

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS, EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND URBAN STUDIES

MASTER OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

CURRICULUM OUTLINE & STUDENT ADVISING GUIDELINES

(Effective Fall 2022)

OVERVIEW

45 Total Hours (excluding deficiencies/prerequisites)

- 24 credit hours of required courses
- 9 credit hours of courses in an area of specialization
- 12 credit hours of approved electives

PREREQUISITE COURSES

A course in introductory statistics at the undergraduate level is a prerequisite for the MURP program. A prerequisite course taken for undergraduate credit will not apply to a student's graduate degree program. A free online statistics course approved by the MURP program coordinator can satisfy the prerequisite requirement. The prerequisite should be completed during the first year of study.

REQUIRED COURSES (24 credit hours)

MURP 6020	Analytic Methods for Planners
MURP 6030	Social Policy Planning
MURP 6710	Urbanism & Urban Design
MURP 6071	Zoning and Land Use Regulation
MURP 6620	History, Theory, & Practice of Planning
URBN 6005	Statistics for Urban Analysis

One of the following:

MURP 5081	GIS for the Planning Profession
GEOG 5805	Fundamentals of Mapping & GIS

One of the following:

MURP 6720	Practicum in Urban & Regional Planning
MURP 7000	Thesis Research

SPECIALIZATION (9 credit hours)

Students must select and complete coursework in one of the following areas of specialization:

I. Environmental & Hazard Mitigation Planning

Select 3 of the following classes:

MURP 5140	Environmental Planning
MURP 5145	Coastal Zone Planning and Administration
URBN 5150	Planning for Hazards
URBN 5810	Environmental Justice in Urban Environments
TRNS 6100	Environment and Energy

II. Historic Preservation

Select 3 of the following classes:

MURP 5010	Policies and Politics of Historic Preservation
ANTH 5721	CRM, Archaeology, & Historic Preservation
URBN 5002	The Shape of the City
URBN 5100	Gentrification in Historic Districts
URBN 5800	Legal Aspects of Housing and Historic Preservation

III. Housing and Community Economic Development

MURP 6051	Housing & Community Development
MURP 6175	Development Finance for Planners
MURP 6450	Local Economic Development

IV. Transportation Planning

Select 3 of the following classes:

MURP 5063	Land Use & Transportation Planning
TRNS 6020	Intermodal Freight Transportation
TRNS 6061	Introduction to Transportation Planning
TRNS 6200	Transportation Policy & Administration
TRNS 6300	Applied Techniques for Transportation Planners

PROFESSIONAL PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

To assess student readiness for practice, the program has professional project requirements for all MURP students in three required courses: MURP 6020 Analytic Methods for Planners, MURP 6030 Social Policy, and MURP 6710 Urbanism & Urban Design. Students are expected to complete professional quality work and must earn a B or higher on each of these professional project assignments.

PRACTICUM/THESIS OPTION

Students must choose either the practicum or thesis option for their program of study. Students can opt to complete both requirements.

Practicum

Students who select the practicum option must enroll in and complete MURP 6720 Practicum in Urban & Regional Planning. This course focuses on the applied aspects of the urban and regional planning profession. Students work in teams to complete a professional project for a community client. In addition to a group project, students are required to complete an individual assignment to demonstrate their knowledge of and contribution to the group project. The individual assignment is structured as a professional memorandum. Students must earn a B or higher on the assignment to satisfy MURP requirements.

Individual Examination for Practicum Students

Practicum students are required to establish an examination committee to review individual practicum work and professional project requirements. The examination committee must include at least three members. The practicum instructor serves as the committee chair. To assure the quality and relevancy of the work to the practice of planning, a second member must be a professional or outside expert in the field of study and must be approved by the Department, the College of Liberal Arts, Education and Human Development and the UNO Graduate School. The third person on the examination committee must be a faculty member within the Department of Planning and Urban Studies. Students must defend their individual practicum work and professional project requirements by the non-thesis defense deadline the semester they intend to graduate. The examination committee must issue written approval upon successful completion of their non-thesis defense.

Thesis

Through a thesis, students demonstrate the knowledge earned in the MURP program and their capabilities in their chosen field. The thesis, which involves a significant

amount of research, can be theoretical or applied. Thesis students are required to take at least three hours of MURP 7000 Thesis Research. Students can complete and apply up to six credit hours of MURP 7000 toward their degree.

With permission from their advisor, students may enroll in MURP 7000 if they have completed 33 credit hours. The chair (major professor) of the thesis committee must give written approval for enrollment in MURP 7000. At the end of the semester, this instructor will issue a grade of "S" for satisfactory, or "U" for unsatisfactory, based on your demonstrated progress toward the completion of your thesis.

Committee and Defense for Thesis Students

The thesis committee chair must be a regular faculty member within the Department of Planning and Urban Studies. To assure the quality and relevancy of the work to the practice of planning, a second member must be a professional or outside expert in the field of study and must be approved by the Department, the College of Liberal Arts, Education and Human Development and the UNO Graduate School. The third person on the examination committee must be a faculty member within the Department of Planning and Urban Studies. Students must defend their thesis by the thesis defense deadline the semester they intend to graduate. The thesis committee must issue written approval of the final document.

ELECTIVES (12 credit hours)

Students are required to take 12 credit hours of electives. All electives are to be approved by the MURP program coordinator. In fulfilling their electives, students can satisfy the requirements for a second specialization.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

While it is the role of faculty advisors to provide students with assistance in planning and carrying out their academic program, it is the student's responsibility to meet all necessary university, graduate school, and departmental requirements and deadlines. Students should check the current UNO Catalog for required prerequisites and course restrictions before attempting to enroll in a course.

