



The University ... the Town ... and the Region

A Carnegie Research 1 Institution...

The University of Massachusetts Amherst has an enrollment of approximately 26,000 students, 22% of whom are graduate students.

The University comprises of 9 Colleges and Schools. The Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning is in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and in the school of Earth and Sustainability.

In an area with five affiliated Colleges and Universities...

The Five-College consortium of Smith College, Amherst College, Mount Holyoke College, Hampshire College and UMass Amherst have a coordinated library system and curriculum that allows students to access lectures, events and course offerings across the five campuses.

In a beautiful valley in the historic rolling hills of western Massachusetts...

The Town of Amherst is located in the Pioneer Valley, a part of the scenic Connecticut River Valley. The town has a non-student population of 18,000, and the University is located near the northwestern edge of town. A free regional bus system serves the 1100-acre campus as well as the adjacent towns and the four colleges nearby: Amherst, Hampshire, Mt. Holyoke, and Smith Colleges.

Most graduate students live off campus. There is a wide range of rental options available of all sizes and for all types of budgets. However, the most convenient housing and affordable properties go quickly, so we recommend that new students plan to arrange for housing in advance of arrival. The University and our Department can assist with information and contacts.

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AFFILIATED CENTERS

MISSION

The goal of the Regional Planning Program at the University of Massachusetts is to stimulate creative and systematic approaches for addressing and resolving the physical, economic, and social problems of towns, cities, and larger regions.

The program is based on combining theoretical, historical, social, political, and technical dimensions of planning practice with strong emphasis on practice through studio and service to communities in our region, with opportunities for international work as well. We engage both the intellectual and the professional aspects of regional planning.

Our alumni can be found in all levels of government as well as in consulting practice, real estate development, private industry, and in academic and research activities. They have been involved on the frontiers of social change since the 1960s such as urban revitalization, environmental protection, advocacy planning, historic preservation, growth management, economic development and geographic information systems.

CENTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Center's role is to provide technical assistance to communities, undertake critical community-based studies, disseminate information, and to enhance local and multicommunity capacity for strategic planning and development. The Center works closely with both community and business sectors, providing information and assistance needed for growth, management, and public benefit. The Center's clientele and collaborations include: community development corporations, state agencies, municipalities, regional planning agencies, developers, business leaders, chambers of commerce, local officials, public groups and the managers of firms.

CENTER FOR RESILIENT METRO REGIONS was

established originally as the Center for Rural Massachusetts at the University of Massachusetts in 1985 to address the impacts of unregulated growth on natural and built rural environments. The Center practices a research and outreach mission focused on sustainable development. Measures proposed in Center publications have been studied and adopted not only in Massachusetts, but also elsewhere in the United States and the world. Former associates of the Center (faculty and students) now hold highly significant planning positions in urbanizing parts of America, and others are writing about ideas initiated at the Center.

CENTER FOR HERITAGE AND SOCIETY is a

multidisciplinary initiative to craft new approaches for heritage conservation and communication around the world. CHS offers research opportunities for scholars working in heritage related fields such as Archaeology, History, Environmental Science, Landscape Architecture, Regional Planning, European Studies, Native American Indian Studies, Afro-American Studies, Classics, Legal Studies, and Public Policy. Additionally, the Center provides undergraduate and graduate students with training and experience in heritage planning and management.

UMASS DESIGN CENTER IN SPRINGFIELD is a

collaboration between the City of Springfield, the UMass Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning, the Department of Architecture, the Department of Building Construction and Technology, and UMass Extension/Center for Agriculture.

DEGREES OFFERED Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture (BSLA) Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Community Development (BSSCD) Associates of Science in Landscape Contracting (AS) Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) Master of Regional Planning (MRP) PhD in Regional Planning (PhD) Accelerated Degrees: 4+1 MRP 4+2 MLA **DUAL DEGREES** Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning (MLA/MRP) Architecture and Landscape Architecture (MArch/MLA) Architecture and Regional Planning (MArch/MRP) Regional Planning and Public Policy and Administration (MRP/MPPA) Regional Planning and Sustainability Science (MRP/ Regional Planning and Civil Engineering -Transportation (MRP/MSCE) Regional Planning and Geography (MRP/MSG) **CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS** Graduate Certificate in Cultural Landscape Management Graduate Certificate in Climate Change, Hazards and Green Infrastructure Olver Design Building photo by Ngoc Doan MLA ' 14

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The Master of Regional Planning Program

The goal of the Regional Planning Program is to promote sustainable and creative approaches for addressing and resolving the physical, economic, and social issues of communities, towns, cities, and larger regions.

The Master of Regional Planning Program at the University of Massachusetts is a professional program fully accredited by the Planning Accreditation Board in coordination with the American Planning Association. This status provides our MRP graduates with multiple benefits, such as reduced time to American Institute of Certified Planners eligibility, higher earning potential, and improved job market competitiveness. Our current accreditation runs from 2019 through 2026.

The program is based on combining theoretical, historical, social, political, and technical dimensions of planning with strong emphasis on practice through studio and service to communities in our region, with opportunities for international work as well. We engage both the intellectual and the professional aspects of regional planning. Our alumni can be found in all levels of government as well as in consulting practice, real estate development, private industry, and in academic and research activities. They have been involved on the frontiers of social change since the 1960s such as urban revitalization, environmental protection, advocacy planning, historic preservation, growth management, economic development and GIS.

