The School of Community and Regional Planning

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A School within the Faculty of Applied Science

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Community and Regional Planning Website (http://www.scarp.ubc.ca)

The School of Community and Regional Planning (SCARP) seeks to advance the transition to sustainability through excellence in integrated policy and planning research, professional education and community service. The School offers a two-year professionally oriented master's degree program and a research-oriented doctoral program.

The School graduated its first students in 1953 and has continuously offered a two-year Master's Degree in Planning, longer than any other Canadian school. Our graduates are employed throughout Canada and abroad in a wide variety of teaching, research, planning, policy analysis, and administrative positions in universities, municipal, provincial and federal governments, public and private corporations, consulting practices, and non-governmental organizations. Many graduates are employed as generalists, particularly in municipal and regional planning agencies, but an increasing number are found in more specialized fields such as housing; parks; transportation; social planning; urban design; urban planning; environmental protection; water and land management; northern and First Nations planning; regional development; and natural resources planning; and in international development planning at all levels.

SCARP is one of Canada's largest and oldest graduate planning schools, with a 65-year tradition in education, capacity building, research, and service. The School is focused on participatory planning for environmental, social, and economic sustainability. SCARP has the equivalent of 12 full-time faculty members and a teaching program with over 100 students registered each year.

Master's Degrees

Master's Degrees > Introduction

For information on all SCARP master's programs, including the Master of Community and Regional Planning (MCRP) see the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies section of the Calendar.

The MCRP is a 24-month professional master's degree in Planning. It is an innovative and flexible program that anticipates and responds to rapidly changing urban, regional, and global environments.

The MCRP curriculum offers a strong core sequence of 42 credits that is tailored to the evolving demands of the profession. Students will additionally complete 18 credits of elective courses customized for their interests and professional aspirations. In the second year of the program, students will complete a 2-term studio course that integrates theories and methods covered throughout the curriculum into a single team-based project, with a real client or community group.
Cumulative program requirements provide students with real world experience and prepare them for entry into a wide variety of planning jobs. The program also features an Internship experience and a mentoring program.

Master's Degrees > Admission

How to Apply

Applications for admission to the Master of Community and Regional Planning (MCRP) Program open in September/October and close December 1st of every year.

A complete application for admission includes:

- A completed Faculty of Graduate and Postgraduate Studies online application form (http://www.grad.ubc.ca/apply/online/).
- Application fee. Please see the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies' website for up-to-date information about application fees.
- Three official confidential letters of reference.
- Transcripts for all past post-secondary study.
- A 600-word statement of interest.
- A resumé detailing educational background, work and/or volunteer experience, publications (if any), and any academic or professional awards earned.
- Evidence of English language proficiency (TOEFL or IELTS), if required.
- Graduate Record Exam (GRE): highly recommended but not mandatory.
- Record of Landing form (Canadian permanent residents).

Please refer to the SCARP website for up-to-date information on application requirements.

Application Review Process and Timeframe

The School accepts applications once a year for programs commencing in September. We have a firm application deadline of December 1 to ensure that all applicants' files are reviewed together using a three-step process.

- The first step involves compiling the applications and evaluating the transcripts to make sure they meet the minimum academic requirements set by UBC's Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. The information is entered into the School's database.
- The second step involves reviewing the applications based on the applicant's stated program preferences. A committee of appropriate faculty members and students is formed to review applications.
- The third step involves the admissions committee reviewing the recommended applications and deciding who will be admitted. The acceptance letters are sent by mid-March to late May. Each year we receive up to 200 master's applications with only 40 spaces to fill. In order to give as many applicants the best possible chance at admission, we also compile a wait list. We usually make our final decisions by the end of May.

For more information, visit the School (http://www.scarp.ubc.ca).

Contact Information:
Graduate Administrator
Prerequisites for Admission

The Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies has minimum requirements for all applicants to graduate studies. The minimum requirement for applicants with Canadian or US credentials is a four-year bachelor’s degree with an overall average of B+ in all courses at the third- and fourth-year level. International students should visit the Faculty of Graduate Studies website (http://www.grad.ubc.ca/prospective-students/application-admission/minimum-academic-requirements-international-credentials) to review admission requirements by country.

Admission to SCARP is very competitive. Each year the number of applicants far exceeds the number of spaces available. Meeting the basic entrance requirements does not guarantee admission to the program.

Students are accepted from both the social sciences and the natural sciences, the humanities, and such fields as commerce, architecture, law, engineering, agriculture, and forestry.

