Is a PLANNING CAREER for Me?

If you answer “YES” to any of these questions, you should seriously consider getting a planning degree!

• Do you want to work with people from various backgrounds to develop a better community?
• Are you interested in positive social, economic, environmental, and physical change?
• Do you like to communicate with others about ideas, programs, and plans?
• Are you challenged by complex problems—and excited about being part of a cooperative process to devise solutions to those problems?
• Do you think about the future—about what could be—rather than about what is?

Planning is a systematic, creative way to influence the future of neighborhoods, cities, rural and metropolitan areas, and even the country and the world.

Urban and regional planners use their professional skills to serve communities facing social, economic, environmental, and cultural challenges by helping community residents:

• develop ways to preserve and enhance their quality-of-life;
• find methods to protect the natural and built environment;
• identify policies to promote equity and equality;
• structure programs to improve services to disadvantaged communities, and;
• determine methods to deal effectively with growth and development of all kinds

The American Planning Association describes “Planning” as:

• “When government officials, business leaders, and citizens come together to build communities that enrich people’ lives, that’s planning.”
• “Planners help government officials, business leaders, and citizens create communities that offer better choices for where and how people work and live.”
• “Planning is a collaborative, dynamic field that offers the chance to really make a difference in the communities you care about.

Urban and regional planners do many types of jobs and are involved in almost any kind of government or private activity which seeks to affect the future or respond to community change. The majority of planners work in traditional planning areas such as land use, environmental protection, economic development, transportation, community design, housing, and social planning. However individual planners can still have a wide variety of responsibilities within these broadly defined specialties. Other planners work in less traditional areas, often with people from other disciplines, such as healthy communities or energy development or school planning.

For more information: visit [www.ACSP.org/CareersWhatIs](http://www.ACSP.org/CareersWhatIs)

• VIEW the video “What is Urban Planning” created by the University of Michigan Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning Masters Students.
• READ the article, “What Can You Do With Your Urban Planning Degree?”
• DIVE deeper by reviewing the national survey by the American Planning Association’s Arizona Chapter, “Career Advice for Emerging Planners”.
• REACH out – Links to all ACSP member schools are provided so you can contact the department directly with any specific questions!
The Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP - www.acsp.org) is a consortium of more than 100 university departments and programs offering planning degrees, and another 30+ programs from within or outside the US that offer planning degrees, or programs with degrees affiliated to planning. Most of our school members are located in North America, particularly the U.S., but we reach around the globe. ACSP connects educators, researchers, and students, to advance knowledge about planning education and research. We are committed to promoting the field of planning as a diverse global community that works collectively toward healthy, equitable, and sustainable neighborhoods, cities, and regions.

The Planning Accreditation Board (PAB - planningaccreditationboard.org) is jointly sponsored by ACSP (the organization of planning schools), the American Planning Association (the organization of professional planners), and the American Institute of Certified Planners (the accrediting body for professional planners). The PAB’s mission is to ensure high quality education for future urban planners. Accredited programs must meet strict standards developed collaboratively by both practicing planners and planning academicians. Not all accredited schools teach the same courses or emphasize the same subjects—in fact, the differences between the schools appeal to different student interests. But the curriculum at all accredited schools provides a core set of theories, methods, and techniques which properly prepare students for a career as a practicing planner.

The American Planning Association (APA - planning.org) is an independent, not-for-profit educational organization that provides leadership in the development of vital communities. APA and its professional institute, the American Institute of Certified Planners, are dedicated to advancing the art, science and profession of good planning — physical, economic and social — so as to create communities that offer better choices for where and how people work and live. Members of APA help create communities of lasting value and encourage civic leaders, business interests and citizens to play a meaningful role in creating communities that enrich people's lives.

ACSP Member Schools (as of August 2020) www.acsp.org/page/Members

Alabama A&M University
Appalachian State University
Arizona State University
Auburn University
Ball State University
Boston University
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
California State University, Northridge
Clemson University
Cleveland State University
Columbia University
Cornell University
East Carolina University
Eastern Michigan University
Eastern Washington University
Florida Atlantic University
Florida State University
George Washington University
Georgetown University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Harvard University
Hunter College, City University of New York
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Iowa State University
Jackson State University
Kansas State University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Miami University
Michigan State University
Minnesota State University, Mankato
Missouri State University
Morgan State University
New York University
Northeastern University
Ohio State University
Portland State University
Pratt Institute
Rowan University
Rutgers University, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Saint Louis University
Salisbury University
San Diego State University
San Jose State University
St. Cloud State University
State University of New York at Albany
Temple University
Texas A&M University
Texas Southern University
Tufts University
University at Buffalo, The State University of New York
University of Arizona
University of California Berkeley
University of California Irvine
University of California Los Angeles
University of Central Florida
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado Denver
University of Delaware
University of Florida
University of Georgia College of Environment and Design
University of Hawaii
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Iowa
University of Kansas
University of Louisville
University of Maryland
University of Massachusetts Amherst
University of Massachusetts, Boston
University of Memphis
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of Missouri-Kansas City
University of Nebraska Lincoln
University of New Mexico
University of New Orleans
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of North Texas
University of Oklahoma
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania
University of Puerto Rico
University of South Florida
University of Southern California
University of Texas at Austin
University of Texas at San Antonio
University of Virginia
University of Washington
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Wayne State University
West Chester University
Western Michigan University
Western Washington University
Westfield State University
University of Wisconsin-Madison
University of Wisconsin Milwaukee
University of Washington Tacoma
University of Washington Seattle
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Wayne State University
West Chester University
Western Michigan University
Western Washington University
Westfield State University
University of Wisconsin-Madison
University of Wisconsin Milwaukee
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Westfield State University