CITY AND REGIONAL PLANNING

https://planning.calpoly.edu

The profession of city and regional planning involves helping people and communities manage growth and change in their physical, social, and economic environments. The focus is on understanding how cities and towns (human settlements) function and how to make them better places for people to live, work and play. City planning has its roots in engineering, architecture, landscape architecture, law, social welfare and government reform. The practice of city and regional planning is both science and art. It involves technical competence, creativity, hard-headed pragmatism and the ability to develop a vision of the future and to build on that vision. Contemporary planners combine design, quantitative, and people skills to assist communities and society. Both the undergraduate (BSCRP) and the graduate (MCRP) programs are accredited by the national Planning Accreditation Board.

The degree programs prepare students for professional careers in the design of human settlements in harmony with the natural environment and the needs of society. Practicing planners work in public agencies, non-profit organizations, and private consulting firms, preparing comprehensive plans for projects, neighborhoods, cities, and entire regions. The plans address the use of land, housing, transportation, public facilities, and open space. In addition, they are responsible for finding the means to make their plans become a reality by budgeting for public projects and programs and by reviewing and regulating private development.

The curriculum leading to the Bachelor of Science in City and Regional Planning provides a broad, interdisciplinary education as well as competency in physical planning with an emphasis on urban design and development. The Master of City and Regional Planning degree builds on a general undergraduate preparation in the humanities, architecture, landscape architecture, social sciences or natural sciences, and offers four areas of excellence in research and teaching: Urban Design, Environment and Sustainability, Transportation and, Housing, Economic, and Community Development.

Undergraduate Programs

- City and Regional Planning (BS) (https://catalog.calpoly.edu/architecture-environmental-design/city-regional-planning/city-regional-planning-bs/)

Undergraduate Minors

- City and Regional Planning Minor (https://catalog.calpoly.edu/architecture-environmental-design/city-regional-planning/city-regional-planning-minor/)

Graduate Programs

- City and Regional Planning (MCRP) (https://catalog.calpoly.edu/architecture-environmental-design/city-regional-planning/city-regional-planning-mcrp/)
- City and Regional Planning and Civil Engineering (Concurrent CRP/CE) (https://catalog.calpoly.edu/interdisciplinary-programs/transportation-planning-ce-ms-mcrp/)

CRP Courses

CRP 1211 Urban Planning History (4 units)
Term Typically Offered: F, SP

Historical overview of the evolution of the form and function of cities around the world from antiquity to contemporary times and their impact, particularly from the Renaissance period, on planning from the Industrial Revolution to contemporary times in the United States. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 4 lectures. Formerly CRP 211.

CRP 1212 Introduction to City Planning (4 units)
Term Typically Offered: F, SP, SU

Issues of contemporary urban growth and change. Development of theories of urban planning and design. Zoning, planning regulations and codes, and professional practice. Relationship of environmental design disciplines, citizen groups, and individuals to urban planning. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 4 lectures. Formerly CRP 212.

CRP 1213 Methods of Population and Housing Analysis (4 units)
Term Typically Offered: SP

Collection, organization, and presentation of information and data related to population, housing and employment. Analytical methods for estimating population over time, housing demand by type and income, and employment growth. Identification of key requirements in planning for housing. Course may be offered in classroom-based or online format. 3 lectures, 1 laboratory. Formerly CRP 213.

CRP 1215 Planning Approaches to a Just City (4 units)
Term Typically Offered: TBD
USCP
Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area 4A (GE Area D1 for the 2020-26 catalogs). Recommended: ES 112 or ES 1112.

Current planning approaches to a more socially and spatially just city. Introduction to diverse communities served by planners, as well as appropriate community engagement techniques. Relationship of historical planning practices to current impediments to a socially and spatially just city. 3 lectures, 1 laboratory. Crosslisted as CRP/ES 1215. Fulfills USCP.

CRP 1222 The Divided City: Urban Studies on Spatial Justice (3 units)
Term Typically Offered: F, SP, SU
2026-28 or later catalog: GE Area 4B
2020-26 catalogs: GE Area D2

Interdisciplinary examination of formation and evolution of United States cities. Emphasis on social forces and institutions that shape urban landscapes. Exploration of colonization, industrialization, economic development, and urban planning on urban inequalities, including segregation, displacement, environmental injustice, and access disparities. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 3 lectures. Fulfills GE Area 4B (GE Area D2 for students on the 2020-26 catalogs).

