



Master of Community and Regional Planning Program Handbook 2026-2027

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See faculty directory for contact info.

Welcome to the master's program in community and regional planning (CRP) at the University of Oregon. The program has been awarding degrees since 1968 and is accredited by the Planning Accreditation Board. This accreditation means that we ensure our graduates are obtaining the key skills, knowledge and values important for success in the field. Like the School of PPPM, the CRP program is known for being:

- Applied: Developing solutions with clients to address complex problems across the state.
- Collaborative: Supporting all students in our diverse community so that all can thrive together.
- Interdisciplinary: Opportunities to tailor our programs to your interests and career goals.

Program Mission

The Community and Regional Planning program prepares public leaders through a challenging, applied curriculum, and inclusive learning environment. Using evidence-based research and innovative and applied instruction, we focus on creating positive social impact. We collaboratively engage in intensive partnerships to solve communities' pressing economic, environmental, and social issues.

In support of this mission, we have two main program goals that align with the PPPM Strategic Plan:

1. Deliver high-quality instruction and courses including project-based learning to prepare students to become engaged and successful planning professionals.
2. Advance the state of knowledge in the field of planning through problem-driven and, when appropriate, partner-engaged research projects

Equity and Inclusion

Equity and inclusion is a key part of our mission and goals. We believe it is important for your graduate experience, but more importantly for your career working with diverse peers and communities. The goal in the PPPM School is to create classes that are exciting, challenging, and welcoming forums for wide-ranging discussions and debate about the critical issues facing society today. This requires a respectful and inclusive classroom atmosphere where everyone feels safe participating, all views can be heard, and people are open to different perspectives.

Careers of Our Graduates

Graduates of the CRP program pursue a wide range of careers. The most successful students start working early with our Career Services Director. The following are positions that CRP graduates have successfully obtained upon graduation:

State and Federal Agencies

Urban and Regional Planner, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Waukesha, WI

Affordable Rental Housing Research Analyst, Oregon Department of Housing and Community Services, Salem, OR

Planner/Project Manager, US Army Corps of Engineers, Nashville, TN

Local and Regional Government

Associate Planner, City of Lake Oswego, Lake Oswego, OR

Associate Transportation Planner, City of Santa Monica, Santa Monica, CA

Assistant Planner, Cascades West Council of Governments, Albany, OR

Restoration Program Manager, Tahoe Resource Conservation District, South Lake Tahoe, CA

Consulting Firms

Assistant Planner, Mackenzie, Vancouver, WA

Planner, Cameron McCarthy Landscape Architecture and Planning, Eugene, OR

Project Associate for Public Involvement, Conflict Resolution and Planning, The Langdon Group/J-U-B Engineers, Coeur d'Alene, ID

Nonprofit Organizations

Real Estate & Cooperative Development Technical Assistance Manager, CASA of Oregon, Sherwood, OR

Research Manager, Transportation Alternatives, New York City, NY

Youth Nutrition Programs Manager, FOOD for Lane County, Eugene, OR

The Curriculum

1. CORE (42 credits)

➤ **Core classes must be taken for letter grade unless offered Pass/No Pass only**

PPPM 608 Workshop in Urban Design	2 credits
PPPM 611 Introduction to Planning Practice	4 credits
PPPM 612 Legal Issues in Planning (Spring, odd years)	4 credits
PPPM 615 Foundations of Applied Analysis	4 credits
PPPM 616 Planning Theory and Ethics (Spring, even years)	4 credits
PPPM 617 History of Planning and Urbanization	4 credits
PPPM 630 Visual Design for Applied Practice	4 credits
One of the following classes addressing research methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPPM 513 Statistics for Public Decision-Making (Fall or Spring) • PPPM 520 Practice Surveys for Public Service (Spring) • PPPM 521 Qualitative Analysis for Public Decision-Making (Winter) 	4 credits
One of the following classes on Geographic Information Systems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPPM 534 Urban Geographic Information Systems (Fall, Winter, Summer) • PPPM 595 Applied GIS for Community and Environmental Analysis (Spring) 	4 credits
One of the following classes addressing land use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPPM 541 Planning for Growth & Housing (Winter) • PPPM 547 Development Process (Spring) 	4 credits
One of the following classes addressing participation processes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPPM 548 Collaboration (Fall, odd years) • PPPM 550 Community Organizing (Winter, odd years) • PPPM 647 Designing Community Engagement (Spring, even years) 	4 credits

2. EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING (12 credits)

PPPM 623 Professional Development	1 credit
PPPM 663 Professional Development II	1 credit
PPPM 625 & 626 Community Planning Workshop (Fall/Winter)	5+5 credits

3. FIELD OF INTEREST (18 credits)

Planning students select a field of interest to focus their elective work. There are no formal concentrations, but the CRP program offers course suggestions from within PPPM and across the UO in the following areas:

- Community Development
- Land Use and Built Environment
- Transportation
- Environmental Sustainability
- Public Involvement
- Nonprofit Management [option: concurrent Masters or Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management]
- Public Policy [option: concurrent Master of Public Administration]
- Arts and Cultural Leadership
- Ecological Design [option: concurrent Graduate Certificate in Ecological Design]
- Food Studies [option: specialization in Food Studies]

In choosing a field of interest, students should consider: 1) undergraduate degree and prior work experience; 2) current interest areas from UO courses and projects; and 3) immediate and 5-10 year career goals. When selecting specific courses, students should consider balancing knowledge and skills.

IMPORTANT Degree Program Policies

- All MCRP core classes must be taken for a grade, unless the class is designated as Pass/No Pass. PPPM requires 37 credits to be graded. If you receive waiver for a core class, the substitute must be for a graded course.
- Students must receive a B- or higher in core courses and C- or higher in elective courses in order for credits to count towards the final degree. Students who earn below a B- (No Pass) in core classes must repeat the class, which may delay time to degree. Students who earn below a C- in elective courses cannot count these credits towards the MCRP degree and must ensure that they earn sufficient credits to meet MCRP degree requirements, which may delay time to degree.
- Students may not enroll in the Community Planning Workshop (CPW) unless they have passed the following core courses: 534 or 595, 608, 611, 615, 617, and 630.
- Students may not enroll in Fall Year 2 courses if they have any outstanding Incomplete grades. All Incomplete grades must be rectified prior to Fall Year 2 enrollment.
- Students may apply no more than 9 internship credits towards their final degree.
- Students who completed RARE service are eligible to reduce the total credit hours to 63 hours (9 credits).
- Students may apply to waive a core requirement if they can demonstrate graduate level proficiency, but this does not reduce the number of total credit hours required for the MCRP degree. Basic work experience related to a topic is not sufficient. As an accredited program, we cannot waive core requirements without demonstrated proficiency. Course waiver forms must be signed by the course instructor, the student's advisor, and the program director. Forms are available at: <https://blogs.uoregon.edu/pppm/resources/departmental-forms/>
- No more than 6 total credits of independent study or terminal credits may be counted towards the 72 credits required for the MCRP degree (PPPM 601, 606, 605, and 609)
- Students have the option to complete a research project and count up to 9 credits for a thesis (PPPM 503)
- Students interested in completing a professional (terminal) project may count a combined maximum of 6 credits towards the MCRP degree. Student should register for PPPM 601 in Fall/Winter, and then PPPM 609 in Spring. Students interested in this option should work with a faculty member to develop a project as this "overload" work by faculty is only suitable when it aligns with their research interests.
- PPPM 608, PPPM 611, and PPPM 630 must be taken in the same term and same year (Winter, Year 1).
- A Field of Interest may include any graduate-level class (500 level and above) taken at the UO. There is no requirement for how many credits must be taken within the School of PPPM and students are encouraged to seek courses that align with their interests in other departments. Field of interest classes can be taken pass/fail.
- 400-level classes and below do not count towards your 72 required credits. Students should ensure that they register for 500 level versions of 400/500 classes.

Selected UO Graduate School UO Policies

- Check all Graduate School policies for details: <http://gradschool.uoregon.edu>.

- Master's students may request to transfer a maximum of 15 graduate credits into their masters degree program. A [Request for Transfer of Graduate Credit](#) is available from the Graduate School and it must be submitted no later than the end of the term prior to completion of the degree. The following conditions must be met:
 - The grade(s) earned must be A+, A, A-, B+, B, or P;
 - The course(s) must be relevant to the degree program as a whole; and
 - The School of PPPM and the Graduate School must approve the transfer.
 - Transfer credits cannot be applied if they were used to satisfy the requirements for an awarded degree
- Graduate tuition allows for up to 16 credits for graduate coursework in each term during the academic year. Registration in excess of 16 credits, up to a maximum of 18 credits, requires an additional per credit tuition fee assessment. The minimum registration requirement for any term is three graduate credits.
- To remain in compliance with the Continuous Enrollment Policy, graduate students must be registered for a minimum of three graduate credits each term. Students needing to graduate in a term later than originally planned may petition to waive the final term registration requirement. Students do not have to be registered in the summer.

