

MASTER *of* SCIENCE *in* URBAN PLANNING

2019-2024 Strategic Plan

July 2019



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING
& LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

School of Landscape
Architecture & Planning



OUR MISSION

To prepare future leaders in urban and regional planning who will cultivate the development of equitable and sustainable cities and regions around the world.

OUR VISION

Our students will be life-long learners and change-makers who will actively pursue solutions to some of the world's most pressing grand challenges.

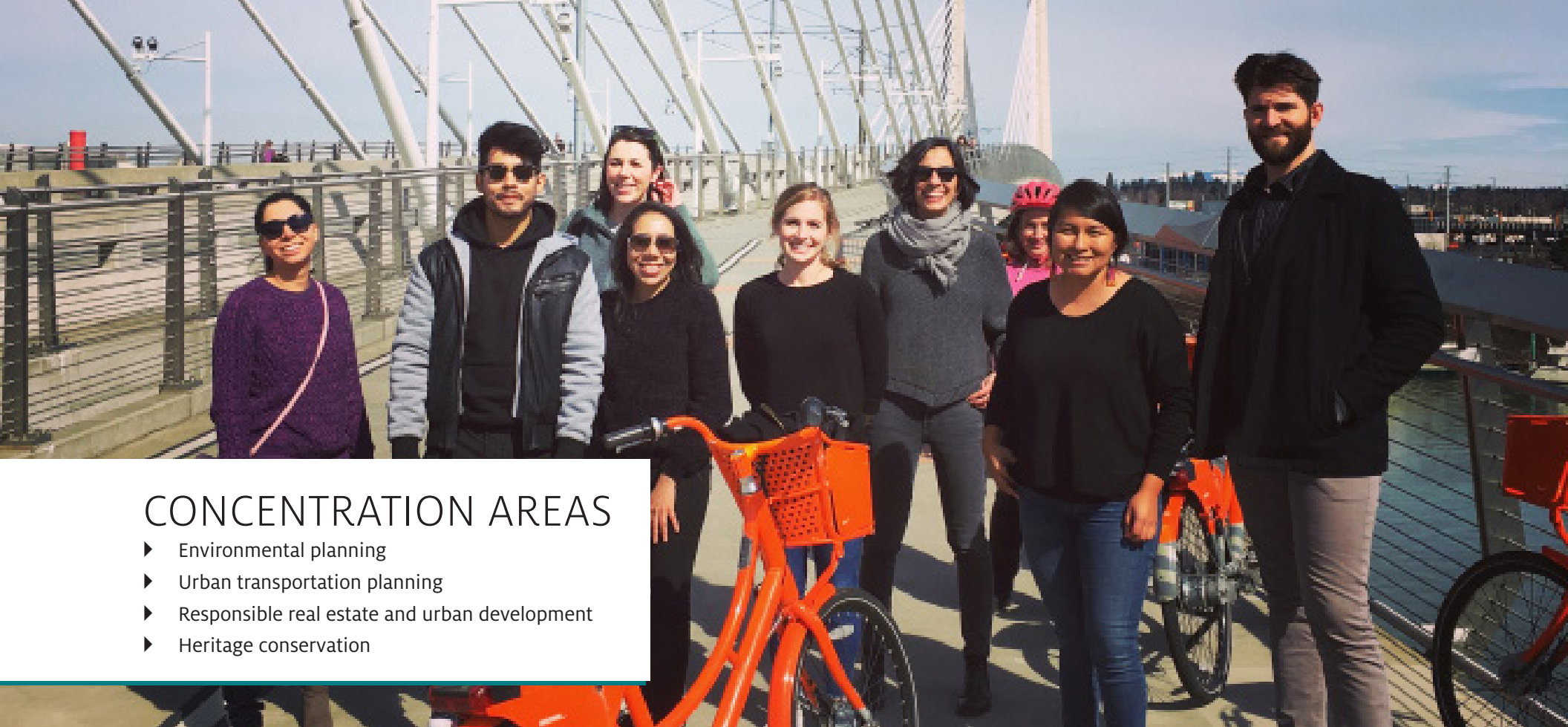
OUR VALUES

We value...

- ▶ **Emergent Thinking:** We believe that future-oriented research, teaching, and outreach are critical to meeting the needs of a changing world.
- ▶ **Curiosity:** We value the spirit of inquiry and delight in learning.
- ▶ **Design and Planning Perspective:** We value design and planning to reshape the world.
- ▶ **Interdisciplinarity:** We believe interdisciplinary partnerships in transformational teaching, research, and community engagement are essential to success.
- ▶ **Collaboration:** We value collaborative decision making and problem solving.
- ▶ **Stewardship:** We believe in cultivating environmental resiliency, human health and well-being, social equity, and cultural heritage.



We align with CAPLA's vision:
Building a Changing World.



CONCENTRATION AREAS

- ▶ Environmental planning
- ▶ Urban transportation planning
- ▶ Responsible real estate and urban development
- ▶ Heritage conservation

OUR APPROACH

Through place-based projects, multidisciplinary teams, and community engagement, the program creates a culture of **ethical scholarship** aimed at advancing the profession. As students proceed through our program they develop an understanding of **urban systems and elements, analysis and communication of data, plan implementation and plan making**, and **professional practice**. Choosing an area of concentration allows for greater student engagement with specialized faculty while providing an in-depth exploration of content, methods, and applications specific to a desired professional focus.

