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Why Oregon?
For over thirty years, the Department of Planning, Public Policy and Management and its predecessor programs have trained students in rigorous, professional programs. Why do students come to the University of Oregon?

Community. Our department has a great sense of community that starts with our first-year retreat in the Cascade Mountains. This community often provides a lifelong connection to colleagues. Our alumni stay involved and support students in gaining relevant experience.

Innovation. Oregon and the Pacific Northwest have an international reputation for innovation in planning and public policy, along with an approachable community of professionals. Oregon’s progressive policymaking, from the Bottle Bill to vote-by-mail to current efforts to reform the health-care system, provides excellent research opportunities for students and faculty members.

Real World. Our teaching and research focus on real world problems facing society. You will experience these opportunities through courses, projects, and internships. The Community Service Center is a leader in applied research that supports regional and local initiatives. Our internship program helps students find meaningful placements across the country.

Rigor. You will work hard in our degree programs—joining a select set of high-achieving students who have come to Eugene to be part of the Oregon experience.

Flexibility. Our degree programs offer flexibility with concentrations that draw on course work from departments across the university, opening up options of uniquely tailored programs.

pppm.uoregon.edu
Admissions deadline: February 1
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Our Student-Centered Curriculum

The Department of Planning, Public Policy and Management (PPPM) attracts students from around the world who are interested in the ways governments, nonprofit organizations, and private-sector organizations address some of the most important problems facing society today.

Our curriculum emphasizes experiential learning, evidence-based decision-making, and interdisciplinary study. The faculty members are internationally recognized scholars with a wide range of training and research interests. Our home in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest builds on the region’s international reputation for livability, pioneering planning, and innovative policy.

PPPM is located in historic Hendricks Hall in the center of the University of Oregon campus in Eugene. The department is a strong and active community, where faculty members and students engage with professionals and the community to research, learn, and take on important leadership roles.

We are dedicated to giving our students the power to positively affect not just their own future, but also the people, communities, and environments around them. Our dedication to principles of civic responsibility, environmental sustainability, international understanding, and cross-disciplinary education goes back to the very founding of the school. Our goal is to provide you with the skills and mentorship you need to take on active roles within communities and to work on the complex global challenges of the twenty-first century. In short, we empower our students to make good.

Areas of Concentration

- Environmental planning and policy
- Social and health policy
- Sustainable cities
- Community development
- Land use and the built environment

Cross-Program Concentration

Some graduate students choose to do their concentration using core courses in one of the other existing programs in the department. The nonprofit management certificate serves as an area of concentration for both the MPA and MCRP degrees.

Our Graduate Programs

Master of Public Administration (MPA): A two-year professional degree accredited by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration.

Master of Community and Regional Planning (MCRP): A two-year professional degree accredited by the Planning Accreditation Board.

Nonprofit Management: A 24-credit graduate certificate program offered to students in related graduate programs at the University of Oregon. A two-year master’s degree will be starting in 2011 (pending approval).

We offer a wide range of concurrent degrees and graduate certificates with programs such as architecture, law, business administration, environmental studies, ecological design, political science, geography, historic preservation, landscape architecture, conflict resolution, and others.
Master of Public Administration

The master of public administration (MPA) is a rigorous two-year program leading to careers addressing critical social, economic, and environmental issues. The program focuses on evidence-based policymaking, the idea that the formulation and implementation of policy should be based on evidence of effectiveness.

Our curriculum combines theory, analytic skills, and practical applications and prepares students to be effective and creative leaders in public service. Core courses include management, economics and policy analysis, statistics and research methods, and budgeting and financial management. In addition, each student pursues an individualized area of concentration. The program is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration.

Recent UO graduates work as advisors, policy analysts, and strategic planners in all levels of government, in Oregon, throughout the United States, and around the globe. Their work addresses the full range of social, economic, environmental, and development issues—from improving health-care access and increasing government efficiency and responsiveness to creating new governmental structures in developing democracies.