Sample Two-Year Program

	Core	Experiential Learning	Field of Interest	Credits
Fall 1 st Year	534: Urban GIS (4) 615: Foundations of Applied Analysis (4) 617 History of Planning & Urb. (4)	623 Professional Development I (1)		13
Winter 1 st Year	608 Wkshp Urban Design (2) Δ 611 Intro to Planning Practice (4)Δ 630 Visual Design (4) Δ OPTION: Plan for Growth & Housing (4) OPTION: Methods or Public Participation choice req. (4)		OPTION: Elective	10-14
Spring 1 st Year	612 Legal Issues *ODD (4) or 616 Planning Theory & Ethics *EVEN (4) OPTION: 547 Devp't Process (4) OPTION: Methods or Collaboration choice req. (4)		OPTION: Elective	12
Fall 2 nd Year	OPTION: 584 Collaboration (4) *ODD	625 Community Planning Wkshp (5)	OPTION: Elective	13
Winter 2 nd Year	OPTION: 541 Plan for Grow & Hsing (4) OPTION: Methods or Public Participation choice req. (4)	626 Community Planning Wkshp (5) 663 Professional Development II (1)	OPTION: Elective	10-14
Spring 2 nd Year	612 Legal Issues *ODD (4) or 616 Planning Theory & Ethics *EVEN (4) OPTION: 547 Devp't Process (4) OPTION: Methods or Collaboration choice req. (4)		OPTION: Elective	10-14
	42	12	18	72

- Δ 608, 611, and 630 classes must be taken during the same term

* some courses in Collaboration options and Land Use options are offered every other year. Note that timing may change due to sabbaticals & leaves – pay attention to MCRP Canvas page emails.

Concurrent Degrees

Students interested in completing concurrent degrees must be admitted to both programs. The guidelines for the concurrent degree are:

- Students interested in a concurrent degree program must 1) apply to both programs, and 2) meet with directors of both programs to develop an academic plan. Concurrent students should meet with program directors in both

programs to develop the academic plan and tailor an approach specific to the student and program. Usually concurrent degrees decrease the time it takes to complete two separate degrees.

- A Declaration of Concurrent Degree form must be completed and approved by both program directors and the Graduate School. The concurrent degree form also must be completed and approved by Friday of Week 2 in the term of graduation.
- The CRP program will accept core courses of a second graduate degree as field of interest credits.

Student Advising

Multiple people within the School of PPPM are available for advising and to support your learning, career goals, and preparation to become a planning professional:

- Your **Academic Advisor** is a tenure-track faculty member in Community and Regional Planning who advises you about academic courses and ensures you are on the right track to graduate. Students are assigned a provisional academic advisor prior to their enrollment, but students are free to change academic advisors. To change advisors, you should confirm the change with the new advisor and email the CRP Director. Academic advisors can be good resources for research collaboration opportunities and advice on course selection and general career advice. You should meet with your academic advisor at least once per academic term, usually around Week 6, to discuss your progress and selecting courses for the next term. Getting the most out of these advising meetings depends on your preparation. You will use the fillable PDF progress sheet as a guide during advising meetings. Prior to meeting with your advisor, we suggest that you:
 - Review your transcript from Duckweb
 - Think about knowledge and skills you hope to gain
 - Bring a copy of your Professional Development Plan (assignment from Professional Development) to guide your discussion, OR bring 1) short and long term career goals and 2) 1-2 job announcements that interest you
- **Professional Project Advisor:** MCRP students have the option to complete a Professional (Terminal) Project or Thesis in consultation with a project advisor. Once you have finalized your project advisor, we recommend that this person also serve as your academic advisor. If you are interested in a Professional Project or Thesis, talk to your advisor about next steps and resources.
- The **Career Services Director** supports your exploration of professional career options, in seeking professional development opportunities like internships and jobs, and building resumes and interviewing skills. You will work closely with the Career Services Director in Professional Development I and II. You should meet with the Career Services Director at least once during your first academic term and thereafter on a regular as-needed basis.
- The **Program Director** oversees the Community and Regional Planning program admissions process, makes advising assignments, considers curriculum, and signs off on all course waivers and special circumstances.

Internships

Internships are *not* required for the MCRP program, but they are strongly encouraged. The PPPM Career Services Director can assist you in developing and applying for career-building internships.