The Master's degree program offers a rich educational experience in many areas of regional planning, including the underlying theories in planning, urban form, urbanization, elements of the planning and decision-making processes, policy analysis and implementation, social planning, information technology and planning tools and techniques. The main areas of specialization within the MRP program are:

- Community Development & Cultural Preservation
- Technological Innovation & Regional Economy
- Climate Resilience & Green Infrastructure
- Student Designed Concentration

In addition, our connections with Landscape Architecture enable students to study problems of landscape and urban design. We also have strong ties to Transportation Engineering, Public Policy, Sustainability Science, Geography, and Architecture allowing for variety of educational pathways.

We offer a traditional two-year degree for most students, and an accelerated one-year degree for students coming through our Sustainable Community Development undergraduate program or other affiliated programs in the Five Colleges.

Program Overview

Our Master of Regional Planning program requires 48 credits for graduation¹. Core requirements comprise between 30 to 33 credits. The specialization selected by each student requires an additional nine credits.

The remaining credits are taken as electives. While not required, many students choose to earn elective credits and gain experience through an approved professional internship (a.k.a practicum courses).

Sample Two-Year Program Schedule

First Year				
Fall Semester	Credits	Spring Semester	Credits	
RP 620 Quantitative Methods in Planning	3	RP 656 Planning Law	3	
RP 630 Public Participation	3	RP 635 Research Issues	3	
RP 651 Planning History & Theory	3	RP 625 Geographic Information Systems	3	
Specialization class	3	Specialization class	3	
Total Credits	12	Total Credits	12	

Second Year					
Fall Semester	Credits	Spring Semester	Credits		
RP 675 Planning Studio	6	RP 699 -Master's Thesis or	9		
Specialization	3	RP 698 -Master's Project or	6		
Elective 3	3	3 Course Option: Elective studio or seminar classes	9		
	Elective (if needed)	3-6			
Total Credits	12	Total Credits	12		

Course Waivers

Students are allowed to waive required courses if they can demonstrate equivalency in terms of previous coursework or experience. This process requires the completion of a course waiver form, available from the graduate program administrator. This form must be approved first by the faculty member whose course is to be waived, then by the program director. In general, if 80% or more of the course material has been covered, a waiver is granted. However, this is wholly up to the instructor in consultation with the program director. The instructor may also negotiate an alternate instructional arrangement

(e.g. audit, independent study, alternate assignments) in cases where there has been partial coverage. If less than 50% of the material has been covered, then the waiver is not granted.

A course waiver does not reduce the total number of credits required for a degree but rather affords the student more flexibility in pursuing areas of interest.

¹Students in our dual and acclerated degree programs may count up to 12 credits taken in the other degree program toward their MRP requirements. Effectively reducing the standard 48 credit requirement to 36.

Core Courses

Our core is comprised of six seminar classes, one studio, and an independently developed thesis or project. The core curriculum covers foundational knowledge and skills, including

- key planning concepts, theories, and histories;
- 2. the political, legal, institutional, and administrative context of planning;
- 3. the social, cultural, environmental, and fiscal implications of development and planning,
- participatory planning and public engagement;
- 5. analytical methods such as data analytics, GIS, visualization, and technical writing;
- 6. "plan-making" through studio reports, and theses, and terminal projects; and
- 7. independent thinking, professional problem solving, and small team collaboration.

The following core classes are required.

RP620 Quantitative Methods in Planning

RP630 Public Participation

RP635 Research Issues

RP651 Planning History and Theory

RP656 Judicial Planning Law

RP675 Regional Planning Studio

Either:

RP 698A Master's Project (6 credits) or

RP 699 Master's Thesis (9 credits) or

3 Course Option (9 credits)

If you pursue a Master's Project, 30 credits are part of the core requirements. If you pursue a Master's Thesis or Three Course option, 33 credits are part of the core curriculum.

Regional Planning Studio

In the regional planning studio, students divide into teams and work on a real project with an actual client.

The objective is to provide a setting in which one can learn the professional skills required in the planning process. Through the studio, one will gain knowledge and expertise in the processes of planning, including how to comprehend a planning problem, quantify and analyze its dimensions, formulate planning alternatives, and organize a work plan and planning process that leads to the implementation of solutions. One will also gain experience in working with the client and the public, and in the presentation of work in oral, written and graphic form.

The studio format has the following features:

- A 6-credit, 14-week studio (fall semester of the second year).
- Instruction by faculty and outside professionals on key topics needed to carry out studio projects, including work planning, public presentations, and report preparation.
- Community-based projects and clients, including the signing of a contract between client and studio group.
- Data collection, analysis, and development of plan alternatives, public participation, and plan implementation.

Students typically complete the core classes prior to enrolling in studio.

Specializations

Students take at least three specialization courses to gain greater knowledge and depth in an area of personal and professional interest. At least two must come from the list of recommended courses. Other classes may count toward the specialization with approval from the coordinator and program director. Students are also expected to develop their Master's thesis or professional project on a topic related to their specialization.

Climate resilience and green infrastructure

Core Faculty: Elisabeth Infield, Robert Ryan, Theodore Eisenman

Communities need to support positive ecologies while being low-carbon and climate-resilient. The focus of this specialization is understanding the forces affecting the built environment, the interrelationships between land use, environment and social conditions, and ways to support and regulate development to best achieve community goals. It also addresses environmental policy and planning as it relates to preserving and protecting environmental quality and habitat. The Department has particular strength in greenway planning and green infrastructure, and in interpreting the role of open space and communities within their regional context in the US and internationally.

