

Public Information

The Planning Accreditation Board requires this information be posted for the Master of Regional Planning (MRP) program, as well as its affiliated accelerated and dual-degree programs.

Student Achievement
<p>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. Half of the current cohort at or above target 3.50 GPA, maintaining a steady level from the previous review period. A small number of students falling below the 3.00 GPA threshold (probationary status, mostly because of unresolved incompletes) have resolved their grades within the academic year or withdrawn. We also assess academic achievement by means of the number of student poster and paper competition submissions, college or university academic awards, fellowships/assistantships, etc. Regional Planning students have done poster sessions and lightning talks in conjunction with the new cross-college UMass School of Earth and Sustainability. Since our 2014 accreditation review, we have benchmarked targets related to our strategic plan. Based on regular program open houses and outreach efforts, we have improved our diversity recruitment for candidates from underrepresented groups (communities of color, disability, non-traditional, first-generation, etc.). The rate of program completion within two years + summer has improved. We have instituted competitive mini-grants for award competition applications or conference travel; more students have participated in international field studios, the Fabos Greenway Symposium, or other regional/national planning-related conferences as a result. The number of alumni seeking to take the AICP exam in 2-3 years (rather than waiting longer or not taking them at all) remains higher than in the previous review period. The percentage of MRP students receiving on-campus teaching and research assistantships or off-campus externships has been close to 50% over the past two years. We also have encouraged greater student connection with alumni and area professionals as strategic goals. Over the past year, MRP students volunteered and participated in the SNEAPA 2017 Conference in Providence, RI; the Citizen Planner Training Collaborative 2017 Conference in Worcester, MA; the LARP Alumni Board mentoring workshop during its annual meeting in 2017; and the Emerging Professional and AICP Exam Workshop organized by the MA APA Chapter in Western Massachusetts in Spring 2016. MRPs were involved in LARP urban design studio projects for the UMass Design Center in Springfield, which received BSLA Merit Awards; 4 of our recent (2012) alumni are now leading the Emerging Professionals Group for the MA APA Chapter, and organized the Amherst networking event in Spring 2016. One of our alumni MRP 2012 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. UMass will host an Alumni Board mentoring event and a MA APA AICP exam workshop in the spring, and the 4P conference in Fall 2018; MRP students assist with the organizing of such events through the PSO.</p>

2017-18 Tuition and Fees	
In State Residents, per full-time semester	\$ 8043.50
Regional Residents, per full-time semester	\$13686.50
Out of State Residents, per full-time semester	\$16345.00

Student Retention Rate	Percent
Percentage of students who began studies in fall 2016 and continued into fall 2017	85%

Student Graduation Rate	Percent
Percentage of students graduating within 4 years, entering class of 2013	81%

Number of Degrees Awarded	
Number of degrees awarded for the 2016 - 2017 Academic Year	15

AICP Certification	Percent
Percentage of master's graduates taking the AICP exam within 5 years who pass, graduating class of 2012	66%
Percentage of bachelor's graduates taking the AICP exam within 7 years who pass, graduating class of 2010	NA

Employment	Percent
Percentage of fulltime graduates obtaining professional planning, planning-related or other positions within 12 months of graduation, graduating class of 2016	86.6%