- The Career Services Director is available to meet with students to discuss their career goals and internship options. Online resources are available at <http://pppm.uoregon.edu/internships>. Career Services also posts internships to the graduate student listserv.
- Ensure you are signed up for the JOBLINE listserv to receive the most recent job and internship postings.
- Students may register for PPPM 604 Internship after consultation with the Internship Director. The course is a variable-credit elective and should support a student's field of interest. Students may apply no more than 9 internship credits toward their degree.
- The Internship Director offers consultations, workshops, and group advising on topics related to career and professional development.

Academic Standing

- Grades below B- are not accepted for graduate credit but are computed in the GPA. Similarly, for pass/fail classes, a grade of pass is equal to or better than a B-.
- Students must maintain a 3.0 grade point average (GPA) to be in good standing in the program (a B- average is below 3.0).

- A 3.0 GPA is required for graduation.
- Students have seven years to complete their master's degree while maintaining continuous enrollment (summer terms not included). Any credits taken more than seven years earlier than expected graduation date will not be counted towards degree.

Academic Probation and Dismissal from the CRP Program

Students who fail to meet program academic, professional, or coursework expectations may be placed on Academic Probation and ultimately dismissed from the CRP program under the following circumstances:

- Students who violate the [University of Oregon Student Conduct Code](#), [AICP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct](#), or PPPM Student Code of Conduct may be eligible for probation or dismissal from the program
- Students who fail to maintain a cumulative 3.0 GPA will be placed on Academic Probation
- Students who receive a no-pass grade (NP or below a B-) in a core course are deemed as not making [Satisfactory Progress](#) towards the degree and will be placed on Academic Probation.
- Students placed on Academic Probation will receive a letter documenting the steps needed to return to academic good standing, remediate failed coursework, and/or demonstrate Satisfactory Progress towards the degree in the subsequent quarter. Failure to adhere to expectations outlined in the Academic Probation Letter may be grounds for dismissal from the CRP program.

Miscellaneous Policies

Academic Calendar

The academic calendar, with add and drop deadlines, can be found on the Registrar's website, <https://registrar.uoregon.edu/calendars/academic>

Graduate Employees (Teaching and Research)

In spring term of each academic year the School advertises its GE positions for the following year. On occasion, additional GE positions will become available, and notices will be emailed to the PPPM Listserv. For details on department GE policies, see <https://gradschool.uoregon.edu/funding/ge/gdrs>.

Students have been very successful obtaining administrative GE positions throughout the university. Current listings are available throughout the school year on the Graduate School's website, <https://gradschool.uoregon.edu/funding/ge>

Graduation

Students must apply for their degree or certificate by the second Friday of the graduation term; see <https://gradschool.uoregon.edu/academics/completing-degree> for details. In the academic term of graduation, students must be registered for three graduate credits. For more information about the Graduate School's requirements, see <https://gradschool.uoregon.edu/academics/completing-degree/masters-minimum-requirements>.

Master of Community and Regional Planning: Fields of Interest Sample Courseslist

Each CRP student develops a field of interest (18 credits) through graduate level course work. There are no formal concentrations, but PPPM is particularly strong in the areas listed below. Students are welcome to take graduate-level classes in other departments, but it is your responsibility to check prerequisites or restrictions for courses outside PPPM.

In choosing a set of field of interest, students should think about their undergraduate/professional background and their career objectives. It is helpful to consult with an academic advisor, the PPPM Career Services Director, professionals working in the desired career area, and fellow students. Students should also consider a balance in their training for their focal area:

- **Knowledge:** Consider classes that provide the substantive training in a particular topic area (e.g., natural resources, transportation, land use). These knowledge classes may also help provide you with more theoretical and analytical skills that you will use throughout your career.
- **Skills:** Consider classes that provide important analysis and technical skills (e.g., GIS, Cost-Benefit Analysis, Urban Economics, Statistics, Survey Design, Data Analysis, Qualitative Methods).

The list below reflects sample fields of interest used in the CRP Program. The School of PPPM provides a generalized list of Fields of Interest across programs as well: <https://pppm.uoregon.edu/graduate/fields-of-interest>. You should work with your advisor to identify a field of interest and set of classes tailored to your career goals.

Note: 507, 510, and 610 are temporary numbers – course numbers may change when regularized. Students may take multiple courses with the same temporary course numbers for credit, so long as they are not the identical course.