Recommended Courses

- Planning for Climate Change (RP 585)
- Green Infrastructure Planning and Design (RP 591I)
- Tools and Techniques (RP 652)
- Introduction to Land-Use (RP 545)
- Sustainable Cities (RP 580)
- Green Urbanism (RP 582)
- People and the Environment (RP 587)
- Urban Design Studio (LA 604; permission of instructor)

Community development and cultural preservation

Core Faculty: Darrel Ramsey-Musolf, Elizabeth Brabec, Michael DiPasquale

Plans and designs gain meaning when they represent the needs, dreams, values, and goals of those who will use them. Courses within this specialization focus on social, political, and cultural analyses of the built environment, explore different social and cultural responses, analyze policy, planning, and design criteria for building more responsible urban forms, and intervening in discriminatory practices. Topics of study include domestic and international analyses of cultural heritage and diversity, housing policy, urban development and land use, urban form and design, and social change.

Recommended Courses

- Housing Policy and Equity (RP 525)
- City Planning (RP 574)
- Cultural Heritage (RP 661)
- Introduction to Land-Use (RP 545)
- Tools and Techniques in Planning (RP 652)
- People and the Environment (RP 587)
- Sustainable Cities (RP 580)
- Scenario Planning (RP 592)

Technological Innovation and Regional Economy

Core Faculty: Camille Barchers, Henry Renski, Peter Dunn

This specialization focuses on understanding and anticipating the challenges facing communities because of the changing economy, workforce, and societal needs. We train our students how to plan with communities to proactively address these challenges using community economic and demographic forecasting, participatory scenario planning and evaluation, impact assessment, development policy and finance, and spatial analysis. Faculty teaching in this specialization have interests in understanding the impact of emerging technologies on communities and the use of new communication tools for expanding and improving planning and local governance.

Recommended Courses

- Economic Development Issues (RP 643)
- Scenario Planning (RP 592)
- Spatial Analysis & Regional Development (RP 673)
- Introduction to Land-Use (RP 545)
- Sustainable Cities (RP 580)
- Tools and Techniques in Planning (RP 652)

Student Designed Specialization

Students with interests that do not fall into the existing categories may, with the approval of the Graduate Program Director, develop their own specialization. Students interested iin a should prepare a one-page memo indicating the focus of their studies and the courses they propose to fulfill the concentration.



Course Descriptions

(Check SPIRE for details and updates)

RP 525 Housing Policy and Equity (3 cr. F)

In this course, we will focus on the development housing policy in the United States and examine the national, state, and local delivery of this public or private good. Because this course is situated within the Regional Planning program, we will also examine the implementation of housing policy in Massachusetts.

RP 545 Introduction to Land-use (3 cr. S)

An examination of the role of policy in guiding optimal growth. Examination of controversies regarding growth management practices, constitutional issues, methods and techniques used in designing growth management strategies, and current innovations and future trends facing growth management activities across the country.

LA 547 Landscape Pattern and Process (3 cr. F)

Landscape ecology as applied to planning and design decision-making. Explores landscape structure, function and dynamic processes at multiple scales. Introduces theoretical and technical knowledge that supports sustainable landscape planning, design, and management. Lab includes a series of local field trips and introductory labs in GIS.

RP 574 City Planning (3 cr. F)

Regulatory policy and planning as a context for design and environmental decision making. Influencing factors include physical systems (land, resources, infrastructure, housing, public space) as well as value systems (social, ecological, cultural). Acquaints students with planning history and tools, as well as contemporary deliberations on sustainable ecology, economy, and equity.

RP 580 Sustainable Cities (3 cr. S)

This course introduces students to the 4E concept of sustainability: environment, economy, equity, and engagement applied it to the built environment and policies at the municipal and regional level.

RP 582 Landscape and Green Urbanism (3 cr. S)

Interdisciplinary seminar for upper level undergraduate and graduate students. Focus on the role of the built environment in urbanization and sustainability.

RP 585 Planning for Climate Change (3 cr. F)

This seminar reads some of the most current literature on the future of the urban form given climate change, and allows time and shared space to reflect on what these coming changes mean for (primarily local) government as well as governance. The class focus will be on implications of these coming conditions for built form both now and in the future, with a goal of developing a working understanding of what municipal, regional, and state planners and policymakers need to know now about these conditions to provide leadership to communities.

RP 587 People and the Environment (3 cr. F)

Interdisciplinary seminar on the applications of environmental psychology research to planning and design. Topics include landscape preference, territoriality and defensible space, way finding, and restorative settings/therapeutic gardens.

RP 591I Green Infrastructure Planning and Design (3 cr. S)

Green infrastructure planning requires a systems approach to improving ecological function while providing vital ecosystem services for human populations. This course will introduce students to the concepts, theories, and applications of green infrastructure planning at multiple scales, including the site-level, neighborhood, and regional scales.

RP 592 Scenario Planning (3 cr. S)

This course attempts to answer these questions by introducing the concept of scenario planning. The Scenario Planning approach has been used by a variety of professional fields to help communities, constituents, and clients address uncertainty in future planning. This course introduces the concept of scenario planning within a city planning framework by demonstrating the theory of scenario planning, its effectiveness at generating consensus and creating opportunities for learning among stakeholders, and introducing skills & tools necessary to complete a scenario planning project.

RP 620 Quantitative Methods in Planning (3 cr. F)

Application of quantitative methods used by regional and urban planners. Problem definition and data sources, data collection and analysis using descriptive and inferential statistics, and spreadsheet and database planning software. Data presentation techniques. Prerequisite: Statistics 501 or equivalent.

RP 625 Geographic Information Systems for Planning and Design (3 cr. S)

This is an introductory, graduate-level course in the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in urban and regional planning. Its primary objectives are for students to develop competency in the use of GIS software and in applying this technology to address problems typical to the practice of planning and local policy.

