

City and Regional Planning

City and regional planners are out-of-the-box thinkers who love cities, towns and regions. They are sustainable systems designers and tomorrow's innovators who care about the quality of life for everyone. They are interested in developing economies at all scales, providing affordable housing, promoting green energy, preserving threatened land, building great public transit, and developing sustainable cities and regions.

Great planning helps create communities that offer better choices for where and how people live. Planning helps communities envision their future and find the right balance of new development and essential services, environmental protection, and innovative change. In the United States there are currently more than 50,000 practicing planners and only approximately 35 undergraduate planning degree programs.

The goal of the city and regional planning curriculum is to help students develop professional competency in the art and science of planning, design, plan implementation, communication, history/theory and professional practice. Graduates of the program are able to creatively combine planning principles, social and environmental consciousness, and communication to address people's relationship to their community. The program emphasizes practical application of both traditional and evolving knowledge and skills as the foundation for professional competence and individualized enrichment. Students are required to complete a professional portfolio as part of their graduation requirements.

Pursuing City and Regional Planning at Ohio State

Students interested in the city and regional planning major should have a strong college preparatory background including math, science, written and spoken communication, and social science. Students should apply directly to the university with an intended major in city and regional planning.

Freshmen begin as pre-majors and apply to the major after achieving a minimum 2.75 GPA. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis throughout the academic year. The program admits up to 50 students annually.

Transfer into the program is possible. Students interested in transferring should consult with an academic advisor.

Co-Curricular Opportunities

Ohio State offers many opportunities for students to learn and grow outside of the classroom. These range from internships to study abroad programs to student organizations. Internships place students in professional environments while they are Ohio State students. Ohio State offers more than 100 study abroad programs in 40 countries around the world. City and regional planning students recently participated in study abroad programs to Ghana, Belize, China, Taiwan and Europe. The City and Regional Planning Student Association provides social and professional development opportunities for students.

These experiences enable students to gain valuable work experience, learn about cultures, and take on leadership roles before they enter the workforce. All of these experiences enhance learning and may provide an advantage in the job market.

Honors and Scholars Opportunities

Ohio State offers the Honors and Scholars programs to create an environment of intellectual support and stimulation within a close-knit community of high-ability undergraduate students. Through these programs, students have access to smaller classes, undergraduate research opportunities, close working relationships with faculty, priority scheduling and unique housing options.

Freshmen admitted to Ohio State with Honors or Scholars standing are offered direct admission to the city and regional planning major.

The Honors program in the Knowlton School offers a more rigorous curriculum and gives students the opportunity to participate in Honors seminars and significant research within the discipline. Small classes and greater access to faculty provide Honors students with a stimulating scholarly community.

The Architecture, Landscape and City Scholars Program is a community of talented students who participate in programs and activities designed to offer insight into architecture, landscape architecture, and city and regional planning. Architecture, Landscape and City Scholars focuses on growing students' understanding of the historical, cultural and social significance of the built and natural environments through site visits, workshops, seminars and travel opportunities. Scholars students live together in a north campus residence hall that provides a supportive and collegial environment.

Learn more at honors-scholars.osu.edu.

For more information, check these websites:

Knowlton School: knowlton.osu.edu/students/future-students
Ohio State: osu.edu
Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu

Multicultural Center: multiculturalcenter.osu.edu
First Year Experience: fye.osu.edu
American Planning Association: planning.org

Curriculum Sample

This is a sample list of classes a student will take to pursue a degree in city and regional planning. Since university students need more than specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete General Education (GE) requirements. Because GE courses come from a variety of academic areas of study, this course work helps students develop fundamental skills essential to collegiate success and allows them to tailor these courses toward their interests.

Note: This sample represents one of several possible paths to a degree in city and regional planning. Visit knowlton.osu.edu for details.

Freshman Year:

City and Regional Planning survey	1
Creating Innovative Cities and Regions	3
Designing Communication	4
City and Regional Planning elective	3
Math	8
GE courses	13
Total	32

Sophomore Year:

Planning Resilient Environments	3
Elementary Statistics	3
Reading the City through History and Law	3
Outlines of the Built Environment	3
City and Regional Planning electives	6
GE courses	12
Total	30

Junior Year:

Analyzing the City	3
Place Making	4
Plan Making Studio	6
Planning for and with People	3
City and Regional Planning elective	7
GE courses	7
Total	30

Senior Year:

Realizing the Plan Studio	6
Professional Planning Skills	3
City and Regional Planning electives	16
GE courses	6
Total	31

Career Prospects in City and Regional Planning

The Bachelor of Science in City and Regional Planning is a professional degree. Graduates are eligible to sit for certification by the American Institute of Certified Planners after four years of professional work experience. Graduates are also well prepared to pursue a master's degree in city and regional planning or a related discipline and are competitive for admission to national and international graduate programs.

Professional planners help create a broad vision for the community. They also research, design and develop programs; lead public processes; effect social change; perform technical analyses; manage; and educate. Some planners focus on just some of these roles, such as transportation planning, but most will work at many kinds of planning throughout their careers. Planners create a plan through analysis of data and identification of goals for the community or the project. Planners help the community and its various groups identify goals and form a particular vision and also identify the strategies by which the community can reach its goals and vision. Planners are also responsible for the implementation or enforcement of many of the strategies, often coordinating the work of many groups of people.

A plan can take a variety of forms including policy recommendations, community action plans, comprehensive plans, neighborhood plans, regulatory and incentive strategies, or historic preservation plans. Other examples of plans include redevelopment plans, smart growth strategies, economic development strategic plans, site plans, urban design plans and disaster preparedness plans.

Planners work in every state and around the world. They work in rural areas, suburban areas and large cities. They work in the public sector within federal, state and local governments. They also work in non-profits and within the private sector in real estate development, planning firms, landscape architecture and architecture firms.

Planners in academic practice teach and conduct research in the professional programs offered by colleges and universities across the country, and they may work professionally in university campus planning offices.

The American Planning Association (APA) reports an average starting salary of \$39,000 for new professionals with undergraduate degrees in planning. The national average salary for all planners is \$71,000. Partners in firms and planning directors may earn considerably more, often exceeding \$100,000. Ohio State graduates with a degree in City and Regional Planning have been extremely successful in finding positions throughout Ohio and across the country, including Chicago, San Francisco, New York City, Orlando, Baltimore, Washington, D.C., and international cities and regions such as Moscow, Russia, and New Taipei City, Taiwan.

Revised August 2015. Information subject to change. For the most up-to-date information on the city and regional planning major, visit knowlton.osu.edu.

Contact information:

Kowlton School
100 Knowlton Hall | 275 West Woodruff Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43210-1138 | 614-292-1012

