged, written requests for an outside examiner by students are treated on an individual basis by the Coordinator of Doctoral Studies.

### 2. The Field Statement

The student meets with the committee to identify appropriate readings and other expectations prior to the construction of the exam. In consultation with the committee, the student prepares a detailed "field statement" that defines the primary and secondary fields, contains a detailed bibliography of readings, organizes the readings into subfields, and outlines a set of major questions for the fields. This field statement is analogous to a detailed syllabus that one would prepare for a year-long graduate-level course on the selected specializations. The student often writes possible exam questions that he/she feels are appropriate for the area the exam will cover. The questions are not the questions the committee

asks the student; their major function is to help the committee and the student to agree on the scope of the exam.

### **3. Scheduling the Exam**

The exam is scheduled on the student's initiative and is normally taken no later than one year following completion of the coursework in the program of study. A student may delay the exam for exceptional circumstances with approval of his/her faculty advisor. Exams are not normally scheduled during the summer unless there are extenuating circumstances. Students should notify the Program Administrator of their intent to take the exam and provide him or her with dates, times, location of the exam, and names of committee members.

### **4. The Exam**

The written part of the exam is in the form of a take-home essay exam. (The committee chair solicits exam questions from the committee, selects questions to be used, and composes the final examination.) The allotted time period to write the exam is determined by the chair, and typically is over 3-4 days. This is followed by an oral exam, generally scheduled to take place one to several weeks after the written exam. The exam is evaluated on a "Pass/Fail" or "Conditional Pass" basis. If the student does not achieve a passing evaluation, he/she may take the exam one additional time to achieve a "Pass" or "Conditional Pass" status. A "Conditional Pass" indicates that additional requirements must be met, but the exam need not be retaken. Upon completion of the oral portion of the exam, the committee chair will send an examination report to the Program Administrator.

## **LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT**

### **FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT**

There is no foreign language requirement for Ph.D. students in U.T.E.P. However, work in some areas of specialization and on certain research/dissertation topics may require a knowledge of one or more foreign languages.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENT

Prior to taking the qualifying examinations, students are also expected to demonstrate writing skills in the English language of the sort required to produce a doctoral dissertation. Such writing skills will be demonstrated in the process of completing routine written assignments in core courses. Students having difficulty doing so are encouraged to take course work at the English Language Institute and/or other units, as appropriate and subsequently are required to take an English Proficiency Examination prior to taking the qualifying examinations.

## TYPICAL SCHEDULE OF COURSES

Following is a typical sequence of courses for Ph.D. students in urban and regional planning.

### YEAR 1

#### **Fall Term**

- UP 650 or 660 Theory
- UP 540 (for non MUP students) and/or Elective
- Statistics I
- Elective (methods/specialization)

#### **Winter Term**

- Directed Study (Literature Review) or Elective
- Statistics II
- 2 Electives

### YEAR 2

#### **Fall Term**

- UP 835 Research Design
- UP 650 or 660 Theory
- Directed Study (Literature Review) or Elective
- Elective

**Winter Term**

- UP 835 Research Design
- 3 Electives

**Spring/Summer Term**

- Planning Theory Exam (typically offered in May)

**YEAR 3–4**

- Comprehensive Exam (scheduled by student; typically taken at the end of the second year or during the third year of study)
- Dissertation Prospectus (reviewed and approved by URP Ph.D. Candidacy Hearings Committee)
- Advancement to Candidacy
- Dissertation Proposal (reviewed and approved by student’s dissertation committee)
- [dissertation research and writing]
- Dissertation Defense
- Submission of dissertation final version

**TYPICAL COURSE SEQUENCE**

<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Fall</b>	<b>Winter</b>	<b>Spring/Summer</b>
	Theory (UP 650 or 660) UP 540 (for non MUP students) and/or Elective [Statistics I] Elective (methods/specialization)	Directed Study (Literature Review) or Elective [Statistics II] Elective Elective	
<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Fall</b> UP 835 Research Design Theory (UP 650 or 660) Directed Study (Literature Review) or Elective Elective	<b>Winter</b> UP 835 Research Design Elective Elective Elective	<b>Spring/Summer</b> Planning Theory Exam (normally given in May)