CRP 2214 Methods in Land Use and Transportation (4 units)
Term Typically Offered: SP
Recommended: CRP 212 or CRP 1212.

How cities and regions work in terms of human activities, resulting patterns of land use, and circulation systems. Essential tools for spatial analysis and location theories. Methods for analyzing impacts of transportation and land use choices. Course may be offered classroom-based or online format. 3 lectures, 1 activity. Formerly CRP 214.

CRP 2216 Representing the Built Environment (3 units)
Term Typically Offered: F, SP

Representation of the city and of urban design proposals through analog and digital media. Design process and strategies. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 1 lecture, 2 laboratories. Formerly CRP 216.

CRP 2270 Special Topics (1-4 units)
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Directed group study of special topics. The Class Schedule will list topic selected. Repeatable up to 8 units. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 1 to 4 lectures. Formerly CRP 270.

CRP 2457 GIS Applications in Planning (2 units)
Term Typically Offered: F, SP

Geographic Information System (GIS) applications using computer-based systems in gathering, managing and analyzing information pertinent to planning. Development of skills in systematic data acquisition, processing, and maintenance with applied planning problems within the convenient medium of GIS and general information systems. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 2 activities. Replaced CRP 457.

CRP 3202 Urban Design Studio (4 units)
Term Typically Offered: F
Prerequisite: One of the following: CRP 212, CRP 1212, or CRP 1222; and CRP 216 or CRP 2216.

Problem analysis and problem solving in environmental design. Theories and methods of urban design to create a resilient and inclusive urban environment. The character and form of diverse and inclusive designed urban environments. Field trip required. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 1 lecture, 3 laboratories. Replaced CRP 202.

CRP 3303 Smart Cities (3 units)
Term Typically Offered: F, SP, SU
2026-28 or later: Upper-Div GE Area 4
2020-26 catalogs: Upper-Div GE Area D
Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area 1 with grades of C- or better (GE Area A for the 2020-26 catalogs); completion of GE Area 2 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B4 for the 2020-26 catalogs); and completion of one lower-division course in GE Area 4 (GE Areas D1 or D2 for the 2020-26 catalogs).

Explores digital technology changing the way we plan, design, build, govern, and live in cities. Assess smart technologies for knowing, digitizing, and engaging citizens in city development, governance, and planning and managing cities. Opportunities to explore technology initiatives in community building. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 3 lectures. Fulfills GE Upper-Division 4 (GE Area Upper-Division D for students on the 2020-26 catalogs). Formerly CRP 303.

CRP 3315 Public and Private Real Estate Development (4 units)
Term Typically Offered: SP
Prerequisite: CRP 212 or CRP 1212.

Analysis of private and municipal development projects. Revenue streams, costs of project development, and financial impacts for private and public sectors. Application of zoning and subdivision ordinances, building codes, and other regulations necessary for entitlement process. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 3 lectures, 1 activity.

CRP 3334 Cities in a Global World (3 units)
Term Typically Offered: SP
2026-28 or later: Upper-Div GE Area 4
2020-26 catalogs: Upper-Div GE Area D
Sustainability Related
Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area 1 with grades of C- or better (GE Area A for the 2020-26 catalogs); completion of GE Area 2 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B4 for the 2020-26 catalogs); completion of one lower-division course in GE Area 4 (GE Areas D1 or D2 for the 2020-26 catalogs).

Examination of the changes in the social and spatial organization of urban settlements in the twenty-first century caused by urbanization and globalization processes. Comparative analysis of the traditional and contemporary cities around the globe. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 3 lectures. Fulfills GE Upper-Division 4 (GE Area Upper-Division D for students on the 2020-26 catalogs). Formerly CRP 334.

CRP 3336 Introduction to Environmental Planning (4 units)
Term Typically Offered: F
Sustainability Focused
Prerequisite: CRP 212, CRP 1212, or CRP 1222.

Examination of the challenges that arise when human and natural systems interact and the tools available to planners. Principles from various disciplines for assessing environmental problems and identifying solutions, including those required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 3 lectures, 1 activity. Formerly CRP 336.

