

## 1. Student achievement:

In accordance with our MRP strategic plan (see separate weblink), we have developed specific goals and indicators of academic achievement. While the Graduate School at UMass sets 2.75 GPA as the minimum threshold for admission, the MRP Program has set as a long-term target having at least 50% of students at or above 3.50 GPA for the program, and near 100% admitted above 3.00 GPA. Current cohort has 55% at or above target 3.50 GPA, up from to 48% in the previous review period; a smaller number of students have fallen below the 3.00 GPA threshold (probationary status, mostly because of unresolved incompletes) and have either resolved their grades or withdrawn. We also assess trends in academic achievement by means of the number of student poster and paper competition submissions, college or university academic awards, fellowships/assistantships, etc.

Since our last accreditation review, we have benchmarked targets related to our strategic plan. Based on enhanced MRP program open houses and outreach efforts, we improved our quality selectivity (as measured by median undergraduate GPA and GRE scores) and matriculant yield per applicant cohort, each by over 10% since 2013. The rate of MRP program completion within two years + summer has increased by 12%, and for our diversity students by almost 25%. We have instituted competitive mini-grants for award competition applications or conference travel; approximately 8% more students than previously have participated in international field studios, the Fabos Greenway Symposium, or other planning symposiums as a result. The number of alumni seeking to take the AICP exam in 2-3 years (rather than waiting longer or not taking at all) is 15% higher than in the previous review period. The percentage of MRP students receiving competitive university teaching and research assistantships has increased by more than 20% over the past two years.

We also have encouraged greater student connection with alumni and area professionals as strategic goals. Over the past year, 15 students volunteered for and attended the SNEAPA 2015 Conference in Hartford, CT; 6 attended the Citizen Planner Training Collaborative 2016 conference in Worcester, MA; 18 met with the Alumni Board during a mentoring workshop following the annual meeting in Amherst; 13 participated in the Emerging Professional and AICP Exam Workshop organized by the MA APA Chapter in Western Massachusetts in Spring 2016; a current MRP who will complete her Master's Thesis this summer finished a Fulbright research year in Mexico in 2015-2016; 2 MRPs were involved in urban design studio projects receiving BSLA Merit Awards; 4 of our recent (2012) alumni are now leading the Emerging Professionals Group for the MA APA Chapter, organizing the Amherst event in Spring 2016. One of our alumni served as a panelist at the 4P Conference (the four Massachusetts PAB Planning Programs plus the MA Chapter of the APA) at MIT in March 2016.

## 2. Estimated 2015-2016 Tuition and Fees for Full-Time Graduate Students:

Tuition and fees are calculated for a full academic year (Fall and Spring semesters).

- In-state residents: \$ 14,754
- Regional \$ 24,657
- Out-of-state residents: \$ 29,974

For a complete list of graduate student fees and a per-credit hour breakdown of tuition rates please refer to the [Bursar's Office Graduate Tuition and Fees Page](#).

### 3. Student retention and graduation rates:

The retention rate for a master's program is the percentage of first-year students who return the next academic year. The graduation rate for a master's program is the percentage of students who graduate within 4 years of enrolling.

Academic Year	Number enrolled	Retention rate	Graduated within 4 years	Graduation Rate
2010-2011	33	100%	21	78.8%
2011-2012	30	90%	19	73.3%
2012-2013	26	100%	(Available Fall 2016)	73.1%*
2013-2014	32	100%	n/a	78.1%**
2014-2015	33	91%	n/a	n/a
2015-2016	29	93%	n/a	n/a

\*3-year graduation rate,

\*\*2-year graduation rate

Number of degrees awarded: 2012 - **21**; 2013 – **15**; 2014 – **18**; 2015 – **16**

### 4. Professional Certification:

To become a certified planner, members of the American Planning Association (APA) must meet certain education and experience requirements and pass the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) exam. The pass rate is the percentage of test takers who pass the examination within 3 years of graduating from a master's program, and/or within 5 years of graduating from a bachelor's program.

Graduation Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number taking exam within 3 years	2	2	4	3	1	n/a
Pass rate	100%	100%	75%	100%	100%	n/a

AICP Exam Year (May +Nov. exams)	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of <i>all</i> graduates taking exam	7	8	6	4	4	5
Pass rate	67%	100%	100%	75%	75%	80%

### 5. Employment in the professional field:

<b>Graduates - 2011</b>	14
Responses	7
Response rate	50%
Employment within One Year of Graduation:	Professional Planning Job
	42.9%
	Professional Planning-Related Job
	0
	Pursuing Advanced Degree
	7.1%
Total Employed within One Year of Graduation	86.6%

<b>Graduates - 2012</b>	<b>21</b>
Responses	7
Response rate	33%
Employment within One Year of Graduation: Professional Planning Job	33%
Professional Planning-Related Job	0
Pursuing Advanced Degree	0
Total Employed within One Year of Graduation	100%
<b>Graduates - 2013</b>	<b>12</b>
Responses	5
Response rate	41.7%
Employment within One Year of Graduation: Professional Planning Job	33.4%
Professional Planning-Related Job	8.3%
Pursuing Advanced Degree	0
Total Employed within One Year of Graduation	100%
<b>Graduates - 2014</b>	<b>18</b>
Responses	8
Response rate	44%
Employment within One Year of Graduation: Professional Planning Job	27.5%
Professional Planning-Related Job	11%
Pursuing Advanced Degree	5.5%
Total Employed within One Year of Graduation	87.5%
<b>Graduates - 2015</b>	<b>16</b>
Responses	n/a
Response rate	n/a
Employment within One Year of Graduation: Professional Planning Job	n/a
Professional Planning-Related Job	n/a
Pursuing Advanced Degree	n/a
Total Employed within One Year of Graduation	n/a