

planning for the future

The beginning of the 21st century presents new challenges to the study of the built environment. As the baby boomers begin retiring and as people all over the world live longer than ever before, population growth and distribution are evolving at unprecedented levels. New demographics are redefining the makeup of the American population, with new minorities, majorities and a burgeoning elderly population increasing demands on healthcare systems. Changes in the geographic distribution of the population directly impacts the state and the availability of natural resources, as well as the safety of population groups inhabiting areas prone to natural disasters. Newly emerging metropolitan areas with more than 10 million residents pose new challenges in transportation and other issues inherent to population growth. Coupled with these transformations are the issues of environmental degradation that needs to be repaired and future planning for the wise utilization of natural resources.

The Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning has a large faculty with diverse interests that revolve around the built and natural environments. The Ph.D. program in Urban and Regional Science (URSC) educates students to become leading researchers and scholars in areas directly responsive to the challenges of the built environment. By allowing students to specialize in areas such as health systems planning, sustainable development, urban design and community development, transportation, and environmental hazard management and planning, the Ph.D. program is producing graduates able to respond to the needs of a changing world.

ph.d. in ursc/admissions

All applicants must meet the requirements for graduate admission to Texas A&M University and the Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning. All applicants will be evaluated for acceptance into the graduate program of landscape architecture based up on an evaluation of the following information:

Applicants who want to be considered for university and college financial awards are encouraged to deliver completed application packages to the university by early November. Anyone wanting full consideration, including departmental assistance, should submit a complete application package to the university by January 1.

Students will not be admitted without a mentor, nor will there be any deferred admissions.

The following are necessary to apply to the URSC program, and should be sent to the university admissions office:

1. Application (applying online at www.applytexas.org is highly recommended);
2. Fee: \$50 for U.S. citizens and permanent residents, \$75 for international applicants (Waiver of the \$75 international application fee is not available);
3. Official transcripts;
4. GRE or GMAT scores; and
5. TOEFL scores (international students, minimum score 550).

Mailing address:

Admissions Processing
Texas A&M University
P.O. Box 30014
College Station, Texas 77842-3014 USA

You will also need to submit the following to the Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning:

6. Three letters of recommendation
7. Statement of purpose essay (essential to assign a mentor)
8. Any other CV, resume or other material you want the admissions committee to consider

Mailing address:

Department of Landscape Architecture
and Urban Planning
Langford A308
3137 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843-3137

faculty

Landscape architecture and urban planning scholars often lead their respective fields nationally and internationally. These scholars provide the foundation for endeavors in the URSC program. For a complete list of faculty members and their accomplishments please visit the URSC Web site at <http://archone.tamu.edu/phdursc>.

The faculty in environmental hazard management provide insight and guidance for emergency management programs from natural hazards to nuclear power, and from chemical emergencies to terrorist events. Michael Lindell, with dozens of articles in premiere journals, is an internationally recognized researcher who has been instrumental in quantifying emergency management functions in natural and technological hazards. Walter Peacock is a leading expert on recovery from disasters, especially hurricanes. His work significantly contributed to the understanding that people are not equally impacted when disasters occur. George Rogers, with dozens of articles in a variety of journals, conducts research on group risk perception, sustainable communities and environmental hazards.

In health systems planning and policy, our faculty are key leaders in therapeutic gardens, healthy communities and the impact of nature on human well-being. Sherry Bame, as a former nurse trained in quantitative social science, brings a social organization approach to planning for healthcare delivery. Chang-Shan Huang is an internationally award-winning designer with a commitment to improving design through research. Roger Ulrich's 1984 article in the journal *Science* established his leadership in the field of modern therapeutic gardens. James Varni, with articles in the *Journal of Behavioral Medicine* and the *Journal of the American Medical Association* is a leading expert on measurement and behavioral, psychological, and environmental impacts on health.

The URSC faculty have ongoing research programs in fields related to sustainability, ecology and environmental planning. They often address some of the most important research questions of our time, like urban sprawl, coastal margin development and the effectiveness of environmental regulation. Samuel Brody received a National Science Foundation Career Award in 2003 to pursue his interests in coastal margins and watershed management. Christopher Ellis is currently serving a three-year presidential-rotation with the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture while pursuing an active research program on spatial analysis in landscape ecology. Michael Neuman is an internationally recognized planning scholar on sustainability and design. He won the American Planning Association's 1999 award for the Best Feature of the Year.

Three scholars from the department have been recognized for their excellence as editors of significant international journals: Jon Rodiek, *Journal of Landscape and Urban Planning: An International Journal of Landscape Ecology and Design*, Michael Lindell, *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters* and Andrew Seidel, *Journal of Architecture Planning and Research*.

research emphasis areas

Emphasis areas are areas of study in which the program has a critical mass of faculty engaged in teaching and research activities. Examples of emphasis areas include, but are not limited to hazards management, sustainability, health systems planning, and urban and community development.

