

4 + 1: Five Year Path to the BS in Sustainable Community Development + Master of Regional Planning

The Sustainable Community Development (BS-SCD) core curriculum is designed to provide students with an interdisciplinary foundation in natural and social sciences, as well as design and digital fields, applicable to a wide range of planning and design issues. The Master of Regional Planning (MRP) core curriculum combines theoretical, historical, legal, social, political, economic and environmental dimensions of planning practice with emphasis on application through studio coursework and through service to local communities. The five-year accelerated degree program provides students a rich educational experience in many areas of urban landscape design, management and planning, including sustainable development, policy analysis and implementation, environmental policy and planning, use of information technology, and other planning tools and techniques. The BS-SCD + MRP graduate will be prepared for a professional career in public policy, resource management, economic development and planning at the national, state and local level.

Students considering the 4+1 must meet with both the undergraduate and graduate program directors and be admitted to each program separately (applying to the graduate program through the Graduate School), and satisfy all of the academic progress requirements for each program.

As part of the MRP program, 4+1 students will be required to do a professional internship, whether paid or unpaid, preferably for academic credit. This can be completed during the summer or the academic year, as a way to acquire relevant professional experience as a critical complement to academic work.

Undergraduate students interested in the 4+1 Accelerated MRP should major in Sustainable Community Development with a concentration in either Urban Studies or Landscape Studies.

The BS-SCD program is generally quite flexible. Freshman and Sophomore year will be dedicated to completing the University General Education Requirements and the Sustainable Community Development Core classes. During their Junior year, students take concentration classes in either the Landscape Studies Concentration or the Urban Studies concentration.

Sustainable Community Development concentration courses are selected from a list of classes available for the particular semester. To see current list of concentration courses:

For the Landscape Studies Concentration <http://www.umass.edu/larp/academics/undergraduate-degrees/environmentaldesign-bs/landscape-studies>

For the Urban Studies Concentration
<http://www.umass.edu/larp/academics/undergraduate-degrees/environmentaldesign-bs/urban-studies>

[NOTE: Update links to SCD pages]

The Senior year coursework will primarily be the classes required for the first year of the MRP program. Students will need to graduate from the BS-SCD program with a total of 120 credits, 12 of which will be counted toward the Masters degree.

For the MRP program, students must take a total of 36 credits while enrolled as a graduate student, following graduation from the BS-SCD program. The 36-credit requirement for the MRP may require students to take classes during the summer semester after completing their Bachelors degree, or to take additional coursework during the fall and spring semesters of their year in graduate school.

Below is an example of what the 4 + 1 curriculum might look like. There is flexibility in the BS-SCD program, so students should contact the program advisor to discuss a specific curriculum based on classes already completed at UMass. Coordination with the MRP Graduate Program Advisor starting prior to senior year of the undergraduate program will ensure that all requirements are met.

1st Year Undergraduate			
<i>Fall Semester</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Spring Semester</i>	<i>Credits</i>
SustComm 205 Dynamics of Human Habitation	4	General Education (SB)	4
SustComm 140 Awareness of Visual Environment	4	General Education (PS)	4
General Education (CW)	3	General Education (R1)	3
General Education (BS)	4	General Education (HSU)	4
Total Credits for Semester	15	Total Credits for Semester	15

2nd Year Undergraduate			
<i>Fall Semester</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Spring Semester</i>	<i>Credits</i>
LandArch 547/547L Landscape Pattern & Process + Lab	4	EnvirDes 591B Sustainable Cities	3
SustComm 543 History of Landscape Architecture 2	4	4 Concentration classes	12-15
General Education (R2)	4		
General Education (SBU)	4		
Total Credits for Semester	16	Total Credits for Semester	15-18

3rd Year Undergraduate			
<i>Fall Semester</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Spring Semester</i>	<i>Credits</i>
SustComm 547 City Planning	3	SustComm 394A Writing in Environmental Design	3
SustComm 394RI Research Issues in Environmental Design (IE)	3	2 Concentration classes	6-8
3 Concentration classes	9-12	2 Elective courses	6-8
Total Credits for Semester	15-18	Total Credits for Semester	15-18

4th Year Undergraduate			
Fall Semester	Credits	Spring Semester	Credits
RegionPl 651 Planning History and Theory	3	RegionPl 656 Judicial Planning Law	3
RegionPl 620 Quantitative Methods in Planning	3	RegionPl 625 Introduction to GIS for Planning	3
RegionPl 630d Public Participation	3	RegionPl 635 Research Issues	3
MRP concentration class	3	MRP concentration class	3
Elective	3-4	Elective	3-4
Total Credits for Semester	15-16	Total Credits for Semester	15-16

Graduate Summer Session	
Summer Semester	Credits
Internship or on-line MRP electives	6
Total Credits for Semester	6

Graduate Academic Year			
Fall Semester	Credits	Spring Semester	Credits
RegionPl 675 Regional Planning Studio	6	MRP Thesis	9
2 MRP electives	9	MRP electives	6
Total Credits for Semester	15	Total Credits for Semester	15

In order to complete 36 credits as a graduate student, MRP students can consider the following combinations of credits distributed over 5 possible University sessions (summer, fall, winter, spring, summer).

Summer post-BS	Fall MRP	Winter MRP	Spring MRP	Summer MRP
3 credits	15 credits	3 credits	15 credits	n/a
6 credits	15 credits	n/a	15 credits	n/a
6 credits	12 credits	n/a	12 credits	6 credits

Please consult with the MRP program director to chart the best course for academic success.