PROGRAM GOALS

1 PROVIDE A FUTURE-FOCUSED CURRICULUM

Provide and maintain a robust, professionally-rooted and transformational curriculum in order to prepare future leaders in sustainable urban and regional planning.

Objective

Evaluate and adaptively manage the curriculum to address new planning theories, technologies, methods, and strategies toward fostering sustainable cities and regions in a changing world.

Strategy

Monitor and analyze the curriculum on an annual basis to ensure that courses meet the ever-changing needs served by the profession.

Strategy

Conduct an alumni/practitioner survey to identify possible curricular needs for a future-focused curriculum.

Objective

Lead students toward demonstration of proficiency in MS Urban Planning Program priorities including sustainable strategies, geospatial technology, and social equity in diverse communities.

Strategy

Expose and guide student understanding of sustainable strategies, geospatial technology, and social equity in diverse communities in a variety of applications during their tenure in the program.

Strategy

Analyze results of a Learning Outcomes Survey on topics of sustainable strategies, geospatial technology, and social equity in diverse communities to inform curricular decisions.

Objective

Expose students to and instill confidence in the mastery of knowledge, skills, and values needed in the profession.

Strategy

Employ, in all courses, aspects of the knowledge, skills, and values that are needed in the profession, as identified by PAB, the accrediting body.

Strategy

Conduct a Learning Outcomes Survey in the capstone class; summarize and assess results to make curricular adjustments related to the knowledge, skills, and values of the profession.

PROGRAM GOALS

2 PREPARE STUDENTS FOR ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS

Prepare students to work as professional planners who are productive and innovative within a wide range of physical, legal, political, economic, and socio-cultural contexts.

Objective

Optimize student retention and graduation success.

Strategy

Optimize level of student financial support.

Strategy

Host orientation for new students at the start of the program.

Strategy

Assign a faculty mentor to monitor student progress and provide advice on the profession.

Strategy

Create and support a sense of community and a collegial environment.

Objective

Cultivate student enrichment opportunities inside and outside of the classroom.

Strategy

Offer a number of networking, mentoring, and professional opportunities with alumni, Friends of Planning, and other practitioners.

Strategy

Provide multidisciplinary learning and research opportunities to prepare students for professional success in diverse environments.

Strategy

Provide students the opportunity to work with faculty and outside partners during their tenure in the program.

Strategy

Support and encourage all students to attend a professional planning conference (local, state, or national) during their time in the program.

Strategy

Require a planning internship with an appropriate professional organization.

PROGRAM GOALS

3 FOSTER FACULTY EXCELLENCE

Support faculty in their efforts to teach effectively, to perform transformational research, to engage in service, and to engage with the community.

Objective

Support and recognize teaching excellence.

Strategy

Support teaching excellence through a variety of mechanisms: D.O.E. workload assignments; assignment of faculty mentors; funding for teaching assistants; peer teaching reviews.

Strategy

Recognize teaching excellence through a variety of mechanisms: through the APR and P&T process; nominating faculty for teaching awards; highlighting accomplishments on the website and through social media.

Objective

Support and recognize faculty research

Strategy

Support faculty research and scholarly contributions to the profession through a variety of mechanisms: D.O.E. workload assignments; funding for research assistants; a startup financial package for equipment, travel, and research support; and PI indirect costs recovery from Sponsored Projects.

Strategy

Recognize faculty research through a variety of mechanisms: through the APR and P&T process; highlighting accomplishments on the website and through social media.

Objective

Support and recognize faculty service and community engagement.

Strategy

Support faculty service and community engagement through a variety of mechanisms such as: D.O.E. workload assignments and funding for travel and meetings.

Strategy

Recognize faculty service and community engagement through the APR and P&T process; highlighting accomplishments on the website and through social media.

PROGRAM GOALS

4 EMBRACE A CULTURE OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE THROUGHOUT OUR SCHOOL

Prioritize wellbeing, equity, diversity, and inclusiveness as a central tenet of school culture.

Objective

Maintain a diverse and inclusive environment among administrators, faculty, staff, and students.

Strategy

Seek a diverse and inclusive candidate pool in the recruitment and hiring of new faculty and staff.

Strategy

Emphasize student recruitment in under-served populations to ensure a diverse and inclusive candidate pool.

Objective

Develop a curriculum rich in diverse perspectives and voices.

Strategy

Monitor and assess the curriculum on an annual basis to ensure that courses explore elements of equity across all areas of urban planning.

Strategy

Utilize guest lecturers and speakers to increase student exposure to diverse perspectives.

Objective

Promote a culture of inclusive excellence.

Strategy

Include diversity and inclusiveness in all public materials (job postings, marketing, website, syllabi, etc.).

Strategy

Utilize the University of Arizona Office of Inclusion and Multicultural Engagement by offering trainings, guest speakers, and workshops to administrators, faculty, staff, and students.