Internships and Professional Development are an integral component of the MPA curriculum. Internships are designed to promote each student’s professional development. With the assistance of our internship director, MPA students have completed a wide range of placements:

• State of Oregon Governor’s office
• U.S. Senator Ron Wyden’s office
• United Nations Internship Programme
• City of Portland Office of Sustainability
• Holt International Children’s Services

Applied Policy and Research Projects synthesize classroom learning and utilize policy analysis and research skills in a real-world context. Two opportunities for student investigation are:

48-Hour Policy Analysis—At the beginning of their second year, student groups engage in a 48-hour project simulating a professional environment in which analysts and managers must analyze proposed policies in a short time. Each group prepares a policy brief and a presentation.

The Capstone—The second year of study culminates with the capstone project. Student groups, acting as consultants, conduct applied policy or management research projects for a public agency or nonprofit organization.

MPA students conduct applied research for public agencies

“I learned a lot more about what works and what doesn’t work in public administration,” says international graduate student Ki-young Kim about his experience in the Capstone course. The two-term Capstone course pairs teams of graduate students with public agencies in consultant-based assignments. Each student group provides research and data analysis and prepares a final report for its client.

“Students get to do work that really matters,” says Jessica Greene, associate professor. “They develop professional skills, connections with practitioners, and apply what they’ve learned in the classroom.”

Examples of recent Capstone projects and clients:

Oregon’s Medicaid Program in a National Context with the Office for Oregon Health Policy and Research
Serving Local Government: Improving the Economic Revitalization Team’s Customer Satisfaction Survey with the State of Oregon Governor’s Economic Revitalization Team
The Costs Associated with Prosecuting Crime in Oregon with the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission
Discounting Hourly Non-Firm Product on the Intertie with the Bonneville Power Administration
Graduate Studies

Master of Community and Regional Planning

The community and regional planning (CRP) program trains policy-oriented planners for leadership positions in the public, nonprofit, and private sector. The program is ideal for students seeking a challenging education with a strong emphasis on applied learning. The program is very flexible, allowing students to develop a focus based on their career goals or pursue a joint degree in programs such as architecture, environmental studies, law, business, landscape architecture, or public administration.

The CRP program is a professionally accredited master’s degree program that has awarded degrees in planning since 1968. The progressive planning and environmental programs of the State of Oregon and the applied, problem-solving orientation of the CRP program attract students from across the United States and the world. The two-year degree program enrolls approximately twenty-five to thirty students each year.

Our program emphasizes both conceptual skills and applied learning in all of our classes. But we do more than just offer applied, case study examples—we do real work in real communities. This is most evident in the Community Planning Workshop and the Sustainable Cities Initiative.

Community Planning Workshop (CPW) is cited by students as one of their educational highlights. All accredited planning programs require an experiential component, but CPW goes one step further. Teams of first-year students work on projects supervised by experienced CPW planning professionals. Most importantly, these projects are for paying clients, and student teams engage in real-world experience working with the clients.

Sustainable Cities Initiative (SCI) is a cross-campus consortium of faculty members who want to improve how cities are built and function. In 2009–10, classes worked in Gresham, Oregon, through the Sustainable City Year. Students worked on projects nominated by the city. City staff members were actively involved, visiting with classes and hosting meetings with community members. In 2010–11, the program is working with Salem, Oregon.

Student planners and designers plug into an electric vehicle future

Electric vehicle charging stations may one day be as familiar as gas stations in the Willamette Valley, thanks to a joint effort by UO students, the federal government, and business groups. PPPM, architecture, and product design students, as well as members of the student group designBridge, assessed the feasibility of charging station infrastructure and designed station prototypes to pave the way for new transportation models.

Oregon’s Willamette Valley is one of five test markets for a joint venture by eTec, an electric vehicle technology startup, and Nissan, maker of the all-electric vehicle LEAF (leading, environmentally friendly, affordable family car).