RECOMMENDED COURSE LOAD

Nine-twelve credit hours is considered a full-time course load in the fall and spring semesters. Six credit hours is considered a full-time course load for the summer semester. Part-time students take 3-6 credit hours per semester.

GRADUATE LEVEL COURSE REQUIREMENT

Students must earn at least half of the required credits for the MURP degree at the 6000 level or above. A maximum of 6 hours of Thesis Research may be applied to this total. Please see the MURP Program Coordinator or the Director of Academic Services if you need assistance in meeting this requirement.

TRANSFER COURSEWORK

A maximum of 15 credit hours of relevant graduate credit from other schools may be used in the MURP program, if approved by the program and the College. The UNO Graduate School specifies that all coursework applied toward a MURP degree must have been completed within the six years prior to graduation from the MURP program and must be at a grade of B or higher.

To officially transfer coursework, students must submit a *Request for Transfer of Credit* form to the Graduate School after they have completed at least nine hours of graduate residence at UNO with an overall B average or higher. The UNO Office of Admissions must receive official transcripts, displaying the course(s) to be transferred in before the request for transfer credit can be made.

SUBSTITUTING COURSES

Under special circumstances, you may request the substitution of an elective for a required course. You must check with the MURP Program Coordinator and complete the *Course Waiver/Substitution Form* prior to enrolling in the course. This substitution must be approved not only the MURP program coordinator, but also by the faculty member in whose area the requested course falls.

WAIVING COURSES

In a very limited number of cases, a required course may be waived if you have demonstrated competence or prior knowledge in an area. Evidence of such competence may be required. You must take an elective in place of each course waived. To waive a course, you must check with the MURP Program Coordinator, and complete the *Course Waiver/Substitution Form*. The waiver must also be approved by the faculty member in whose area the waived course falls.

TIME LIMIT FOR DEGREE COMPLETION

Students should be mindful of the six-year limit for completion of the degree program-- including the thesis. This is calculated from the initial date of admission to the Graduate

School at UNO. Transfer credits applied to the MURP degree must also fall within this six-year window.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE POLICY

Once admitted to the MURP program, students must be enrolled every regular academic term (Fall and Spring) until they satisfy all degree requirements. Students who cannot enroll in a term must apply for a leave of absence through their degree program to remain in good standing.

Graduate students may apply for a leave of absence of no more than two semesters. A student on leave may not use any University facilities nor is the student entitled to receive advice from any member of the faculty. The request for leave of absence should be made in advance of the semester in which leave is to be taken. The Leave of Absence form can be found at <https://www.uno.edu/academics/grad/graduate-forms>.

CANDIDACY

Students must submit a Candidate Plan of Study form to the Graduate School by the semester before the semester they intend to graduate. The Candidate Plan of Study contains the following information: courses completed, courses in progress and remaining, and exam/thesis committee members. See the academic counselor to complete this form. Students only need to complete this form once unless there are any changes in their program of study. If students do not graduate during their intended semester, they do not need to file a new form. The form signals the Graduate School that you are a potential candidate for graduation in your program.

MURP 7040 (EXAM OR THESIS ONLY)

Students writing a thesis may enroll in MURP 7040 only if they have defended their thesis in the previous semester. MURP 7040 is not a requirement and may not be necessary if students can meet the deadlines for graduation in the same semester. If, however, students successfully defend their thesis in one semester, but need additional time to polish it for final production, they may sign up for MURP 7040 (for a nominal fee) in the following semester. Enrollment in MURP 7040 must be approved in writing by the student's thesis committee chair.

MURP 7040 generates no hourly credit; it simply signals to the UNO Graduate School that a student intends to graduate at the end of that semester. Students may only sign up once for MURP 7040. If a student fails to graduate at the end of the semester in which they are enrolled in MURP 7040, they will need to enroll in another course in

subsequent semesters. Students must be enrolled in one or more courses in the semester they wish to graduate and receive their diploma.

DIPLOMA FEES

Students must go the Registrar's Office to complete an Application for Degree, and pay your diploma and binding fees at the beginning of their last semester of enrollment (check the [UNO Bulletin](#) for official deadlines). If students do not graduate as intended, they must pay an additional \$50 fee at the beginning of the semester in which they do graduate. If students don't file, the Graduate School will not know they are a candidate for graduation.

ENROLLMENT AND GRADUATION

Students must be enrolled in a course during the semester in which they intend to graduate—whether in MURP 6900, MURP 7000, MURP 7040, or another course.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact Marla Nelson, the MURP program coordinator at mnelson@uno.edu or David Lambour, Director of Academic Services at dmlambou@uno.edu.

MURP CHECKLIST

Prerequisites: Undergraduate/Introductory Statistics (3 hrs.)

REQUIRED COURSES (24 hours)

Course	Semester	Grade	Remarks
MURP 6020 Analytic Methods for Planners			
MURP 6030 Social Policy Planning			
MURP 6071 Zoning & Land Use Regulation			
MURP 6620 History, Theory & Practice of Planning			
MURP 6710 Urbanism & Urban Design			
URBN 6005 Statistics for Urban Analysis			
MURP 5081 GIS for the Planning Profession <i>or</i> GEOG 5805 Fundamentals of Mapping & GIS			
MURP 6720 Practicum in Urban & Reg Plng <i>or</i> MURP 7000 Thesis Research			

SPECIALIZATION (9 hours)

Course	Semester	Grade	Remarks

ELECTIVES (12 hours)

Course	Semester	Grade	Remarks

Note: A minimum of 24 credit hours must be completed at the 6000 level or above.