Environmental Hazards Management

Natural and technological hazards often impinge on human activity. This emphasis area examines how people come to recognize, plan for, manage and deal with the environmental hazards that threaten life, health and property in human settlements. Students emphasizing environmental hazards management at Texas A&M University take part in colloquia, internships, research, and other scholarly activities in conjunction with the Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center at TAMU. Details can be found at : <http://hrrc.tamu.edu>

Sustainable Development

The sustainable development emphasis area draws on interdisciplinary research and methods to solve complex problems in the arenas of land development, the integrity of ecosystems, raising the quality of life in human settlements, and sustaining equitable economic gain. At Texas A&M sustainability is taught and practiced in three general areas: sustainability as a process, market-based approaches, and sustainability by demonstration. Students in this area often work closely with the college's Center for Housing and Urban Development.

Urban and Community Development

As human populations continue to grow and settlements shift geographically, the impact of urban and community development is enhanced. This emphasis area focuses on urban and regional planning, community and neighborhood development, housing, infrastructure development and management, and land development.

Health Systems Planning and Policy

The health planning and policy emphasis area is intended for students interested in professional careers in health planning, administration, policy analysis, and/or policy determination. This emphasis has a close relation with the Center for Health Systems & Design in the college. Details can be found at: <http://archone.tamu.edu/chsd/>

Transportation Planning

Transportation comprises one of the largest segments of urban and regional infrastructure. As the dominant sector of planning and policy, it is one of the most important areas in an urban and regional place. The Texas Transportation Institute at Texas A&M University is the largest research institution of its kind in the U.S. Many URSC students work at TTI.

ph.d. in ursc /curriculum

The Ph.D. in Urban and Regional Sciences requires a minimum of 64 credit hours. The following areas are core courses for the program.

Research Methods

CARC 601 Foundations of Research
CARC 602 Research Methods
Specialty Methods Course: e.g., ECON 655, GEOG 611, LAND 640, PLAN 604, PLAN 613, PHSB 605 RELM 635, SOCI 623, SOCI 624, or SOCI 633

Analytic

URSC 641 Analytic Methods in Landscape & Urban Research I
URSC 642 Analytic Methods in Landscape & Urban Research II
Specialty Analytic Course: e.g., EDAD 690, PSYC 607, PSYC 671, PSYC 672, PSYC 673, or EPSY 690

Theory

URSC 631 Foundations of Planning Thought
URSC 632 Structure & Function of Cities & Regions
Specialty Theory Course e.g., ARCH 675, LAND 645, LDEV 673, LDEV 677, PLAN 631, PLAN 649, PLAN 664, POLS 646, RLEM 602, or SOCI 622

Specialty

3 to 4 courses

For more information and course descriptions please use the Texas A&M University Graduate Catalog at http://www.tamu.edu/admissions/catalogs/GRAD_catalog/

xas a&m

ph.d. in ursc@texas a&m

The Ph.D. in Urban and Regional Science is one of five programs managed by the Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning that lead to undergraduate, professional, and research degrees. With over 37 faculty and 300 students, the department has unmatched resources to address all areas related to landscape architecture and urban planning. As a unit of the College of Architecture, the department is part of a vibrant research and teaching community that can comprehensively address issues of the built and virtual environments and includes the departments of Architecture and Construction Science. The wider academic family of Texas A&M University is world-renowned for its leadership in teaching, research and service. Located in College Station, Texas, students benefit from a small community atmosphere while having access to three of the 10 largest cities of the United States.

focus of the program & education

The Ph.D. in Urban and Regional Science at Texas A&M University is one of the 39 Ph.D. planning programs accredited by the American Planning Association in North America. It is a transdisciplinary program that focuses on landscape and urban planning issues. Our faculty come from backgrounds that include landscape architecture, urban planning, geography, engineering, sociology, wildlife biology, political science and land development. The program places emphasis on the interface of human systems with the natural environment, both in terms of the environment's impact on the human behavior and well-being, and human impact on ecological systems. With its superior reputation, outstanding faculty, progressive curriculum and a supportive environment, this program now has more than 50 Ph.D. students who come from all over the United States as well as countries such as Algeria, Australia, China, Colombia, India, Iran, Iraq, Korea and Thailand. The majority of our alumni have assumed positions as university faculty and researchers, while others are working for government agencies.

The mission of the Ph.D. program in Urban and Regional Science is to develop scholars in landscape, urban and environmental planning of distinguished excellence.

contact info

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URSC

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texas a&m university/college of architecture