“Our project assessed community needs and feasibility,” says Sasha Fertig, a community and regional planning graduate student and team leader. “We’ve researched electric vehicle technology and case studies and got together with local advisory committees. Basically, we’re trying to make implementation of electric vehicles successful in the community.”

After completing the study, the team organized an open house event, “Get Plugged In,” and showcased electric vehicles, charging stations and featured guest speakers and industry experts. “This is a really cutting-edge project to take on,” says Fertig.

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Nonprofit Management

The objective of the Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management is to prepare students for leadership positions in nonprofit and philanthropic (grant-making) organizations.

Graduate students may enter the program as a stand-alone certificate student or combine the certificate with a master’s degree program. For MPA and MCRP students, the certificate may be folded into the master’s degree, essentially forming the area of concentration. Students also come from master’s programs across campus (arts, law, environmental studies, and many other fields), creating a cross-disciplinary mix of professionals in the classroom.

Starting in fall 2011, we will offer a full master’s degree in nonprofit management, pending approval from the Oregon University System. Visit our website for information on this program.

In addition to being one of the largest nonprofit management programs in the world—with respect to both the breadth of curriculum and enrollment of graduate students—the program is unique in offering many opportunities to engage with leading nonprofit organizations.

The Board Governance course, founded by a grant from Pacific Continental Bank, places students on nonprofit boards for a year while they complete an in-class program of study on effective nonprofit board governance. Students serve as full board members and have completed a variety of impressive tasks (even serving as president of the board in one case) for the host organizations.

In the Resource Development (fundraising) course, students review an organization’s revenue sources and programmatic effort, preparing a fundraising consultation report for adoption by the nonprofit organization.

More broadly, the Nonprofit Management Consultancy course provides a capstone experience for certificate students. In teams, students perform a needs assessment and complete a variety of capacity-building projects for the recipient organizations.

Leaders of nonprofit organizations study at Oregon

The UO’s innovations in nonprofit management curriculum have garnered nationwide attention. The philanthropy seminar, strategic planning, nonprofit board governance, nonprofit entrepreneurism, and nonprofit management consultancy courses all involve strongly experiential components designed to maximize service to the nonprofit sector.

For example, the philanthropy seminar, launched in 2002, involves students studying philanthropy from multiple academic disciplines and researching community needs and regional nonprofit organizations. Students learn grant making by performing due diligence and selecting the winning organization to receive a grant of $15,000.
Areas of Concentration

Transportation Successes
For the first time, the University of Oregon hosted the Northwest (federal Region X) Student Transportation Conference in 2009. Entirely student-run, the conference allowed students from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska to present their research to their peers and network their ideas to professionals in the transportation field. From talking about traffic volumes and congestion to bike lanes and pedestrian safety, the conference addressed a variety of innovative transportation issues.

Kevin Belanger, a community and regional planning and environmental studies graduate student, helped put together the event and was excited to finally interact with other students and experts about upcoming developments in transportation. "Moving People: Prospects for a Multi-Modal Future" was the conference focus prompted by an increasing interest in sustainable transit options, such as biking and public transportation.

"It’s a great chance to explore others’ research, which is something you usually don’t get a chance to do among your peers," said Belanger. "And it’s not from an engineering perspective—it’s from an alternative planning perspective, which you don’t always get to see." His thesis work about pedestrian connections in suburban areas was showcased as well.

Environmental Planning and Policy
A concentration in environmental planning and policy focuses on the intersection of the built and natural environments, issues of environmental quality, open space preservation, and the implementation tools and policies to achieve positive environmental outcomes. Students go on to work in a range of careers in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, including environmental agencies, local governments, and utilities.