RP 630 Public Participation (3 cr. F)

This course will introduce students to public participation at the practice level in planning. Lectures and class discussions will review current theory underpinning participation practice, and will critically evaluate the wide range of participation methods currently in use in planning practice. There will also be one or more exercises in participation implementation that occur outside standard class times.

RP 635 Research Issues for Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning (3 cr. S)

Survey of research issues and methods in landscape architecture and planning. Designed to assist students preparing their research for master's theses and projects. Includes selecting a topic for this research, synthesizing the pertinent literature, developing research questions and selecting a faculty advisor.

RP 643 Economic Development Issues in Planning (3 cr. S)

General introduction to methods and techniques for analyzing and solving problems related to planning, resource allocation, and policy analysis.

RP 645 Introduction to Land-use/Growth Management (3 cr. S)

An examination of the role of policy in guiding optimal growth. Examination of controversies regarding growth management practices, constitutional issues, methods and techniques used in designing growth management strategies, and current innovations and future trends facing growth management activities across the country.

RP 651 Planning History and Theory (3 cr. F)

Planning as a decision-making process, the attributes of the political and administrative environment within which planning takes place, and the implications of this environment for the planning process and the planner.

RP 652 Tools and Techniques in Planning (3 cr. F)

Practical information, specific tools, regulatory processes, and analytic methods useful in the practice of public sector planning at the local level.

RP 656 Judicial Planning Law (3 cr. S)

The law of land-use control as expressed in major judicial decisions in the U.S. Creation, expansion and powers of municipal corporations; use of legal planning tools such as zoning, abatement of nuisance, eminent domain, etc.

RP 661 Cultural Landscapes: Documentation, Values, and Policy (3cr. F)

An important course for landscape architects, planners, and other professionals interested in the cultural landscape, this course will introduce students to the identification, understanding, documentation and policy implications of cultural landscapes. While it will touch on the issues of both designed and vernacular landscapes, the focus of the course will be vernacular landscape.

RP 673 Spatial Analysis and Regional Development (3 cr. F)

This course is a hands-on study in regional and local economic, demographic anbd spatial analysis methods commonly used by planners and economic development policy analysts.

RP 675 Regional Planning Studio (6 cr. F)

The first in a sequence of workshop-type courses, to integrate skills and knowledge from conventional courses and apply them to representative planning problems. Instructional goals: to develop the skills and techniques for collecting, analyzing, synthesizing and presenting spatial and non-spatial data; and to develop a sense of judgement about the comprehensiveness and reliability of the data and its utility for planning decisions.

RP 696 Independent Study

RP 698 Practicum

RP 698A Master's Project (6 cr.)

Allows a student to work on an actual or demonstration project to explore various aspects of regional planning.

RP 699 Master's Thesis (9 cr.)

Preparation of a research paper in an emerging or state-of-the-art area of regional planning. A full graduate committee and calendar due dates must be met, as outlined in the Graduate School Handbook available at:

https://www.umass.edu/graduate/policies/handbook/degree-requirements



DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The Master of Regional Planning degree is conferred upon those graduate students who satisfy the following basic requirements:

- 1. The satisfactory completion of 48 credits of course work (36 for accelerated and dual degrees), of which 24 RP core course credits and at least 30 total graduate-level credits given within this Department.
- Completion of the specific requirements in the Graduate Handbook and regulations of the Graduate School in effect at the time of entry into the program.
- The preparation and successful defense of a Master's Thesis or Master's Project or Three Course Option.
- 4. The maintenance of a "B" average: Students may not earn more than two "C" grades during their entire tenure.

Students Entering with Related Graduate Degree

Students who enter with a related graduate degree may modify the normal degree requirements in two ways:

1. Up to 18 credits in the form of course waivers may be granted with the approval of the Program Director and the filing of an official transcript. Note: this option does not reduce the total number of credits required for graduation.

2. Up to 12 credits that have been earned in addition to the requirements of a previous graduate degree may be transferred also with the approval of the program director as part of an accelerated or dual degree. In this case the transferred credits can be included as part of the total credits required for graduation.

Transfer of Non-Degree Credit

A maximum of 6 non-degree credits at the University of Massachusetts may be transferred toward the Master of Regional Planning degree. Non-degree students are first required to complete an official application to the program. Admission to the program for such students is on a competitive and space-permitting basis.

Students are encouraged to take advantage of internships available through the department. These Independent Study or Practicum courses may be arranged through the program director or the Outreach Coordinator.

Master's Thesis or Project

Prior to or early in the final academic year, you must decide on a topic for a Master's thesis, Master's project. The topic selection is your responsibility and must be approved initially by your Program Director and other appropriate faculty. This is frequently done during the spring Research Issues course prior to the final year.

After your initial idea is approved, you select a committee suggested by or acceptable to the Program Director and the core faculty. For a Master's Thesis, at least three but no more than four members; for a Project, at least two but no more than four members; for a Three-Course Option, one supervisor. These members should be as follows:

- a. The chair should be a member of the core graduate planning faculty as listed in the handbook. In exceptional circumstances students may request the Program Director that another LARP faculty member be given this role, explaining the reasons for their suitability. Note: Adjunct Lecturers are not eligible to be chairs.
- b. The second member should be a graduate faculty member from the University. If the chair is not a member of the Program's core faculty, then the second member must be.

- c. Other members should be graduate faculty members from the University or Five Colleges, or other institutions with special permission.
- d. Students may request to have an outside member who is either a professor at another college or a practitioner. Students doing projects should write a letter to the Program Director, with a copy to the graduate administrative assistant, explaining the reasons for the outside member's suitability. Students doing a Master's Thesis must also submit the person's curriculum vitae to the graduate school along with a justification for their selection. The Graduate School will then judge whether to appoint the outside member.

