LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

The graduate program in landscape architecture at UW–Madison provides intensive research training and experience in interdisciplinary approaches to the study of landscape and real-world applications. The department offers a master of science with an emphasis on conducting original research in the form of a thesis and a master of arts based on creating evidence-based design solutions to complex landscape problems. Within both programs students will contribute to developing a scholarly foundation for the discipline of landscape architecture and related fields, and contribute information to practitioners engaged in landscape decision-making and stewardship. The department does not offer a professional master's degree (MLA).

The graduate program provides an interdisciplinary education that uses the sciences, arts and humanities to respond to current issues in the realms of food and agriculture, natural resource and cultural and environmental stewardship, human health and well-being, and community development. Most students specialize in one of two areas that reflect the research interests of the faculty: restoration ecology and ecological design, and community and urban landscape studies.

The department has well-equipped computer facilities, including CAD, GIS, and graphics software packages.

URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

The primary degree is the master of science (M.S.) in urban and regional planning (URPL). This program normally requires two academic years of full-time work plus an internship. In addition to the M.S. program, the department offers a Ph.D. program. Some double-degree master's programs are offered, and provisions have been made, in all of the department's basic programs, to serve the specific needs of students from developing countries.

The M.S. program equips students with sufficient understanding of and training in the principal tools, methods, and techniques of planning to enable them to perform effectively as junior members of planning staffs from the start of their careers; in addition, UW–Madison's program in planning emphasizes concepts, perspectives, and practices that promise to be useful not only upon graduation, but even more so in later years for graduates who reach positions of major influence and responsibility.

Although the department stresses the development of general skills and mental attitudes that are common to all planning endeavors, students are required to specialize in an area of planning that is of interest to the student.

The department seeks students with high academic qualifications and the potential to become qualified professional planners. The department is especially interested in women and minority applicants. Since there are relatively few undergraduate planning programs in the country, students come into the field from a wide range of disciplines. In recent years, planning students have generally come from the social sciences, with geography, economics, political science, and sociology the most common undergraduate backgrounds. The range, however, runs from the arts to the sciences.