Core Faculty Members
Grant Jacobsen, assistant professor
Research interests: environmental economics and policy, energy efficiency, renewable energy, voluntary environmental protection

Rich Margerum, associate professor
Research interests: environmental planning, land-use issues, collaborative planning and management, decision making and evaluation of implementation

Robert Young, assistant professor (see page 9)
Research interests: environmental and economic policy and planning, sustainable urban regions, environmental policy and planning theory

Kevin Belanger coordinated the student-organized 2009 Northwest (Region X) student transportation conference in Eugene

Rich Margerum
Grant Jacobsen

Areas of Concentration
Students in all of our graduate programs have the opportunity to complete internships that are career building and tailored to their individual interests. With guidance from internship director, Rhonda Smith, students are encouraged to identify key skills to be developed and to seek internships that will support their career goals. Internships integrate theory and practice in a real-world environment, preparing students for fellowships, professional positions, or further academic study.

The range of internship placements is as broad as student career interests—from government to private consulting firms—and in locations from Eugene to New Delhi. Students have been selected for highly competitive internships ranging from The Oregon Fellowship Program to Mercy Corps. Students have also developed internships that build their skill sets within a concentration. This is often possible through relationships with PPPM alumni, both regionally and internationally.

Other graduate students gained their internship experience at these organizations:
- MAMTA Health Institute for Mother and Child, New Delhi, India
- National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, Washington, D.C.
- Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa
- City of Lincoln City, Lincoln City, Oregon
- Port Orford Ocean Resource Team, Port Orford, Oregon
- Health Policy Research Northwest, Eugene, Oregon
- Oregon Department of Transportation, Salem, Oregon

Graduate student in public administration, Elena Fracchia says, “The Northwest Health Foundation gave me a unique opportunity to participate in a grant making evaluation project. In addition to the firsthand look at how organizations are addressing issues of health disparities, this experience helped me understand the important role foundations play in supporting local initiatives to improve health for all people.”

Social and Health Policy

Many key domestic and international policy issues relate to human welfare. Students who concentrate in social and health policy build substantive knowledge and technical skills so they can work on a broad range of issues relating to improving the human condition. Students are committed to tackling issues such as poverty, health care reform, housing, food security, equality, education quality, public employment relations, and job training.

Graduates are working as administrators or analysts in government agencies and nonprofit organizations to find solutions to the challenges of the twenty-first century.

Core Faculty Members
- Neil Bania, associate professor
  Research interests: poverty, low-skill labor markets, welfare reform, income policy, public housing, transportation
- Colleen Chrisinger, assistant professor (see page 10)
  Research interests: poverty, employment, low-wage labor markets, regional economic development, workforce development, social policy
- Jessica Greene, associate professor
  Research interests: impact of changes in the health care system, access and quality of health care especially for vulnerable populations (low income, people of color, and older adults)
- Laura Leete, assistant professor
  Research interests: workforce development policy, labor market institutions, poverty and social policy, nonprofit economics, nonprofit labor markets
Classwork and collaboration with city officials enrich year-long partnership

A lot of work is required to help cities transition to a green future. UO students and faculty members are working alongside city officials and local citizens on a wide range of city planning and design issues as part of the Sustainable Cities Year program. Spearheaded by PPPM faculty members Marc Schlossberg and Robert Young, and architecture faculty member Nico Larco, the program provides students with opportunities to address significant public policy, design, and planning issues faced by Oregon cities.

More than twenty-five courses, twenty-five faculty members, and approximately 600 students focus on development, planning, and civic engagement projects in Salem, Oregon, during the 2010–11 academic year. The contribution of the UO program that integrates research, education, service, and public outreach is estimated to be 80,000 hours of work for the city. In 2009–10, the first year of the program, students worked on sustainability issues for Gresham, Oregon.

“SCI and the more than ten disciplines collaborating in the project are creating something innovative that others can follow to change their communities,” said Marc Schlossberg. The New York Times also cited the Sustainable Cities Initiative program as “perhaps the most comprehensive effort by a U.S. university to infuse sustainability into its curriculum and community outreach.”

Sustainable Cities

Sustainable Cities includes a range of disciplines exploring the design and governance of cities and urban regions. Graduates with this concentration have worked in a range of positions, including urban planner and sustainability coordinator. Students also have the option of obtaining an Ecological Design Graduate Certificate.