If you plan to write a Master's Thesis, you must complete a form letter for the Graduate School (available online), and submit that letter along with a signed copy of the approved Master's thesis outline/proposal to the Graduate School at least four months prior to submitting the final Master's thesis. Master's projects need the approval of your Program Director only.

3 Course Option

The Program offers an optional, three-course sequence as an alternative to the Master's Thesis/Master's Project. This alternative consists of selecting a minimum of three rigorous, interrelated courses which, when taken, will contribute substantially to the achievement of the student's academic goals. Students should prepare a brief proposal outlining key themes and its relevance to planning, 4-6 possible courses (to make allowance for courses that may not be offered, and an acceptable final work product that satisfies the standard for independent professional thought. The student will select one faculty member to supervise their three-course option: This is usually the regional planning program director or the faculty member best qualified to assess the coursework.

There are several additional requirements for the three-course option:

 For MRP students, at least one of the three courses should be outside the Regional Planning program.

- 2. Dual Degree students must complete at least one Master's Thesis or Master's Project for one of the programs.
- 3. Undergraduate course are generally only acceptable if they are at the 300 level or above and the faculty member agrees to extra work to bring the course up to graduate level. Only one such course is allowed as part of a three-course option.
- Independent study courses are generally not acceptable in a three-course option, except under highly compelling circumstances and with approval by the program director.

At the end of the three-course option, the student will prepare an oral presentation linking the three courses to issues in planning and submit their final work product. The three-course option advisor will evaluate the presentation as the student's formal defense.

Formal Defense Procedures

Every candidate for the Master's degree must pass a general examination focusing on his/her Master's Project, Master's Thesis, or Three-Course Option. This examination is called the formal defense or formal presentation. The formal defense is an oral examination and is conducted by the thesis or project committee, or by the three-course option supervisor.

Formal defenses are scheduled by the chair/ advisor when s/he feels that the candidate is nearing completion. MRP defenses are open to all members of the campus community and outside persons by invitation. All MRP project defenses are typically held on one or two days late in the spring semester; however from time to time that date is not convenient for all committee members and so separate defenses may be held. The recommendation of at least two members of a two or three person committee, or three members of a four-person committee, shall be required to receive the degree. For a three-course option the supervisor must approve.

If the student passes the defense, they should have the committee sign the memorandum of "General Examination/Defense Form" https://www.umass.edu/larp/resource/forms and submit it to the Academic Program Coordinator. If the student does not pass the defense, s/he has the option of leaving without the degree or requesting permission to return for an additional semester as a student in residence. Approval by a majority of the defense committee is needed

to approve this latter option. It should be noted that passing the General Examination is a necessary condition for receiving the degree. Students must also pass all other requirements, including having their committee approve the completed thesis or project.

Master's Thesis and Project Deadlines

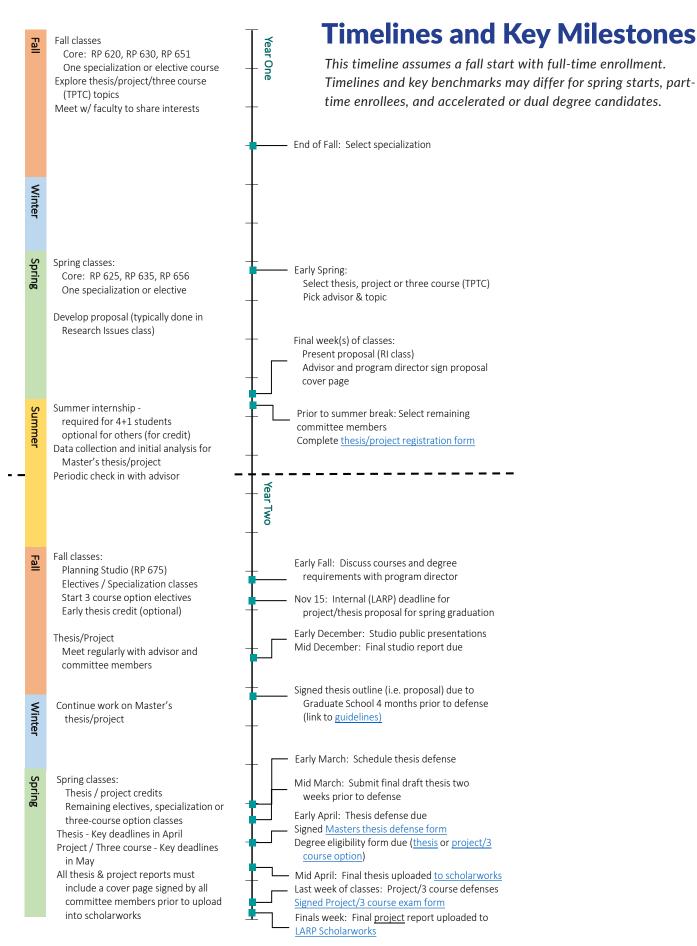
Final drafts of the Master's Project are due to the committee chair by the last day of classes. Final drafts of the Master's Thesis shall adhere to the Graduate School deadlines, often sometime in mid-to-late April for spring graduation.