Prospective students are encouraged to follow an honours or major program in their own discipline and develop some breadth of knowledge during their undergraduate program by selecting from courses in ecology, economics, geography, political science, history, sociology, and organizational development and behaviour.

A candidate who has taken graduate courses equivalent to those described for the master’s degree may be given credit not to exceed 12 credits for courses completed in the year prior to commencing their program in the School.

Approximately 35-40 students are admitted annually. The School seeks highly motivated applicants who can communicate effectively, who are challenged by a field marked by complexity, who are creative, and have the potential to provide leadership.

Orientation

All entering students are required to attend orientation sessions at the commencement of Term 1 of Winter Session to become acquainted with faculty members and fellow students and to examine typical urban, regional and resource planning problems in BC and abroad.

Master's Degrees > Academic Regulations

Students who do not make satisfactory progress in the program may be asked to withdraw at any time, and the status of all students who have not completed the program within the prescribed two-year period will be reviewed annually thereafter.

Master's Degrees > Degree Requirements
The Masters in Community and Regional Planning (MCRP) degree is awarded upon satisfactory completion of a program consisting of 60 credits over two academic years. Students may satisfy up to 9 credits of this requirement through relevant courses in other UBC departments and/or at other universities.

The MCRP is a “generalist” degree program, in the sense that (1) all MCRP students must complete a particular set of courses that are designed to provide them with the foundational knowledge, skills, and attitudes that professional planners need to enter and succeed in the workplace, and (2) all MCRP graduates receive a Master of Community and Regional Planning degree, with no specialization or any other distinction indicated on the diploma.

Despite the generalist orientation of the program overall, however, each annual incoming cohort of roughly 40-45 MCRP students includes 10 that are admitted into the Indigenous Community Planning (ICP) concentration. Students in the ICP concentration must complete all of the general MCRP requirements plus a set of ICP-specific requirements.

Students in the general MCRP program will complete the following requirements:

- PLAN 500: Comparative Perspectives on Planning History and Futures (3 credits)
- PLAN 501: Reconciliation and Planning (3 credits)
- PLAN 502: Sustainability and Resilience in Planning (3 credits)
- PLAN 504: Urban Design and Visual Representation (3 credits)
- PLAN 505: Planning Theory, Values, and Ethics (3 credits)
- PLAN 506: Information and Analysis in Planning (3 credits)
- PLAN 507: Engagement and Facilitation for Planners (3 credits)
- PLAN 511: The Legal and Institutional Context of Planning (3 credits)
- PLAN 512: Urban Economics, Infrastructure, and Real Estate Issues in Planning (3 credits)
- PLAN 513: Making and Implementing Community and Regional Plans (3 credits)
- PLAN 540: Planning Praxis (6 credits)
- PLAN 541: Planning Studio (6 credits)

Students in the ICP concentration will complete the following requirements:

- PLAN 500: Comparative Perspectives on Planning History and Futures (3 credits)
- PLAN 502: Sustainability and Resilience in Planning (3 credits)
- PLAN 504: Urban Design and Visual Representation (3 credits)
- PLAN 505: Planning Theory, Values, and Ethics (3 credits)
- PLAN 506: Information and Analysis in Planning (3 credits)
- PLAN 507: Engagement and Facilitation for Planners (3 credits)
- PLAN 511: The Legal and Institutional Context of Planning (3 credits)
- PLAN 514: Indigenous Planning: Ways of Being, Knowing and Doing (3 credits)
- PLAN 515: Indigenous Law, Governance and Community Planning (3 credits)
- PLAN 516: Planning for Community Economic Development (3 credits)
- PLAN 543: Indigenous Community Planning Practicum (12 credits)

Teaching and Learning

The MCRP program strikes a balance in teaching and learning between developing the competence required to enter professional practice today, and the intellectual preparation needed to continue to function adequately in increasingly responsible positions in a
rapidly changing world. The program covers the substance and methods of professional planning practice, as well as the process and institutional arrangements for planning, its ideological basis, and the role and ethical responsibility of the planner. From the student's point of view, the program has the following salient characteristics:

- opportunities for students with narrow disciplinary training to broaden their knowledge, the better to assume responsibilities in planning and management;
- opportunities for students with a generalist background to acquire greater disciplinary rigour in a planning-related field of their choice;
- flexibility within a structured format to design a program of studies to satisfy individual needs;
- an emphasis on formal coursework, studio experience, and an internship.