Core Faculty Members

Rich Margerum, associate professor (see page 7)
Research interests: environmental planning, land-use issues, collaborative planning and management, decision making and evaluation of implementation

Marc Schlossberg, associate professor
Research interests: GIS use for public planning participation, walkability of the built environment, safe routes to school for children

Yizhao Yang, assistant professor (see page 11)
Research interests: environmental planning, sustainable design, land-use planning, growth management, housing and residential quality, feminist study of the built environment

Robert Young, assistant professor
Research interests: environmental and economic policy and planning, sustainable urban regions, environmental policy and planning theory

Planning students working in Salem, Oregon
Food strategies are focus for community growth

The UO’s Community Service Center (CSC) partners students and interns with community leaders to address goals for food banks, food cooperatives, and food security for local citizens. The Americorps members participating through the Resource Assistance for Rural Communities (RARE) program live and work in rural Oregon communities to help strengthen local food systems. RARE participants gain experience, earn a graduate stipend, obtain credits they can transfer into PPPM, and are eligible for Oregon residency.

PPPM students have also worked with the Lane County, Oregon, community and economic development staff members to look at ways to support local food growers and farm processors. Healthy food choices for schools are one of the benefits of boosting consumer food markets as well as producing additional revenue for the community. Currently, local food producers account for less than five percent of the annual food market, but $111.7 million will be generated for every percentage point their share increases.

Megan Smith, codirector of the CSC and director of the RARE program, has worked to expand the tools for rural communities to grow and develop.

Community Development

Community development is concerned with advancing the ecological, economic, and social health of human settlements—from rural regions and small towns to the suburbs, cities, and their neighborhoods. Working in community development entails developing and analyzing plans, policies, and programs that advance social equity, generate appropriate jobs, create community wealth, and manage issues of the natural and built environment.

Graduates work in public, private, and nonprofit organizations in positions such as management analysts, technical planners, community organizers, program managers, policymakers, and grants managers.

Core Faculty Members

Colleen Chrisinger, assistant professor
Research interests: poverty and employment, low-wage labor markets, regional economic development, workforce development, social policy

Renee Irvin, associate professor
Research interests: philanthropy, regulation of nonprofit organizations, nonprofit efficiency, wealth distribution, asset-building policies

Bob Parker, CPW program director, managing director, Community Service Center (see page 11)
Research interests: economic and community development, planning, transportation

Gerardo Sandoval, assistant professor
Research interests: economic and community development, redevelopment of marginal low-income neighborhoods, interaction of planning institutions with ethnically diverse communities
**Land Use and the Built Environment**

A concentration in land use and the built environment focuses on the interaction between land use and the design of human settlements at the local scale. Graduates go on to work as land use planners for local government and the private sector, or in government and nongovernment jobs with a land use focus, such as land trusts, transportation agencies, and regional planning organizations.

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**Connecting communities with transportation planning alternatives**

A team of graduate students got involved with the latest in community transportation efforts, one of six U.S. demonstration projects focused on bus rapid transit, known as the Emerald Express (EmX). The team met with planners, policymakers, community members, the business community, and the Lane Transit District (LTD) staff and conducted case studies, surveys, and focus groups. Their goal was to help LTD develop a framework for evaluation of the community’s perceptions and needs of the EmX line. Their work examined communication needs of the various stakeholders and how best to deliver information to reach the public.

Since 1995, more than 200 students have participated with communities and organizations as part of the Community Planning Workshop (CPW) in all regions of Oregon, including state agencies such as the Department of Transportation and the Department of Land Conservation and Development. The workshop’s philosophy is that the classroom provides a foundation of community-based learning and the community provides a framework and motivation for learning. The workshop was honored with the 2008 Program of Distinction award by the Urban Land Institute of Oregon and Southwest Washington.
Community and Regional Planning
Public Administration
Nonprofit Management