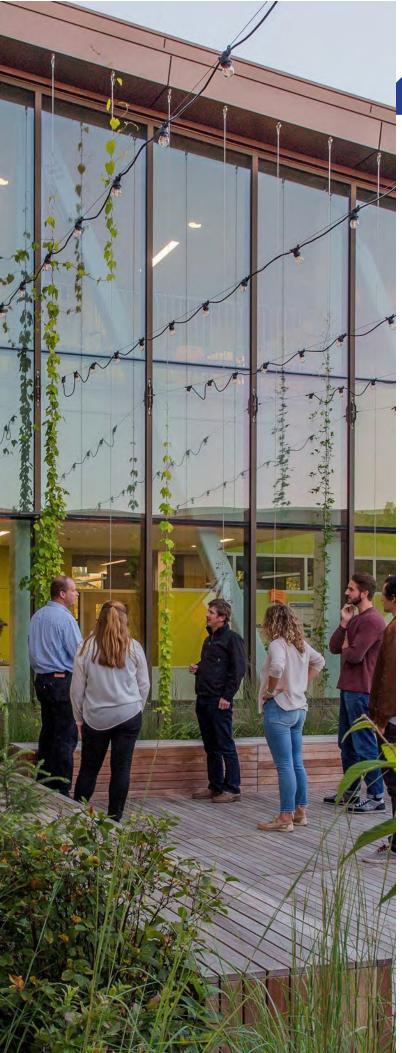
An oral defense of the Master's Thesis, Project or Three-Course Option shall occur at least one week prior to the final due date for the document.

All students shall submit their Master's Thesis or Master's Project to ScholarWorks. It is expected that the final product for a thesis will be a scholarly article/report. Projects and three course option reports may vary slightly in format with approval of the project committee (advisor for three course options.

Meetings With Committee

Students should establish a realistic timetable that will allow for the meeting of due dates and should set up regular meeting times with the committee members to discuss progress on the Master's Thesis/Master's Project.





OTHER INFORMATION

Credit Load per Semester

Forty-eight credits taken over a four-semester span implies an average of 12 credits per semester, but students may take up to 18 credits per semester. Full-time status is 9 credits or more.

Independent Study

The Department will allow a maximum of 6 credits earned through Independent Study during a student's entire stay, except for students in the dual or accelerated degree programs who are allowed a total of 9 credits. The policy on Independent Study allows for no more than 3 credits per semester. Students who plan to take an Independent Study must complete an **Independent study** form (https://www.umass.edu/larp/resource/ forms) that specifies the final product of the project: a paper, a formal presentation, drawings or a model are among the possible alternatives. A copy of the form, signed by the faculty supervisor, must be submitted to the Academic Program Coordinator. Independent Study work should be done during the semester credit is received.

Faculty Advisors

Entering students will be advised by the graduate program director during their first year, as well as by an appropriate faculty member. After the first year a student is encouraged to work with one or more faculty advisors in selecting elective courses and a Master's Thesis/Master's Project.

Professional Organizations

The Department strongly urges you to join the American Planning Association (APA) and other relevant professional organization as soon as possible. It is not too early in your career to participate in the activities of these professional associations and there is much to be gained from your membership. You are afforded the additional benefit of reduced student rates for membership.

Faculty Meetings

All faculty meetings are open to any student who wishes to attend. The only exception to this policy is when personnel matters are being discussed. Any student with a concern or issue relevant to specific programs within the Department should first speak to the appropriate Program Director in order to have the issue placed on the agenda of the faculty meeting. If the issue or concern relates to the Department in general, you should speak with the Department Chair. In either case, is important that you be aware of these options available to you. A schedule of faculty meetings for each semester is available in the main office, 210 Design Building.

Extension for Completion of Degree Requirements

No extensions for completion of degree requirements will be granted unless there is a compelling reason to do so (e.g. sickness, faculty issues, etc.).

Long Distance Completion of Degree

In the past, some students have finished their degrees from afar, relying on faculty and staff to make phone calls/remote meetings, arrange meetings, and complete forms. Again, a compelling reason must be demonstrated to be extended this favor.

RESOURCES

Library Resources

As a student in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning (LARP), one will have access to an exceptional university library system. Support for one's studies and research is provided through collections and services at two libraries. The 27-story W.E.B. DuBois Library, mainly an arts and humanities collection, also houses Government Documents, the Law Collection, Maps, Microforms, Course Reserves, Media, and Special Collections and Archives. Physical and natural sciences materials are found in the Integrated Science and Engineering Library located in the low-rise section of the Lederle Graduate Research Center.

The holdings of the University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries include more than 5.9 million books, documents, and microfilms. In addition, the Libraries subscribe to approximately 14,500 serial titles. Nearly 300 electronic subscription databases, which locate millions of citations and full-text articles, may be accessed at the Libraries or from any remote location. Your University photo I.D. serves as a library card and allows for borrowing throughout the Five College Library system which include: Amherst, Hampshire, Smith, and Mt. Holyoke Colleges. The Interlibrary Loan provides service for students to borrow materials not owned by the Five Colleges free of charge.

The Learning Commons is an interactive area on the ground floor of the DuBois Library. Services offered include research and writing support, library services, technology help, as well as campus services in an environment that fosters informal, collaborative and creative work, and social interaction. A café is located in the Library lobby. Five days a week the Learning Commons is open 24 hours. More information regarding specific services available can be found at the website:

https://www.library.umass.edu/locations/learningcommons/



Madeleine Charney is the Reference Librarian for the Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning. She is available by appointment and during drop-in sessions to provide one-on-one

research consultations and classes on library research methods. She is knowledgeable in the numerous database resources and library materials available related to topics in our field. Of particular interest and value to students in our Department is the LARP Subject Research Guide, an online resource which serves as a starting point for library research:

https://www.umass.edu/larp/resources/larplibrarian

Computers

Incoming students to the program are required to have a personal laptop computer.