- Year 3**
- Comprehensive Exam (scheduled by student; typically taken during the summer or fall after two years of doctoral studies)
  - Advanced to Candidacy
- Year 4**
- Dissertation Proposal (reviewed and approved by student's dissertation committee and the URP Doctoral Committee)
  - [dissertation research and writing]
  - Informal "Full Draft Review" (at least 6-8 weeks before the formal defense)
  - Dissertation Defense
  - Submittal of final version of dissertation

### **U.R.P. PH.D. APPLYING FOR CANDIDACY**

The student is advanced to candidacy when all requirements except the dissertation proposal and dissertation have been satisfied. (Any incompletes critical to satisfying program requirements must be made up before applying for candidacy.)

The normal time to achieve candidacy is two years from date of first enrollment in the doctoral program. Students who take longer than four years need to document a clear rationale for their slow progress.

Once the student has successfully completed all coursework, the theory exam and the comprehensive exam, the student is to schedule a meeting with the Doctoral Coordinator. The student should bring a copy of the URP Ph.D. "Compliance Form" that indicates the satisfactory completion of all degree requirements except the dissertation proposal and dissertation. The Compliance Form is an integral part of the student's record, and records the completion of requirements and various approvals. The form is available online at: <http://www.tcaup.umich.edu/urpphd/studentresources/index.html>. The student is responsible for maintaining this form and for making sure a current duplicate form is on file with the URP doctoral program administrator.

The Compliance Form has five pages:

1. Theory Requirement: Courses and Exam
2. Research Design & Methods Requirement: Courses
3. Primary and Secondary Fields: Courses and Comprehensive Exam

4. Evidence of the equivalent of eight months of full-time work experience (teaching, research, or practicum) in a planning-related situation must be submitted and approved by the student's advisor or the Coordinator of Doctoral Studies. Work experience before entering or while enrolled qualifies equally.
5. Dissertation Proposal Approval (Note: this requirement is completed AFTER advancing to candidacy).

In order to advance to candidacy, the student must also meet Rackham requirements (<http://www.rackham.umich.edu/OARD/CandInfo.html>). These requirements include:

1. Students must be enrolled (for a minimum of one credit) during the term in which they take their preliminary examinations. For URP Ph.D. students this means the term in which the comprehensive exam is taken.
2. A minimum GPA of 5.0 (B)
3. Completed a minimum of 36 Rackham Fee Totals (RTFs). This requirement is reduced to 18 RFTs if the student has a "relevant master's". [see Rackham Fee Totals (RFTs)]
4. Coursework-in-Residence: Complete 18 hours of graduate coursework in residence on the Ann Arbor campus.
5. Complete at least 4 hours of cognate graduate coursework (coursework outside the Urban and Regional Planning Program) with a grade of "C-" or better.

Once the student has satisfied all these requirements, the Doctoral Coordinator will formally nominate the student for candidacy (by signing and submitting the "Recommendation for Candidacy" Form). When a student becomes a candidate, he or she is considered ready to do the dissertation and is eligible for UP 995 candidacy registration.

## **RACKHAM FEE TOTALS**

"Rackham Fee Totals" are essentially an adjusted number of credit hours taken per semester. The maximum one can earn per semester is nine.; Full-time enrollment (9 or more credits) earns a student 9 RFTs per semester. The Rackham Graduate School requires a student to accumulate at least 68 Rackham Fee Totals (RFTs) in order to graduate, 36 of which must be accumulated prior to admission to doctoral candidacy. Students who enter with a relevant master's degree will have the minimum Rackham

fee total requirement reduced by 18. (Most students entering the URP doctoral program do have a “relevant master’s.”)

