

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS  
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND URBAN STUDIES

**MASTER OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING**  
**CURRICULUM OUTLINE & STUDENT ADVISING GUIDELINES**  
(Spring 2007)

**OVERVIEW**

**45 Total Hours (excluding deficiencies/prerequisites) and a thesis or final project**

\* 24 credit hours of required courses  
\* 12 credit hours of courses in an area of specialization  
\* URBN 6001 and 3 hours of thesis research, **OR** 6 hours of electives and a final project

\* An additional elective of 3 credit hours

*At least 15 credit hours must be taken in courses numbered 6000 or above.*

**PREREQUISITE COURSES (3 credit hours)**

Courses in microeconomics and introductory statistics at the undergraduate level are prerequisites for the MURP program. It is recommended for students to take ECON 4400 (Economic Foundations for Managers) or ECON 1203 (Principles of Microeconomics). Each prerequisite course may only be taken for undergraduate credit, and will not apply to a student's graduate degree program. All prerequisites should be taken during the first year of study.

**REQUIRED COURSES (24 credit hours)**

MURP 4030G	Social Policy Planning
MURP 4600G	History and Practice of Planning
MURP 4710G	Urbanism & Urban Design
URBN 6005	Statistics for Urban Analysis
MURP 6071	Zoning and Land Use Regulation
MURP 6020	Analytic Methods for Planners
MURP 6600	Planning Theory
MURP 6720	Practicum in Urban and Regional Planning (Capstone)

**SPECIALIZATION (12 credit hours)**

Students must choose one of the following areas of specialization:

**I. Housing and Community Development / Economic Development**

MURP 6051	Housing & Community Development
MURP 6450	Local Economic Development
FIN 6635	Seminar in Financial & Economic Analysis for Real Estate
MURP 6140	Citizen Participation

**II. Land Use / Environment**

MURP 4050G	Urban Land Use Planning and Plan Making
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MURP 4160G	Development and Environmental Management
MURP 6180	Site Planning
MURP 4081G	Information Technology & the Planning Profession

### **III. Historic Preservation**

MURP 4010G	Introduction to Historic Preservation
MURP 4400G	Introduction to Preservation Planning
MURP 4071G	Historic Preservation Law
MURP 6140	Citizen Participation

## **THESIS / FINAL PROJECT OPTION**

Students must choose either the thesis or final project option for their program of study.

### **Thesis**

The approach of a thesis can be theoretical or applied. It demonstrates mastery of the literature in your area of study, while also contributing to the literature. If you choose the thesis option, you are required to take URBN 6001 (Research Methods), and may enroll in MURP 7000 (Thesis Research) to continue working on your thesis. You may enroll additional times in Thesis Research (including in the summer if you have already taken an in-class section of the course in the Fall or Spring), but can only apply 3 additional credit hours of MURP 7000 toward your degree.

With permission from your advisor, you may enroll in MURP 7000 if you have completed 33 credit hours including URBN 6001. The chair (major professor) of your thesis committee must give written approval for enrollment in MURP 7000. At the end of the semester, this instructor will issue a grade of “S” for satisfactory, or “U” for unsatisfactory, based on your demonstrated progress toward the completion of your thesis.

The thesis committee must issue written approval of your final document. The thesis committee must consist of at least three persons. The committee chair must be a regular faculty member within the Department of Planning and Urban Studies, while one of the other two committee members may be a professional or expert in the field of study, and must also be approved by the Department, the College of Liberal Arts and the UNO Graduate School. The third person on the committee must be a current UNO faculty member.

### **Final Project**

The final project will demonstrate your ability to critically analyze and/or develop planning or public policy issues from a professional standpoint, using an applied approach. The final project option consists of 6 credit hours of additional electives, and a final project which will be produced under the direction of a faculty member in your last semester. It is recommended that you choose URBN 6001 (Research Methods) as one of your additional electives.

The final project committee must issue written approval of your final document. The final project committee must consist of at least three persons. Effective with Fall 2003 entry, the final project committee chair (major professor) must be a regular Department

of Planning & Urban Studies faculty member, while one of the other two committee members must be a professional or expert in the field of study from outside of the Department, and must also be approved by the Department, the College of Liberal Arts and the UNO Graduate School. The third person on the committee must be a current UNO faculty member.

### **SUBSTANTIVE AREAS--SUGGESTIONS**

Students should review each semester's bulletin of courses for current offerings. Not all courses are offered each semester or year. Students are encouraged to contact the MURP Program Coordinator, the Academic Counselor and faculty, whose research interest falls into the student's substantive area, for further assistance in choosing courses.

### **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AS STUDENT**

While it is the role of the college advisors to provide you with assistance in planning and carrying out your academic program, it is your responsibility to meet all necessary university, graduate school, and college requirements and deadlines. Students should check the current UNO Catalogue for required prerequisites and course restrictions before attempting to enroll in a course.

### **RECOMMENDED COURSE LOAD**

In the fall and spring semesters, 9 - 12 credit hours is considered a full-time course load. 6 credit hours is considered a full-time course load for the summer semester. Part-time students generally take 6 credit hours per semester.

### **SAMPLE FULL-TIME STUDENT PROGRAM**

#### MURP / First Year / Fall

MURP 4600G	History and Practice of Planning
MURP 4710G	Urbanism & Urban Design
MURP 4030G	Social Policy Planning
Substantive area 1	

Note: If you need either or both of the prerequisite courses, it/they should be taken in your first semester.