CRP 3341 Urban Development Studio (4 units)
Term Typically Offered: SP
Prerequisite: CRP 202 or CRP 3202.

Urban planning and design theories and methods. Integration of circulation, environmental, land-use, and design aspects. Infill or new development projects at the scale of a neighborhood, large planned urban developments (PUD), complex circulation corridor, small town, or planned community. Field trip required. Course may be offered in classroom-based or online format. 1 lecture, 3 laboratories. Formerly CRP 341.

CRP 4325 Planning for Bicycling and Walking (3 units)
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area 1 with grades of C- or better (GE Area A for the 2020-26 catalogs); completion of GE Area 2 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B4 for the 2020-26 catalogs); and completion of one lower-division course in GE Area 4 (GE Areas D1 or D2 for the 2020-26 catalogs).

Study of the design of cities for walking and bicycling and its importance to the future of transportation and the resilience of cities. The historical and political linkages between transportation modes, land uses, and inequality. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 3 lectures.

CRP 4400 Special Problems for Advanced Undergraduates (1-2 units)
Term Typically Offered: F, SP
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor and department chair.

Individual or group investigation, research, studies, or surveys of selected problems. Repeatable up to 4 units. Formerly CRP 400.

CRP 4404 Environmental Law (4 units)
Term Typically Offered: F
Sustainability Focused
Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area 1 (GE Area A for the 2020-26 catalogs).

Investigation of law as a tool for furthering environmental planning, management and protection with focus on federal environmental laws including the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and Endangered Species Act. Legal research skills and legal analysis. 4 lectures. Crosslisted as CRP/NR 4404. Formerly CRP/NR 404.

CRP 4408 Water Resource Law and Policy (4 units)
Term Typically Offered: SP
Sustainability Focused
Prerequisite: Junior standing and completion of GE Area 1 (GE Area A for the 2020-26 catalogs); or graduate standing.

Examination of water quality and quantity regulation and management in California, the United States, and globally. Coverage of freshwater and marine water issues. Research case study on water law and policy development. 4 lectures. Crosslisted as CRP/NR 4408. Formerly CRP/NR 408.

CRP 4410 Urban Planning Studio (4 units)
Term Typically Offered: F
Prerequisite: CRP 213 or CRP 1213; and CRP 214 or CRP 2214.

Application of planning theory and methods to the analysis and creation of community plans. Interrelationships between natural and built environments related to land use, circulation, social, and other conditions. Includes individual, team, and interdisciplinary approaches. Field trip required. 1 lecture, 3 laboratories. Formerly CRP 410.

CRP 4420 Land Use Law (4 units)
Term Typically Offered: F
Prerequisite: CRP 212 or CRP 1212.

Legal requirements for city planning and the built environment. General plans, zoning, subdivision, environmental, and other development control regulations, including constitutional requirements for due process and equal protection under the law. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 4 lectures. Formerly CRP 420.

CRP 4428 International Planning and Development (3 units)
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of lower-division courses in GE Area 4 (GE Areas D1 and D2 for the 2020-26 catalogs); and completion of GE Area 5 (GE Areas B1 to B3 for the 2020-26 catalogs); or graduate standing. Recommended: CRP 334 or CRP 3334.

Assessment of international development planning to improve the quality of life in cities and regions around the world. A critical analysis of underlying theories and approaches to housing, land use and economics of pertinence to the United States. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 3 seminars. Formerly CRP 428.

CRP 4433 Latino Urbanism (3 units)
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area 1 with grades of C- or better (GE Area A for the 2020-26 catalogs); completion of GE Area 2 with a grade of C- or better (GE Area B4 for the 2020-26 catalogs); and completion of one lower-division course in GE Area 3 (GE Areas C1 or C2 for the 2020-26 catalogs).

The impacts of Latino cultures on the development of United States cities. The social, economic, political, and cultural challenges affecting Latino communities. The hybridity of urban development and design practices at the Mexican-American border. Course may be offered in classroom-based or online format. 2 lectures, 1 activity.

CRP 4435 Advancing the Transportation Revolution (4 units)
Term Typically Offered: F
Prerequisite: Junior standing; and CRP 214 or CRP 2214; or graduate standing.