#### RACKHAM FEE TOTALS REQUIRED BASED ON PRIOR GRADUATE WORK

	<b>Without</b> a “relevant master’s” degree	<b>With</b> a “relevant master’s” degree (Not from Rackham)	<b>With a Rackham master’s degree</b> (e.g., a MUP from Michigan)
RFTs needed to advance to candidacy	36	18	36
Total RFTs needed to graduate	68	50	68

Note: Though a master’s degree from Rackham does not get counted as a “relevant master’s,” students may count all RFTs accrued during their Rackham master’s program. (A student with a MUP from Michigan will therefore have already typically earned 36 RFTs.)

#### CERTIFICATE OF CANDIDACY

When OARD receives your Recommendation for Candidacy Form, the staff will review your academic record to determine if you have completed all of the Rackham requirements for the doctorate except the dissertation, and that you have met the minimum Rackham Fee Totals for coursework done prior to Candidacy. Once that information has been verified and the Candidacy process has been completed, you may request a Certificate of Candidacy. **From <http://www.rackham.umich.edu/StudentInfo/Publications/GSH/html/doctoral.html>.**



## **U.R.P. PH.D. FROM CANDIDACY TO DISSERTATION**

This final stage of the doctoral program involves several steps: formation of dissertation committee; approval of the dissertation proposal; dissertation research; an informal “Full Draft Review” meeting; a formal, public dissertation defense; and final approval and submittal of the dissertation.

### **FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE**

Immediately after completing the comprehensive exam and advancing to candidacy, the student should form a dissertation committee and schedule a dissertation proposal hearing. (The student may also initiate this process of committee formation even before advancing to candidacy.) The student must receive approval of the proposal within six months after advancing to candidacy. The Rackham Graduate School defines rules and regulations governing dissertation research and preparation. Dissertation committees must have at least four members, three of whom are regular members of the Graduate Faculty, and two of whom are from the doctoral candidate’s home program. The chair or one of the co-chairs must be a member of the urban planning program faculty. The committee must also have a Cognate member who is familiar with the standards for doctoral research and holds at least a .50 appointment in a Rackham doctoral program other than the Urban and Regional Planning Program. Finally, the committee may include a University faculty member who is not a regular member of the Graduate Faculty, a University staff member, or a qualified individual outside the University to provide expertise in the candidate’s discipline.

Once the dissertation committee is finalized, the student should complete a dissertation committee nomination form (<http://www.rackham.umich.edu/OARD/pdf/disscommittee.pdf>) and give to the Doctoral Coordinator for submission to the Rackham Graduate School. For detailed dissertation committee formation guidelines visit the Rackham graduate school website at <http://www.rackham.umich.edu/OARD/pdf/disscommitteeguidelines.pdf>.

The Chair/Co-Chairs, as well as the student, should provide the Program Administrator and the Coordinator of Doctoral Studies with periodic progress reports. Both should be kept aware of what is occurring in the dissertation process and all scheduled events (including the proposal hearing and the defense).

## APPROVAL OF THE DISSERTATION PROPOSAL: FORMAL HEARING

The student must formally obtain approval of the dissertation proposal within six months after advancing to candidacy. Any post-candidacy financial aid will be contingent on the timely approval of the dissertation proposal. The steps to approval include:

1. Schedule a one-hour “dissertation proposal hearing” (to be attended by both the dissertation committee and the URP Doctoral Committee). Schedule this meeting well in advance so that all members can attend. This meeting should take place no later than three to six months after achieving candidacy. Reserve a room for the hearing.
2. Work with the chair and dissertation committee on the proposal. This process consists of several iterations of draft review & comment over a several month period. The proposal presents the research topic, the research question(s), a detailed research design, the methods to be employed, data sources and relevant theory and literature. It is a detailed research plan, very much like a proposal for a sponsored research project. The proposal needs to present a clear statement of the problem or issue that will be dealt with, what the candidate intends to do and how it will be done.
3. Provide a full-length hard copy of your draft proposal (suggested length: 25-35 pages) to each member of the dissertation committee AND the URP Doctoral Committee at least two weeks before the scheduled hearing. (The URP Doctoral Committee will assist the dissertation committee in determining appropriate revisions needed before final approval.)
4. Convene the proposal hearing (a short presentation followed by Question & Answer). The student, the dissertation committee and the URP Doctoral Committee attend the proposal hearing. Obtain approval of the proposal from the dissertation committee (or conditional approval subject to additional revisions).
5. Post-hearing: If necessary, work with the dissertation chair to make any necessary additional revisions.
6. Once the proposal is approved, the student should complete the “Dissertation Proposal Approval” page in the URP Ph.D. Compliance Form (page 5): dissertation proposal title and abstract, plus dissertation chair signature. An approved proposal constitutes readiness to proceed with dissertation work.

## SAMPLE SCHEDULE TO COMPLETE DISSERTATION PROPOSAL (YEARS 2–3)

<b>Year 2</b>			<b>Year 3</b>		
<i>Sep.–Apr.</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Aug.–Sep.</i>	<i>Sep.</i>	<i>Sep.–Nov.</i>	<i>Nov.–Mar.</i>
Develop initial research proposal in UP835	Theory Exam	Comprehensive Exam, advance to candidacy	Form dissertation committee and set proposal hearing date	Write and revise proposal	Hold proposal hearing. Obtain approval.

**DISSERTATION RESEARCH**

Though the structure and methodologies of the dissertation research vary widely by candidate, topic and dissertation committee, all dissertation projects are governed by Rackham Graduate School regulations regarding human subject matter, the use of copyrighted material, etc. Please see the “Graduate Student Handbook” for details:

<http://www.rackham.umich.edu/StudentInfo/Publications/GSH/html/doctoral.html>.

**INFORMAL FULL DRAFT REVIEW (FDR)**

The student is required to schedule an informal “Full Draft Review” (FDR) meeting with the dissertation committee at least 6–8 weeks before the anticipated formal dissertation defense. The meeting is to enable the identification of any significant issues in the dissertation that demand attention, and to give the candidate the opportunity to address them in the document before the public defense. This procedure is designed to eliminate, as much as possible, surprises during the oral defense in the form of committee concerns of which the candidate had not been aware previously.

The candidate should provide a complete hard copy draft of the dissertation to the committee at least two weeks prior to the “Full Draft Review” meeting. This allows the committee sufficient time to read and comment in advance of the informal meeting. Remember that committee members’ personal availability may vary, so please confirm needed lead-time with each committee member.

## FORMAL PUBLIC DISSERTATION DEFENSE

The dissertation defense consists of two parts: the first is a formal, public presentation of the dissertation research, followed by questions and answers from both the committee and the audience. (Defenses are advertised and open to the public, and other students and faculty are frequently in attendance.) The second part is a closed session for the candidate and the dissertation committee. During the defense, the candidate may be asked to reconsider certain aspects of their work and to make certain changes or corrections in the dissertation. At the end of the session, the chair will discuss the oral defense with other members of the committee and inform the student of their assessment. The duration of the defense varies, but the candidate should reserve the room for a 2–3 hour period.

Final scheduling of the defense will depend on the outcome of the informal “Full Draft Review” meeting with the candidate and committee. For each degree conferral date, the Rackham Graduate School has specific deadlines for both the dissertation defense and formally submitting the final version of the dissertation. (see <http://www.rackham.umich.edu/OARD/doctoraldeadlines.html>). Though the Urban and Regional Planning faculty recognizes that candidates often want to have a precise defense and graduation date set far in advance, the timing of the final dissertation stages is contingent on the outcome of the “Full Draft Review” meeting, the formal defense, and the amount of revisions required by the committee.

Be sure to also schedule a separate pre-defense meeting with a representative from Rackham’s Academic Records and Dissertations Office at least two weeks before the defense.

