planning for the future

The beginning of the 21st century presents new challenges to the study of the built environment. As the baby booms 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 creating demands on healthcare systems. Changes in the geographic distribution of the population directly impact 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, transportation, and environmental hazard management and planning, the Ph.D. program is producing graduates able to respond to the needs of a changing world.

Our faculty are key leaders in fields related to urban and regional planning, with diverse interests that revolve around the built and natural environments. The URSC faculty have ongoing research programs in fields related to urban and regional planning, and is an internationally recognized group that draws on expertise in the fields of public health, economics, engineering, natural sciences, and social science.

The URSC faculty engage in research programs in fields related to interdisciplinary activities in urban and regional planning. Some areas include, but are not limited to hazards management, sustainability, and environmental protection. The Ph.D. program is a 5-year program with a minimum of 90 credit hours of course work and a dissertation. The faculty are key leaders in fields related to urban and regional planning, with diverse interests that revolve around the built and natural environments. The URSC faculty have ongoing research programs in fields related to urban and regional planning, and is an internationally recognized group that draws on expertise in the fields of public health, economics, engineering, natural sciences, and social science.

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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. Undergraduate and graduate students have access to three of the 10 largest cities in the United States.

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 planning and design, geography, engineering, sociology, wildlife biology, political science, and land development. The program places emphasis on the interplay of human systems with natural environments. Each faculty of the program has a unique background and expertise that enables them to address complex issues related to urban and regional planning.

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.