Community and Regional Planning

MAJOR MAP

How to use the map
This map is designed to give you information about your chosen major that will help keep you on track for graduation within four years. The introductory sections will help orient you to the “big picture” ideas like the topics and areas of interest inside your major, the kinds of courses you will take, university policies including admissions, and other general topics. The chart on the second page will help you to develop a productive plan to make the most of your four years at East Carolina University and prepare yourself for the job market after graduation.

Remember, it is essential that you diversify your experiences, both for success in your degree program and success outside of school. While coursework is important, it should not be your only focus. The four-year chart on pages 2-3 will show you how to incorporate other kinds of experiences that will expand your knowledge of your chosen field and make you a more desirable job candidate. The map is only a guideline. Remember to speak with your advisor often to learn about new opportunities, clarify concerns, and develop a plan that is right for you.

Questions?
East Carolina University offers an array of support to help you grow and learn from your first day of orientation until your graduation. New Student Orientation, Pirate to Pirate Mentoring, the University Writing Center, and the Career Center are only a few of the services and centers available to assist you throughout your time on campus.

THOMAS HARRIOT COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Community and Regional Planning

ABOUT THE MAJOR
Planning involves working to improve the welfare of people and their communities by creating a more convenient, equitable, healthful, efficient, and attractive place for present and future generations. Planners help government officials, business leaders, and citizens create communities that offer better choices of where and how people work and live. It’s a collaborative, dynamic field that offers the chance to make a difference in the communities you care about, helping communities meet the challenges of growth and change.

Planning is a highly collaborative field that encompasses many exciting topics. The majority of planners work in traditional planning areas such as community development, land use, transportation planning, environmental/coastal/natural resources planning, economic development, urban design, housing, historic preservation, and community activism.

DEGREE OPTIONS
With the Community and Planning degree, there are two areas of emphasis: Community Planning & Development and Coastal Planning & Development. You will need to complete:

- Total of 120 semester hours
- 40 semester hours of general education requirements
- 33 semester hours of core courses
- 9 semester hours of your choice of emphasis
- 6 semester hours of electives
- Semester hours vary depending on minor

Instead of a minor, you also have the option to choose two concentration areas:
- Coastal resources
- Community health
- Environmental resources
- Geographic information
- International development
- Recreation
- Rural development
- Public administration
- Urban studies

WORKPLACE SUCCESS
What employers want
With your Community and Regional Planning major, you will pursue a career that requires specific skills and experiences. These might include:

1. Comprehensive plan (long-term and short-term planning)
2. Verbal and visual communication skills
3. Knowledge and skills in environmental planning or community planning
4. Geographic Information System
5. Legislation and administration
6. Secondary data analysis (statistical analysis)
7. Urban design

As a college student, you are now expected to take ownership of your skill development. Take the time to think about the unique skills and experiences you have or would like to gain at East Carolina University.

WHAT CAN I LEARN?
While completing your Community and Regional Planning degree, you can expect to learn:

- How to work with communities
- Skills in design and place-making
- Skills in strategic thinking
- Skills in analytical research
- How to make a reasoned argument
- Skills in professional report writing and presentation
- Skills in partnership working and collaboration
- Knowledge of planning law and legislation
- Skills in finance and policy development

ADMISSIONS INFO
You can apply to the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences through the Office of Undergraduate Admissions website at www.ecu.edu/admissions. To be considered for admission, freshmen applicants will submit their high school transcript and standardized test scores. Transfer applicants will submit official transcripts from all previously attended institutions. Application deadlines and specific admissions requirements for first-year students and transfer applicants are listed on the website.

COURSE HIGHLIGHTS
The major offers many exciting courses. Some of these include:

- PLAN 1900: Sustainable Cities. This course provides an overview of planning concepts applied to critical issues impacting urban “physical” environments at a variety of scales.
- PLAN 2030: Global Cities. This course offers a comparative analysis of the urbanization process in a global context with an emphasis on urban “social” challenges to community development.

These two courses are gateway introductory general education courses.