The student should deliver a revised completed draft, with changed or added areas highlighted clearly, to the committee members at least two weeks (or more) before the defense. Be sure to include the dissertation abstract (an official part of the document). The candidate must also distribute Rackham dissertation evaluation forms to each committee member, which the candidate will receive at the Rackham re-defense meeting.

The student must be registered for an 8-hour candidacy enrollment (995 Dissertation Research) for the term in which the student defends. For detailed instructions on the defense requirements, see the Rackham Student Handbook (<http://www.rackham.umich.edu/StudentInfo/Publications/GSH/html/contents.html>).

#### **FINAL APPROVAL AND SUBMITTAL OF DISSERTATION**

The final approval of the dissertation, as with the defense, is primarily governed by Rackham rules. At your Rackham “Pre-Defense Meeting” you will receive detailed instructions about the final requirements needed for graduation, including applying for graduation, needed dissertation copies, format, etc. See: <http://www.rackham.umich.edu/StudentInfo/Publications/GSH/html/doctoral.html>.

## PH.D. IN URBAN + REGIONAL PLANNING FACULTY

Faculty members are accomplished and diverse, coming from a variety of educational backgrounds and possessing a wide range of professional experiences. They are award-winning planners, respected scholars, and leading researchers. Faculty are actively engaged in teaching, practice, and research in many fields. Cross-disciplinary efforts within the college and across the University are strongly encouraged and supported.

**Douglas S. Kelbaugh** FAIA is dean of the college. **Jonathan Levine** chairs the Urban + Regional Planning Program. **Scott D. Campbell** coordinates the Ph.D. in Urban + Regional Planning program.

### REGULAR FACULTY

#### **Peter Allen**

Lecturer in urban planning  
real estate theory and practice

#### **Bunyan Bryant**

Professor of urban planning and  
natural resources  
Environmental advocacy, policy, and  
justice

#### **Scott D. Campbell**

Associate professor of urban planning  
Coordinator of doctoral studies in  
urban and regional planning  
Planning theory, environmental  
aspects of planning, quantitative  
methods, planning history

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Professor of social work and urban  
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Social welfare planning, community  
organization, action and participation

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**Larissa Larsen**

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**Robert W. Marans**

Professor emeritus of architecture and urban planning

**Richard Norton**

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**Gavin Shatkin**

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**David Thacher**

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## AFFILIATE FACULTY

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### **Joan I. Nassauer**

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SNRE

### **Lawrence Root**

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### **Carl P. Simon**

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Professor of Economics and Public  
Policy, Department of Economics

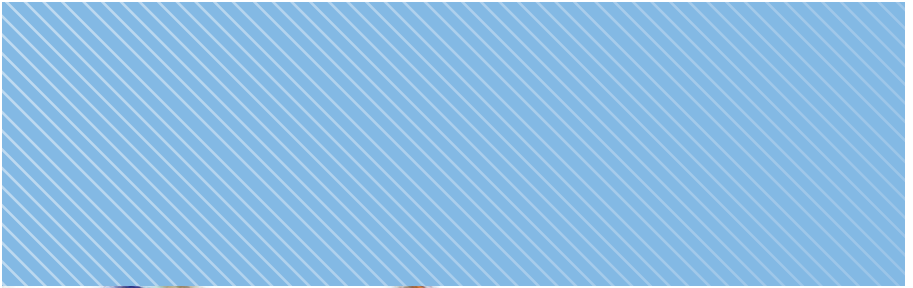


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**Frank D. Zinn**

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Center for Population Planning;  
Research Investigator, Health Behavior  
and Health Education Department,  
School of Public Health



Training scholars for careers in higher education, research and high-level policy positions, the U-M Ph.D. in Urban + Regional Planning is a doctoral degree with a flexible, interdisciplinary focus. Graduates work in universities, government, non-profits and the private sector, both in the U.S. and around the world.

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