Systematic analysis of modern transportation challenges and possible solutions. Application of tools to discern patterns in human travel behavior, develop cost benefit analyses, and determine safety. Discussions of new transportation technologies and active transportation. Course may be offered in classroom-based or online format. 3 lectures, 1 activity. Formerly CRP 435.

CRP 4442 Planning and Housing (3 units)
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Junior standing or graduate standing.

Housing issues, policies, and programs from a planning perspective. Analysis of the economic underpinnings of land markets and housing markets, housing plans, finance, public programs, and affordable housing. Field trip may be required. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 3 seminars. Formerly CRP 442.

CRP 4445 Green Infrastructure (3 units)
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Sustainability Focused
Prerequisite: Junior standing or graduate standing.

Urban ecology for environmental challenges from stormwater to sea level rise. Urban issues and approaches to create a sustainable systems using natural processes. Field trip required. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 2 lectures, 1 laboratory. Formerly CRP 445.

CRP 4446 Development Review and Entitlement (3 units)
Term Typically Offered: SP
Prerequisite: One of the following: CRP 212, CRP 1212, or CRP 1222; or graduate standing.

Application of zoning regulations, subdivision ordinances, design standards, building codes, exactions, fees, and related requirements within the development review process leading to land use entitlement. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 3 lectures. Formerly CRP 446.

CRP 4448 Principles of Urban Design (3 units)
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Junior standing and one of the following: CRP 212, CRP 1212, or CRP 1222; or graduate standing. Recommended: CRP 211 or CRP 1211.

Introduction to philosophies and theories of urban design. Holistic comprehension of forces generating the city form. Exploration of evaluation criteria and critical analysis of the built environment. Cultural, economic, political, behavioral, visual, perceptual, and morphological aspects of urban form. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 1 lecture, 2 seminars. Formerly CRP 448.

CRP 4455 Transportation Policy and Planning (3 units)
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Junior standing or graduate standing.

Key drivers of transportation policy, including variations in societal choices, evolution of legislation and financing, emerging transportation technologies, and changing paradigms. The interconnection between systems of transportation and human activities and potential impacts of future choices. Course may be offered in classroom-based or online format. 3 lectures. Formerly CRP 455.

CRP 4458 Hazard Mitigation Planning and Resilient Design (3 units)
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Sustainability Focused
Prerequisite: Junior standing or graduate standing.

Creation of safer, more resilient cities through systematic application of urban disaster risk reduction and regeneration planning principles and methods. Integration of insights from the design, resource management, and urban administration professions for minimizing disaster losses and improving recovery activities. Course may be offered in classroom-based or online format. 3 lectures. Formerly CRP 458.

CRP 4461 Senior Project (2 units)
Term Typically Offered: F, SP
Prerequisite: Senior standing and CRP 4410.

Research and problem analysis in planning. Selection and completion of a project under faculty supervision. Projects typical of problems addressed in planning practice. Project results presented in a variety of formats.

CRP 4463 Senior Project - Studio (2 units)
Term Typically Offered: SP
Prerequisite: Senior standing; and CRP 410 or CRP 4410.

Culminating studio course for undergraduates. Practical applications of urban planning theory and practice solving problems related to the built environment. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 2 laboratories. Formerly CRP 463.

CRP 4470 Special Advanced Topics (1-3 units)
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Directed group study of special topics for advanced students. The Class Schedule will list topic selected. Repeatable up to 6 units. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 1 to 3 lectures. Formerly CRP 470.

CRP 4471 Special Advanced Laboratory (1-3 units)
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Directed group laboratory study of special topics for advanced students. The Class Schedule will list topic selected. Repeatable up to 6 units. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 1 to 3 laboratories. Formerly CRP 471.

CRP 4481 Urban Design and Real Estate Development Case Studies (3 units)
Term Typically Offered: SP
Prerequisite: Junior standing.

Case studies of development regulation, economic development, growth management, and capital improvement planning. Emphasis on evaluation criteria and critical analysis necessary to understand the impact of urban design on economic viability and social factors. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 3 lectures.

CRP 5101 Homes, Health, and Social Justice (4 units)
Term Typically Offered: F
Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

Focus on current planning approaches to meet California's housing needs, create healthier communities, and achieve a more socially just city. Use of engagement methods appropriate for diverse communities and designed to achieve more equitable and inclusive community plans and projects. Field trip required. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 3 lectures, 1 laboratory.

