

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PLANNING PROGRAM

STRATEGIC PLAN 2016

School of Landscape Architecture & Planning | College of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture

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THE MS PLANNING PROGRAM VISION

To be nationally recognized as a leading urban and regional physical planning program through exemplary teaching, research, and community engagement with meaningful contributions in sustainable urban and regional planning. To this end, the program aligns itself with the College goals centered on environmental sustainability for arid regions and beyond with focus areas in Water, Energy, Habitat, Heritage, Climate, Health, Transportation, and Investment. The program recognizes its responsibility in educating and equipping the next generation of leaders in the planning profession with the most engaging and forward-thinking experience possible so they may pursue solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges.

MS PLANNING PROGRAM MISSION

To provide diverse and interdisciplinary learning experiences aimed at preparing future leaders in urban and regional planning who can cultivate the development of sustainable cities and regions around the world. Through place-based learning and hands on engagement the program creates a culture of scholarship and professional practice aimed at advancing the profession through environmental and physical planning, geospatial technology, applied planning methods, experience in multidisciplinary teams, developing professional ethics, and understanding equity.

MS PLANNING CORE VALUES

- The culture of learning focuses on integration of teaching, research, and community engagement.
- Interdisciplinary partnerships in teaching, research, and community engagement are essential to success.
- Place-based learning focuses on sustainable practices for arid environments; these strategies are transferable to other regions.
- Technological integrations and skillsets are central to meeting the needs and challenges of the 21st-century workforce.
- Preservation of environmental health and resiliency, economic vitality, human health and well-being, and cultural heritage and identity are critical components central to the public interest in the State of Arizona and globally.

MS PLANNING STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal 1: Future-Focused Curriculum

Provide and maintain a robust curriculum that teaches proven and forward-thinking planning and design principles that foster sustainable cities and regions within ethical, social, and environmental realms as



articulated by the profession and the program's faculty and its advisors.

Objective 1.1: Continuously evaluate and adaptively manage the program curriculum to reflect new planning theories, technologies, methods, strategies, and best planning practices as these relate to fostering sustainable cities and regions.

Goal 2: Preparation for Professional Success

With a collaborative, multidisciplinary, and real-world focus, the program will prepare students to work as professional planners who are productive and innovative within a wide range of physical, legal, political, economic, social, and psychological contexts. Students should be able to engage with diverse citizen participants and collaborate with allied professions and disciplines from architecture, landscape architecture, real estate development, business management, public health, and the social and natural sciences.

Objective 2.1: The program will engage in partnerships with entities outside the University to promote networking, service learning, and real-world research opportunities for students.

Objective 2.2: Cultivate multidisciplinary learning and research opportunities within the University to prepare students for professional success in diverse environments.

Objective 2.3: Offer professional training through a variety of mechanisms.

Goal 3: Student Learning and Achievement

Provide and maintain a professionally rooted curriculum that is effectively delivered such that students graduate with confidence in their mastery of the knowledge, skills, and values which are needed to enter the profession, or advance their education by entering PhD programs; in both scenarios the program aims to produce future leaders and/or educators in sustainable city and regional planning.

Objective 3.1: Graduating students will have confidence in their mastery of the knowledge, skills, and values that are needed in the profession.

Objective 3.2: Graduating students will demonstrate proficiency in MS Planning Program priorities: geospatial technology, sustainability strategies, and environmental and physical planning.

Objective 3.3: MS Planning Program Graduates will experience successful outcomes within the field of planning.

Goal 4: Student Recruitment, Retention, and Graduation

Recruit and retain a diverse student body and achieve the highest possible graduation rate for students entering the program.

Objective 4.1: Support greater access into the MS Planning Program for a diverse student body.

Objective 4.2: Optimize student retention and graduation success.

Goal 5: Faculty Excellence: Teaching, Service, Research, and Scholarly Contributions to the Profession

Assemble and maintain a core faculty with a balance of faculty ranks, with the time and background to effectively manage the program, teach the core courses, and maintain a rigorous program of research, service, leadership, and community engagement.

Objective 5.1: The program will support excellence in teaching.

Objective 5.2: Tenure-track faculty will routinely pursue research grants and publications per Promotion and Tenure Guidelines.

Objective 5.3: Faculty will engage in service and engagement activities per Promotion and Tenure Guidelines.