Community Development

PPPM 546 Socioeconomic Development Planning
PPPM 581 Fundraising for Nonprofit Organizations
PPPM 586 Philanthropy and Grant Making
PPPM 685 Social Enterprise
PPPM 680 Managing Nonprofit Organizations
PPPM 548 Collaboration
PPPM 550 Community Organizing
PPPM 572 Creative Placemaking
PPPM 629 Public Budget Admin

Other departments: Interna'tl Community Development (Interna'tl Studies), Urban and Regional Economics (Economics)

Land Use and Built Environment

PPPM 508 Environmental Impact Assessment
PPPM 510 Affordable Housing
PPPM 538 Topics in Transportation Planning – Bicycle Planning
PPPM 539 Transportation Policy
PPPM 541 Planning for Growth and Housing
PPPM 542 Sustainable Urban Development
PPPM 543 Natural Resource Policy
PPPM 547 Development Proces

Other departments: Urban and Regional Economics (Economics), Landscape Architecture, Architecture, Geography, Law

Transportation

PPPM 538 Topics in Transportation Planning – Bicycle Planning
PPPM 539 Transportation Policy
PPPM 541 Planning for Growth and Housing
PPPM 542 Sustainable Urban Development
PPPM 547 Development Proces
OBK 588: Planning for People on Bicycles in Europe (Summer Study Abroad to Netherlands & Denmark)

Other relevant courses and departments: Economics, Environmental Studies, Architecture, Law

Environmental Sustainability

PPPM 507 Seminar in Environmental Justice
PPPM 508 Environmental Impact Assessment
PPPM 541 Planning for Growth and Housing
PPPM 547 Development Proces
PPPM 543 Natural Resources Policy
PPPM 544 Environmental Policy
PPPM 548 Collaboration
PPPM 542 Sustainable Urban Development

Other departments or courses: Environmental Economics, Environmental Studies, Environment and Devpmmnt (Geography), Sustainable Business Practices, Lifecycle Analysis (Management), Landscape Analysis (Landscape Arch)

Public Involvement

PPPM 518 Introduction to Public Law
PPPM 548 Collaboration
PPPM 550 Community Organizing
PPPM 633 Public Management

PPPM 507 Public Sector Leadership

PPPM 647 Designing Community Engagement

Other departments: Ethnic Studies, Political Science, Sociology, Environmental Studies, Journalism and Communication

Nonprofit Management (OPTION: Certificate or Concurrent Master of Nonprofit Management)

PPPM 583 Volunteer Management

PPPM 507 Strategic Communications

PPPM 522 Grant Proposal Writing

PPPM 525 Project Management

PPPM 526 Strategic Planning for Management

PPPM 548 Collaboration

PPPM 565 Program Evaluation

PPPM 581 Fundraising for Nonprofit Organizations

PPPM 586 Philanthropy and Grant Making

PPPM 680 Managing Nonprofit Organizations

PPPM 684 Public and Nonprofit Financial Management

PPPM 687 Nonprofit Board Governance

PPPM 688 Nonprofit Management Consultancy

Other departments: Nonprofit Law and Management Clinic (CRES)

Public Policy (OPTION: Concurrent Master of Public Administration)

PPPM 507 Policy Simulation

PPPM 507 Advocacy Seminar

PPPM 507 Lobbying Seminar

PPPM 507 Public Sector Leadership

PPPM 507 Seminar in Public Health

PPPM 560 Health Policy

PPPM 518 Public Law

PPPM 565 Program Evaluation

PPPM 628 Public Sector Economics

PPPM 629 Public Budget Administration

PPPM 633 Public Management

PPPM 636 Public Policy Analysis

PPPM 571 Cultural Policy

Other departments: Economics, Environmental Studies, Political Science, Education

Arts and Cultural Leadership

PPPM 574 Event Management

PPPM 573 Cultural Programming

PPPM 570 Arts in Society

PPPM 572 Creative Placemaking

PPPM 571 Cultural Policy

PPPM 581 Fundraising for Nonprofits

PPPM 680 Managing Nonprofit Organizations

Other departments: History of Art and Architecture, Theatre, Folklore, Anthropology.

Ecological Design (OPTION: 24 credit Ecological Design Certificate)

See Ecological Design Certificate website for course requirements and electives.

PPPM 538 Transportation Issues in Planning (Bicycle Planning)

PPPM 541 Planning for Growth and Housing

PPPM 547 Development Proces

PPPM 542 Sustainable Urban Development

Other departments: Ecological Design Graduate Certificate in College of Design

Food Studies (OPTION: Students can complete an 18 credit Specialization in Food Studies)

See Food Studies Graduate Specialization website for course requirements and electives.