More information can be found:

https://www.umass.edu/larp/resource/computing

The Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning share **two computer labs** in the Design Building (DB 260 & 235) with the Department of Architecture and the Building and Construction Technology Program. There are totally 70 networked computers with a full suite of software including; Microsoft Office, Adobe CC, ArcGIS, AutoCAD, Rhino, SketchUp, Lumion and other rendering programs. There is also a **printing/plotting lab** contains a black and white printer, a color printer, and three high-speed plotters. The labs are open to all students in the design building. Wireless Internet is available throughout the campus.

There are **11 computers classrooms** (both PC and Mac) throughout the University campus run by UMass Information Technologies (IT). Each classroom has either a black and white or color printer available to Pay-for-Prints. We also share a **GIS Lab** with Geosciences, Forestry and Wildlife Management.

Students are expected to have an **UMass IT** account. This provides e-mail and Internet access from any machine that has a direct (Ethernet) connection or a wireless connection. Information regarding UMass e-mail accounts can be found at https://www.umass.edu/it/accounts

Lecture Series

The Departmental Ervin Zube Lecture Series brings in local and national experts to present their work and speak on current trends in the profession.

The Department curriculum is supported by a weekly lecture series, the **Zube Lecture Series**https://www.umass.edu/larp/zube-lecture-series,

where academics and professionals are brought in to discuss current topics in the field. Local and national experts present their creative work, speak on current trends in the profession, or illustrate the work of their professional organization.

Student groups, faculty, and guest faculty members are intermittently invited to present on their current work and research topics.

We also work to stay up to date regarding lecture series throughout other programs within the University, as topics often overlap with our interests. Our Department regularly informs students of these lectures and guest visitors, some of which take us to other Universities in the Five-College system as well as neighboring towns and local agencies.

The MRP Program also organizes occasional workshop and brown-bag lunch talks with faculty, students, alumni, or visitors.

FACULTY

Core Faculty

Barchers, Camille AICP Assistant Professor of Regional Planning, has practiced as a regional planner throughout Florida, the Southeast and mid-Atlantic. Prior to joining LARP, Camille taught in the Leadership Education and Development program at the Georgia Institute of Technology where she also received her PhD in City & Regional Planning. Camille's work examines how planners use technology and how it changes the way we engage with the public. Her research interests include big data applications for long-range planning, internet communication tools, and land use planning.

Brabec, Elizabeth Professor of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning. B.Sc. in Environmental Agriculture and M.L.A. University of Guelph, Canada, 1984; Juris Doctor, University of Maryland, 1992. Founded and managed the landscape planning firm, Land Ethics, Inc. in Washington, D.C. Teaches real estate law, public participation and leads international field studies programs. Research interests focused on land conservation and the design and planning of sustainable open space; and culture and the historical basis of landscape form.

Di Pasquale, Michael AICP Extension Assistant Professor. Master in Regional Planning, UMass Amherst; Master in Architecture, Washington University in St. Louis; BA Architecture University of Detroit. His special interests include community participation and the role it plays in the equitable redevelopment of post-industrial cities. His research has included the impact that transportation has on economic development and the influence that geography and race have on the revitalization of America's "legacy" cities.

Dunn, Peter Lecturer of Regional Planning and Director of Sustainable Community Development undergraduate program. PhD, University of Washington, 2022 (expected). MS, City Design & Social Science, London School of Economics, 2010. BA, University of Virginia, 2005. His research focuses on how digital technologies shape urban life and he teaches courses on planning history, theory, public space, and communication.

Eisenman, Theodore Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture. M.L.A. and M.P.S. in Natural Resource Management, Cornell University 2002; Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning, University of Pennsylvania. Primary research addresses the historical, scientific, cultural, and design bases of urban greening, defined as the introduction or conservation of outdoor vegetation in cities. Teaching includes studios, urban greening seminar, and junior year writing.

Feiden, Wayne FAICP Adjunct Lecturer in Regional Planning. BS, Natural Resources, University of Michigan, 1980; MRP University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 1988. Director, Planning Department, City of Northampton, MA. Instructor for Judicial Planning Law and Tools and Techniques in Planning.

Infield, Elisabeth M Professor of Regional Planning and Director of CRM. B.A. in Business Administration, Cleveland State University; Masters of Management, Northwestern University; PhD in City and Regional Planning, University of Pennsylvania 1997. Teaches growth management, climate change planning, real estate planning and regional planning studio. Current research into the planning adaptation and mitigation of climate change impacts to local communities and sustainable community development.

Ramsey-Musolf, Darrel Associate Professor of Regional Planning. He holds a PhD from UW-Madison and Master's degrees from Cal Poly Pomona and Suffolk University. While at Madison, he received a HUD Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant that supported his mixed-method examination of California's Housing Element Law and a 2-year AOF research grant from the College of Letters and Science. He has served on UW's the Campus Planning Committee (2007-2010) and on the search and screening committee for Vice Chancellor of External Affairs. While at Cal Poly Pomona, he co-chaired of the Graduate Student Planning Association, received the California Planners' Roundtable and UCLA Hagman scholarships, and served on APA's Student Representatives Council representing Region VI.

Renski, Henry Professor of Regional Planning and Director of the Masters of Regional Planning Program. PhD, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 2006. MRP, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 1998. B.A., University of Southern Maine, 1995. Former Special Assistant to the Governor of the State of Maine in Economic Development. Teaches GIS and economic development. Research focuses on understanding the forces driving regional economic competitiveness and transformation and building upon this knowledge to improve the effectiveness of economic development policy.

