

The University of Arizona

COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING
AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Master of Science in Urban Planning 2021 Strategic Plan Update

September 1, 2021

University of Arizona Master of Science in Urban Planning

Our core values:

Emergent Thinking

We believe that future-oriented research, teaching, and outreach are critical to planning with foresight to meet the needs of our changing world.

Curiosity

We value the spirit of inquiry and delight in inspiring lifelong learning.

Engagement

We value hands-on, community engaged teaching and research that serves our community and trains our students for impactful, community-oriented careers.

Interdisciplinarity

We seek to maximize opportunities for our faculty and students to work with allied disciplines, including designers and real estate developers, both within CAPLA and elsewhere across campus and in our community.

Partnership

We value partnerships and seek to maximize them by cultivating meaningful and lasting relationships between our faculty, students, the professional community, and our alumni networks.

Justice

We educate students to recognize their role in planning cities and regions that maximize opportunities and voice for underrepresented communities; who recognize that racial justice, economic justice, and environmental justice are core values of planning; and we embed these principles into the culture and practices of our program.

Resilience

We believe in cultivating environmental resiliency and creating solutions to pressing environmental challenges, especially the fundamental threats facing urban areas from climate change.

Student-focused

We take pride in the accessibility of our faculty and community partners. As a small master's program students have opportunities to engage directly with faculty in ways that can be rare in larger programs.

Goal 1: Professionally focused, transformational curriculum

Provide and maintain a robust, professionally-focused, and transformational curriculum rooted in social equity/justice, sustainability, and community engaged hands-on learning informed by cutting edge research.

Objective 1.1 Prepare students for dynamic careers by building curricular exposure to core knowledge and skills as well as to diverse perspectives, disciplines, tools, and viewpoints.

Objective 1.2 Increase exposure to global and comparative perspectives of planning across the curriculum.

Objective 1.3 Embrace and build on key program strengths in Environmental, Transportation, and Land Development Planning.

Objective 1.4 Continue participation in cross-disciplinary curricular offerings.

Goal 2: Student Excellence & Success

Recruit, support, and educate students who reflect the diversity of our community and who graduate prepared to succeed and grow into leaders in the field in a wide range of physical, political, economic, and sociocultural contexts.

Objective 2.1 Cultivate student enrichment opportunities outside the classroom.

Objective 2.2 Create clear career and professional development opportunities and pathways from program to career.

Objective 2.3 Optimize student recruitment and retention to maintain approximately 15-20 incoming MSUP students per year.

Goal 3: Faculty Excellence

Recruit, nurture, and support faculty in their efforts to teach effectively, perform transformational research, and engage in service internally and with the broader community.

Objective 3.1 Support and recognize teaching excellence.

Objective 3.2 Support and recognize faculty research.

Objective 3.3 Build stronger connections between faculty and professional community.

Goal 4: Diversity and Inclusive Excellence

Prioritize equity, diversity, and inclusiveness as a central tenet of the program's culture and operations.

Objective 4.1 Increase the diversity and inclusiveness of our community of administrators, faculty, staff, and students to better reflect the communities we serve.

Objective 4.2 Develop a curriculum rich in diverse perspectives and voices.

Goal 5: Maintain and Enhance Program Excellence and Stability Strengthen our internal and external networks to support students and raise the profile and reputation of our program, students, and alumni.

Objective 5.1 Ensure continued program and departmental strength into the future.

Objective 5.2 Cultivate a stronger relationship with alumni and the professional planning community.