CRP 5103 Creating Sustainable and Resilient Communities (4 units)
Term Typically Offered: SP
Sustainability Focused
Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

Exploration of the theoretical foundations, practical strategies, and innovative planning required to create communities that are ecologically sustainable, socially equitable and just, and economically vibrant. Focus on planning to enhance environmental quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and adapt to climate impacts. Field trip required. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 3 seminars, 1 laboratory.

CRP 5104 Technology and Urban Planning (4 units)
Term Typically Offered: F
Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

Technologies aimed at improving urban planning, urban services, and the quality of life for residents. Smart city technologies and their ethical and social implications. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 3 seminars, 1 activity.

CRP 5500 Independent Study (1-3 units)
Term Typically Offered: F, SP
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Independent research, studies, or surveys of selected subjects. Repeatable up to 6 units.

CRP 5504 Foundations of Planning (4 units)
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

Review of United States planning history and law fundamental to planning profession, as well as planning theories relevant to reflective planning practice. Exploration of relationship of social and physical conditions in United States cities to historic and current planning approaches. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 4 seminars.

CRP 5509 Professional Development (1-3 units)
Term Typically Offered: TBD
CR/NC
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Professional development course, including environmental assessment workshop, applied research workshop, internship seminar, and other events. Repeatable up to 6 units. Credit/No Credit grading only. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 1 to 3 activities. Formerly CRP 509.

CRP 5512 Urban Data Analysis (4 units)
Term Typically Offered: SP
Prerequisite: Senior standing or graduate standing.

Foundations of urban data analytics for city and regional planning, including identifying planning issues, data selection, analysis, and synthesis. Essential demographic and statistical tools for quantitative inquiry in collecting, analyzing, and projecting urban data. Course may be offered in classroom-based or online format. 3 lectures, 1 laboratory. Formerly CRP 516.

CRP 5538 Advanced GIS Application to Projects (3 units)
Term Typically Offered: F, SP
Prerequisite: Senior standing or graduate standing; and one of the following: LA 438, LA 3312, CRP 516, or CRP 5512.

Integration and application of GIS skills to planning and design projects. Emphasis on analytical thinking, visualization of various GIS data, and project site analysis development. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 1 lecture, 2 laboratories. Crosslisted as CRP/LA 5538. Formerly LA 538.

CRP 5553 Project Planning and Design Studio (4 units)
Term Typically Offered: SP
Prerequisite: CRP 5504.

Project-scale planning problems. Arranging structures, circulation systems, utilities, and plant material on natural and urban sites to support human activity while minimizing disruption to natural systems. Includes downtown development, planned unit developments, waterfronts, hillsides, campuses, and commercial centers. Field trip may be required. Course may be offered in classroom-based or online format. 1 seminar, 3 laboratories. Formerly CRP 553.

CRP 5554 Community Planning Studio (4 units)
Term Typically Offered: F
Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

Application of planning theory and methods to community and regional planning projects. Use of comprehensive approach to real-world planning challenges with community clients. Interrelationships of natural and built environments, transportation systems, and economic and social conditions at various planning scales. Field trip required. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 1 lecture, 3 laboratories.

CRP 5596 Project - Professional (2-4 units)
Term Typically Offered: F, SP
Prerequisite: Enrollment in MCRP City and Regional Planning and consent of instructor.

Individual research under the supervision of the faculty, leading to completion of a professional project based on a real-world planning task. Must be taken in all semesters requiring project supervision. Repeatable up to 6 units. Formerly CRP 596.

CRP 5598 Project - Studio (4 units)
Term Typically Offered: SP
Prerequisite: CRP 5554.

Culminating studio course for graduate students. Practical applications of urban planning theory and practice solving problems related to the built environment. Includes opportunity for students to develop individual projects. Course may be offered in classroom-based, online, or hybrid format. 2 laboratories and a project.

CRP 5599 Thesis (2-4 units)
Term Typically Offered: F, SP
Prerequisite: Graduate standing, enrollment in the MCRP City and Regional Planning program, and consent of instructor.

Individual research under the general supervision of the faculty, leading to a graduate thesis. Must be taken in all semesters requiring thesis supervision. Repeatable up to 6 units. Formerly CRP 599.