Ryan, Robert L. Professor of Landscape
Architecture and Regional Planning and
Department Chair. Director of the Dual Degree
MLA/MRP Program. B.S.L.A., California
Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo,
1985; M.L.A. and M.U.P., University of Michigan,
1995; Ph.D. in Natural Resources and Environment,
University of Michigan, 1997. Teaches courses
in open space planning and research methods.
Research interests include environmental
psychology and landscape planning.

Although each member of the faculty will have a primary assignment in one of the graduate programs, many faculty are involved at some level in the Regional Planning Program. Thus students have the benefit of a large number of academic staff, and are encouraged to discuss their interests and problems with any of them.

Additional Faculty

Aragón, Carolina Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture. Carolina is an artist and educator who uses public art to transform landscapes, engage communities, and teach students. She holds a Master of Landscape Architecture degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Design, and a Bachelor of Architecture from the Savannah College of Art and Design. Carolina's professional practice in the field of landscape architecture focused on green infrastructure through the creative design of green roofs and sustainable stormwater projects.

Carr, Ethan Professor of Landscape Architecture and Director of the Master of Landscape Architecture Program. B.A. and M.A. in History of Art and Archaeology, Columbia University; M.L.A. Harvard University Graduate School of Design. Instructor in landscape history, landscape architectural theory, historic preservation and design studios. Has worked extensively with the National Park Service as a historical landscape architect. Author of Wilderness by Design - Landscape Architecture and the National Park Service, which received an ASLA award for research.

Clouse, Carey Associate Professor in Architecture and Landscape Architecture SMArchS, Architecture and Urbanism, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, BArch, University of Oregon. Teaches courses that address the overlap between social justice, environmental stewardship, and urbanism.

Davidsohn, Michael Senior Lecturer II of Landscape Architecture. Director of the Stockbridge Landscape Contracting Program. A.S. in Landscape Operations, 1986 Stockbridge School of Agriculture; B.S. in Environmental Design, 1988 University of Massachusetts; M.S. in Landscape Architecture, 1992 University of Massachusetts. Teaches small-scale landscape design, surveying, construction materials, and small business management as it relates to landscape contractors. Owner of design/build firm specializing in private garden construction.

MacDonald, Dana Adjunct Lecturer. BS Biology University of Michigan - Flint. Dana works on paleo-ecological (Pleistocene/Holocene) reconstructions of drought, fire, and hurricanes as well as use pollen analysis to reconstruct vegetation. I also conduct field work using sediment coring in coastal environments mostly from New England south to Central America.

McGirr, Patricia Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture and Director of the undergraduate program in Environmental Design. B.S. in Architecture, University of Michigan, 1984; M.L.A., University of Michigan, 1994. Teaches design studios, landscape history, and introduction to the visual environment. Professional experience in both architecture and landscape architecture. Research interests include social, historical, and cultural aspects of landscape, particularly as they relate to gender.

Mullin, John R FAICP Professor Emeritus of Regional Planning, Director of the Center for Economic Development, and Dean of the Graduate School. B.A., Government, University of Massachusetts, 1967; M.R.P., Community Planning and Area Development, University of Rhode Island, 1969; MSBA, Boston University, 1972; Ph.D., Urban and Regional Planning, University of Waterloo, Ontario, 1975. Specialties: Research, teaching and outreach focused on regional economic development strategy and adaptive reuse/redevelopment in mill towns.

Solano, Samantha Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture. MLA Harvard University Graduate School of Design, 2016, BLA University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 2010. Teaches graduate and undergraduate studios and advanced representation courses. She is the founding principal of JUXTOPOS, a co-founder of the Visualizing Equity in Landscape Architecture (VELA) project, and a co-collaborator of the International Landscape Collaborative (ILC). Samantha is a licensed Landscape Architect in the state of Utah.

Sleegers, Frank Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture. M.L.A., University of Massachusetts, 1995; Dipl-Ing, Hannover, Germany, 1996. Teaches design studios in landscape architecture design and urban design. A practicing landscape architect with an office in Hamburg, Germany. He has won competitions in urban design, parks, and plazas, and a special point of interest and research is the building and organizing of site specific ephemeral art work in urban environments.



ADMISSIONS & FINANCIAL AID

Admission Requirements

The basic admission requirements and procedures of the University Graduate School and the Department are as follows:

- 1. A Bachelor's degree or the equivalent from an accredited college or university with recognized standing.
- 2. A minimum undergraduate cumulative grade point average of 3.0.
- 3. In addition to the information required on the application form:
 - A copy official transcripts of all previous college work (undergraduate and any graduate work).
 - Official scores of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).
 - Two letters of recommendation.
 - A personal statement that outlines your goals for graduate study (1-3 pages).

You can see the Graduate School's list of requirement for domestic students or international students.

https://www.umass.edu/gradschool/admissions

Financial Assistance

Tuition and fees are subject to change without prior notice. You may view all current fees at the University's Bursar's Office web page: http://www.umass.edu/bursar/graduate

While in graduate school, many students are in need of financial assistance. The Department offers a number of fellowships, assistantships, and work-study programs. Preference is given to students already enrolled, but entering students in need of financial aid are encouraged to discuss this possibility with the Department Chair or their Program Director. The Department's ability to assist students financially varies from year to year. Any student receiving an assistantship receives a tuition waiver plus the waiver of some fees for that semester.

The university maintains an office dedicated to helping graduate students with grants and fellowships.

Graduate Students Grants Office

http://www.umass.edu/gradschool/funding-support 413-545-5279 gsgs@grad.umass.edu.

