

URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING, PHD

ADMISSIONS

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Please consult the table below for key information about this degree program's admissions requirements. The program may have more detailed admissions requirements, which can be found below the table or on the program's website.

Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic programs and the Graduate School. **Applicants must meet the minimum requirements (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/>) of the Graduate School as well as the program(s).** Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/>).

Requirements	Detail
Fall Deadline	February 1
Spring Deadline	October 15
Summer Deadline	The program does not admit in the summer
GRE (Graduate Record Examinations)	Required
English Proficiency Test	Every applicant whose native language is not English, or whose undergraduate instruction was not exclusively in English, must provide an English proficiency test score earned within two years of the anticipated term of enrollment. Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Requirements for Admission policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241/).
Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT)	n/a
Letters of Recommendation Required	3

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Applications submitted by the deadlines listed above will be considered for limited Department funding.

Application for admission to the program consists of the following materials: the online application, unofficial transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate work, statement of purpose (applicants should submit a thoughtful, reflective one- or two-page statement discussing reasons for going into planning; applicants with an interest in a particular concentration should discuss this; applicants with planning or planning-related experience should include this), and three references from people familiar with the applicant's academic and/or professional work.

In addition to requirements for admission to the Graduate School, there are **four** unique requirements unique to the PhD in Urban and Regional Planning program.

1. **Master's Degree.** Applicants to the PhD program are expected to have a master's degree.
2. **Professional Practice.** Because planning is a practice-oriented field, applicants are expected to have completed at least one year of full-time experience as a professional planner or in a related field. The PhD program is flexible and is intended to appeal to individuals from diverse academic backgrounds. Therefore, it is possible to be admitted without having met the professional practice requirements. Deficiencies may be made up once an admitted applicant is in the program.
3. **GRE.** Applicants are expected to submit a GRE test score. The GRE may be waived for anyone who has a master's degree in Planning or a closely aligned field from an accredited US institution.
4. **Faculty Advisor.** In order to be admitted into the program, a member of the faculty must agree to serve as the student's advisor. Before final admission decisions are made, applications are circulated among faculty in the department of Planning & Landscape Architecture (and our affiliates). The advisor will become the chair of the admitted applicant's PhD committee.

In reviewing applications, the department gives extra weight to planning-related work, such as Peace Corps or professional planning experience. The department also considers graduate coursework, even if it is in another field. If applicants have such experience, it should be highlighted in the application.

The success of international applicants enrolled in the program depends heavily on a good working knowledge of English. Prospective applicants who do not feel comfortable using the English language are strongly urged to consider further language study before applying for admission.

All applicants are required to have an introductory-level course in statistics. This requirement may be met by taking an introductory course, for no graduate credit, during the student's first semester of study.