WHY COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL PLANNING
The undergraduate professional degree has a Planning Accreditation (the nationally endorsed standards for the profession) and provides a high-quality education that best addresses the future needs of the planning profession. ECU Planning program is the only accredited undergraduate planning degree in North Carolina and one of only 16 undergraduate planning degree programs in the USA.
# Community and Regional Planning

## Major Map

### FIRST YEAR

- **Begin taking general education requirements such as two social science courses, two sciences with one lab, ENGL 1100, HLTH 1000, and MATH 1065/1050. Register for PLAN 2030.**

### SECOND YEAR

- **Continue with general education requirements by taking ENGL 2201, two humanities/fine arts courses, and KINE 1000. Register for PLAN 3030 & COMM 2410/2020 in the fall and MATH 2283/2282 or GEOG 2400 in the spring. Also, begin a minor or concentration.**

### THIRD YEAR

- **Register for PLAN 2410, 3020, 3021, and 4003 in the fall. In the spring, register for PLAN 3022, 3031 and 3032. Continue with a planning emphasis course and two more minor or concentration area classes.**

### FOURTH YEAR

- **Complete core courses with PLAN 4096 in the fall and PLAN 4099 in the spring. Complete planning emphasis classes, minor courses, and electives.**

## Gain Relevant Experience

- Meet with Career Services, often to work on your post-graduation plans. Investigate job-related skills and identify gaps in your résumé so you can address them. Use the Occupational Outlook Handbook, USAJobs.gov, and/or other resources available through Career Services to identify common skills in your career field.

## Community Connection

- **Join student or national organizations which include Student Planners Action Network (SPAN) at ECU and American Planning Association (APA). Participate in SPAN activities and events actively. Take on a leadership position in SPAN. Visit SPANsync for more options.**

## Apply for Scholarships Each Year

- **Being internationally aware and culturally competent is increasingly important. Think about ways you could build these skills, which may include foreign language or Global Understanding courses. Consider taking PLAN 2030: Global Cities to learn about urbanization process.**

## Consider Study Abroad

- **Integrate internationally-oriented classes into your electives and consider a minor or second major in an international field or foreign language. Consider a Summer or semester-long study abroad program. Planning program also offers a summer study abroad in Seoul, South Korea. Apply for study abroad scholarships in the early Fall.**

## Consider an Internship

- **Connect with the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement to explore local opportunities. Also, consider contacting community partners using the OnSync directory. To build your professional network, attend various conferences and workshops offered by the North Carolina chapter of the American Planning Association (NC-APA).**

- **Make the most of your return from your study abroad or internship program by becoming more active in your student organizations. Work with the Office of Global Affairs and the Career Center to learn how to leverage your study abroad experience to improve your job placement possibilities.**

## Post-Grad Options

- **Volunteering for political, governmental, or social organizations is a great way to get experience in your field, build your résumé, test your interest in working with diverse populations, and develop your professional network. During your final year, you should also participate in ECU’s Research and Creative Achievement Week.**

- **Submit a proposal to present a polished research paper/poster from one of your courses at the ECU Research and Creative Achievement Week.**

- **Take on a leadership position in one of your globally-oriented student organizations. Complete your program by incorporating more internationally-focused courses.**

- **Meet with your Career Counselor to put your post-graduation plans into action. Refined your résumé, LinkedIn profile, and interview skills. Complete the Pirate Employment Survey. Enroll in the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) Candidate Pilot Program in the fall, and register for the AICP Certification Exam in June in the spring.**

## Apply Globally

- **Visit Career Services to learn about their resources. Check out the Bureau of Labor Statistics and Virtual Job Shadow.**

## Career Preparedness

- **Visit Career Services to learn about their resources. Check out the National American Planning Association (APA) Career Centers to explore potential careers. Log in to ECU CareerNET to set up your profile, check out career events, and begin to explore potential employers and job opportunities.**

## Students who graduate with a degree in Community and Regional Planning have a variety of career options. Career paths in planning are very diverse. You may work in government from the local, regional, state to federal, in a non-profit organization, and the private sector. Some of these careers include:**

- Housing and community planner
- GIS specialist
- Land-use planner
- Environmental planner
- Economic development planner
- Transportation planner
- Zoning administrator
- Code enforcement officer
- Urban designer
- Design consultant
- Land developer or realtor

## Your planning degree will also help you find work in:**

- Public and community health
- Historic preservation
- Coastal justice
- Public finance
- Public policy and management