#### MURP / First Year / Spring

URBN 6005	Statistics for Urban Analysis
MURP 6600	Planning Theory
Substantive area 2	
Substantive area 3	

#### MURP / Second Year / Fall

MURP 6071	Zoning and Land Use Regulation
MURP 6020	Analytic Methods for Planners
Substantive area 4	
Elective	

### MURP / Second Year / Spring

MURP 6720	Practicum in Urban & Regional Planning (Capstone)
Elective	2
Elective	3

### **REQUIRED COURSE WORK – NOTES**

- MURP 4600G (History and Practice of Planning): Students should make every effort to enroll in their first semester of study. Students must complete MURP 4600G before taking MURP 6071 (Zoning and Land Use Regulation) or MURP 6600 (Planning Theory).
- MURP 6020 (Analytic Methods for Planners): Students should have completed the microeconomics prerequisite before taking this course.
- MURP 6720 (Practicum in Urban & Regional Planning): This course should not be taken until students have completed at least 30 hours of course work (excluding prerequisites).

### **6000-LEVEL COURSE REQUIREMENT**

UNO requires all masters students to complete at least 15 hours of courses numbered 6000 or above. A *maximum* of 6 hours of thesis credit (MURP 7000) may be applied to this 15-hour total. Please see the MURP program coordinator or academic counselor if you need assistance in meeting this requirement.

### **TRANSFER COURSEWORK**

A maximum of twelve hours of relevant graduate credit from other graduate programs may be transferred into a master's degree program, pending College approval. You must have completed at least nine hours of graduate residence at UNO with an overall B average in order for a transfer to be made. The University also requires that all course transfers be at a grade of B or higher. Official transcripts, displaying the course(s) to be transferred in must be received by the UNO Office of Admissions before the request for transfer credit can be made. The UNO Graduate School specifies that all coursework applied toward a master's degree must have been taken within the last eight years. In order officially transfer coursework, a *Request for Transfer of Credit* form is completed at the same time as the student's *Application for Candidacy*, and submitted to the Graduate School.

### **SUBSTITUTING COURSES**

Under special circumstances, you may request the substitution of an elective for a required course. You must check with the Academic Counselor, and complete the *Course Waiver/Substitution Form* prior to enrolling in the course. This substitution must be approved not only the MURP Graduate Coordinator, but also by the faculty member in whose area the requested course falls.

### **WAIVING COURSES**

In a very limited number of cases, a required course may be waived if you have demonstrated competence or prior knowledge in an area. Evidence of such competence may be required. You must take an elective in place of each course waived. In order to

waive a course, you must check with the academic counselor, and complete the *Course Waiver/Substitution Form*. The waiver must be approved by the Graduate Coordinator, and the faculty member in whose area the waived course falls.

### **TIME LIMIT FOR DEGREE COMPLETION**

Students should be mindful of the eight-year limit for completion of the degree program--including the thesis or final project. This is calculated from the initial date of your admission to the Graduate School at UNO. Transfer credits applied to your degree must also fall within this eight-year window.

### **NOT ATTENDING ONE OR MORE SEMESTERS**

Once you have started in the program and you do not register for more than a calendar year, you must complete a simple re-entry form with the Admissions Office. Students can "sit out" the summer semester without having to be formally re-admitted.

### **CANDIDACY**

You must submit an Application for Candidacy form to the Graduate School by the semester before the semester you intend to graduate. The Application for Candidacy contains the following information: courses completed, courses in progress and remaining, thesis advisor and thesis committee members. See the academic counselor to complete this form. You only need to complete this form once unless there are any changes in your program of study. If you do not graduate during your intended semester, you do not need to file a new form. The form signals the Graduate School that you are a potential candidate for graduation in your program.

### **MURP 7040 (EXAM OR THESIS ONLY)**

Students writing a thesis or final project may enroll in MURP 7040 only if they have defended their thesis in the previous semester. MURP 7040 is not a requirement, and may not even be necessary for students if they can successfully defend their thesis or final project, make any or all necessary changes, and can meet the deadlines for graduation in the same semester. If, however, students successfully defend their thesis or final project in one semester, but need additional time to polish it for final production, they may sign up for MURP 7040 (for a nominal fee) in the following semester. Enrollment in MURP 7040 must be approved in writing by the student's thesis or final project committee chair (major professor).

MURP 7040 generates no hourly credit; it simply signals to the UNO Graduate School that a student intends to graduate at the end of that semester. **Students may only sign up once for MURP 7040. If a student fails to graduate at the end of the semester in which they are enrolled in MURP 7040, he or she will need to enroll in another course in subsequent semesters. Students must be enrolled in one or more courses in the semester they wish to graduate and receive their diploma.**

### **LIBRARY PRIVILEGES FOR THESIS STUDENTS**

Students registered for MURP 7000 (Thesis Research) or MURP 7040 (Exam or Thesis Only) may check out UNO Library books for the entire semester. Bring a print-out

which shows your enrollment in one of the above-mentioned courses to the Library circulation desk, and ask the desk staff person to help you begin using this privilege.

### **DIPLOMA AND BINDING FEES**

Remember that you must go the Registrar's Office to complete an Application for Degree, and pay your diploma and binding fees at the beginning of your last semester of enrollment (check the UNO Bulletin for official deadlines). If you do not graduate as intended, you must pay an additional \$50 fee at the beginning of the semester in which you do graduate. *This is very important.* If you don't file, the Graduate School will not know that you are a candidate for graduation.

### **ENROLLMENT AND GRADUATION DATE**

You must be enrolled in a course during the semester in which you intend to graduate—whether in MURP 6900, MURP 7000, MURP 7040, or another course.

### **QUESTIONS?**

Please contact Jane Brooks, the Master of Urban and Regional Planning program coordinator at [jsbrooks@uno.edu](mailto:jsbrooks@uno.edu) or 504-280-6514

#### **NOTE**

**Some courses (such as those numbered 6900, 7000, or 7040) may be cross-listed as MURP ####, URBN #### or DURB ####. Students enrolled in the Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree program should register for those sections designated as MURP ####.**