**Doctor of Philosophy**

The School offers a Doctor of Philosophy program for advanced study and research in the areas of its competence. The Ph.D. is primarily a research degree, so students should enter with a good background in their field of study. After two years of coursework and examinations, candidates devote their efforts toward thesis research.

Applicants for admission must have a Master's Degree in Planning, or its equivalent, with high academic standing. To ascertain the School's ability to fulfill potential candidates' objectives, a statement of about 1000 words is required describing their research interests and objectives which should be submitted at least one month before the application deadline.

For more information, go to the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies section of the Calendar

**Advisory Committees**

Committees consist of a prospective research supervisor and at least two other faculty members to advise students and approve their programs of study. Usually, at least one member of each committee is from a discipline other than planning. Membership in the committee may change as the student's program evolves, but it is formalized on final approval of the thesis proposal.

**Program**

Each doctoral candidate's program is designed by the candidate's advisory committee in consultation with the student to reflect individual requirements. The program of studies will normally include:

1. coursework,
2. qualifying examination in the form of two research essays,
3. language requirement, at the discretion of the faculty, appropriate to the student's objectives,
4. approval of thesis prospectus,
5. research and preparation of thesis, and
6. oral presentation of thesis and final examination of the candidate.

The first year of the Ph.D. program usually involves coursework in preparation for the qualifying examination and development of the research prospectus. Additional courses may be necessary in the second year, in support of the proposed thesis research. Specific requirements are left to the discretion of the candidate's committee in consultation with the candidate.

Ph.D. candidates normally write their qualifying essays in the second year. These essays focus on planning theory, and issues and methods in the student's area of specialization. Course requirements should be completed by this time.
Students who successfully complete their qualifying essays will then finalize their thesis research prospectus in consultation with their advisory committee. After the prospectus has been approved the candidate's efforts are devoted to research and preparation of the thesis.

Dissertation Requirements

The Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies requires the thesis to be submitted to an external examiner or examiners approved by the Dean and at the completion of the research the candidate must take an oral examination in defence of the dissertation.

Academic Staff

Professors

H. J. Campbell, B.A. (Durham), M.A., Ph.D. (Sheffield)
S. E. Chang, B.S.E. (Prin.), M.S., Ph.D. (Ch'ell.); joint appointment with Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability

Professors Emeriti

P. D. Boothroyd, B.A. (Tor.), M.A. (Ala.)
A. H. J. Dorcey, M.A. (Aberd.), M.S. (Wis.)
P. C. Gurstein, B.A. (York), B.Arch. (Br.Col.), M. Arch., Ph.D. (Calif., Berkeley)
T. Hutton, B.A. (Br.Col.), Ph.D. (Oxf.)
T. McDaniel, B.A. (Minn.), M.A. (S.Fraser), Ph.D. (Carnegie Mellon)
V.S. Pendakur
W. E. Rees, B.Sc., Ph.D. (Tor.), FRSC

Associate Professors

L. C. Angeles, B.A. (Philippines), Dip.Women and Development Planning (Nott.), M.A. (Philippines), Ph.D. (Qu.); joint appointment with Institute for Gender, Race, Sexuality, & Social Justice (Arts)
A. Bigazzi, B.Mus. (Miami), M.Sc., Ph.D. (Penn.State); joint appointment with Civil Engineering
M. Hooper, B.Sc., M.Sc. (McG.), M.A, Ph.D. (Stanford)
M. Leaf, B.Sc. (M.I.T.), M.Arch., M.C.P., Ph.D. (Calif., Berkeley)
M. Senbel, B.Arch. (Oregon), M.Arch. (McG.), M.Sc.P., Ph.D. (Br.Col.)
M. Stevens, B.A., M.C.R.P. (Oregon), Ph.D. (N.Carolina)

Assistant Professors

J. Connolly, B.A. (Texas), M.S., M.Ph., Ph.D. (Col.)
J. Harten, B.Sc., M.Sc. (University of Münster), B.A. (Goethe University Frankfurt), Ph.D. (University of Southern California)
M. Low, B.Sc. (Guelp), M.A. (Vic.(B.C.)), Ph.D. (Br.Col.)
M. Tran, B.A., (Vic.(B.C.)), M.Sc. (Lund), Ph.D. (Oxf.)

Assistant Professor of Teaching


Lecturers

E. Villagomez, B.Arch.Sc. (Ryerson), M.Arch. (Br.Col.)