OVERVIEW

45 Total Hours (excluding deficiencies/prerequisites)
- 18 credit hours of required courses
- 9 credit hours of courses in an area of specialization
- MURP 6720 Practicum in Urban and Regional Planning \textit{OR} MURP 7000 Thesis Research (3 credit hours) + thesis
- 15 credit hours of approved electives

PREREQUISITE COURSES
Courses in microeconomics and introductory statistics at the undergraduate level are prerequisites for the MURP program. It is recommended for students to take ECON 4400 (Economic Foundations for Managers) or ECON 1203 (Principles of Microeconomics). Each prerequisite course may only be taken for undergraduate credit, and will not apply to a student’s graduate degree program. All prerequisites should be taken during the first year of study.

REQUIRED COURSES (18 credit hours)
- MURP 6030 Social Policy Planning
- MURP 6710 Urbanism & Urban Design
- MURP 6071 Zoning and Land Use Regulation
- MURP 6020 Analytic Methods for Planners
- MURP 6620 History, Theory, and Practice of Planning
- URBN 6005 Statistics for Urban Analysis

SPECIALIZATION (9 credit hours)
Students must select and complete coursework in one of the following areas of specialization. One or more substitutions may be possible with advance approval from the Program Coordinator.

I. Environmental & Hazard Mitigation Planning
- MURP 5140 Environmental Planning
- URBN 5150 Planning for Hazards
- MURP 5160 Development and Environmental Management
II. Historic Preservation

MURP 5010  Introduction to Historic Preservation
MURP 5071  Historic Preservation Law
URBN 5100  Gentrification in Historic Districts

III. Housing and Community Economic Development

MURP 6051  Housing & Community Development
MURP 6450  Local Economic Development
FIN 6635  Seminar in Financial & Economic Analysis for Real Estate

IV. Land Use & Urban Design

MURP 5050  Urban Land Use Planning and Plan Making
MURP 5063  Land Use and Transportation Planning
MURP 6180  Site Planning

V. Transportation Planning

MURP 5061  Introduction to Transportation Planning
MURP 5062  Applied Techniques for Transportation Planners
MURP 5063  Land Use and Transportation Planning

PROFESSIONAL PROJECT REQUIREMENTS
To assess student readiness for practice, the program has professional project requirements for all MURP students in three required courses: MURP 6030 Social Policy, MURP 6710 Urbanism & Urban Design and MURP 6020 Analytic Methods for Planners. 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 and Regional Planning (3 credits). This course focuses on the applied aspects of the urban and regional planning profession. Students work in teams to complete a professional quality 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 (Non---Thesis) 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 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
The approach of a thesis can be theoretical or applied. It demonstrates mastery of the literature in your area of study, while also contributing to the literature. If you choose the thesis option, you are required to take at least three hours of MURP 7000 (Thesis Research). You may enroll additional times in Thesis Research, but can only apply up to six credit hours of Thesis Research toward your degree.

With permission from your advisor, you may enroll in MURP 7000 if you have completed 33 credit hours. The chair (major professor) of your 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 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 (15 credit hours)
Students are required to take 15 credit hours of electives. All electives are to be approved by the MURP program coordinator. In fulfilling their electives, students have the opportunity to 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 your 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
In the fall and spring semesters, 9 - 12 credit hours is considered a full-time course load. 6 credit hours is considered a full-time course load for the summer semester. Part-time students generally take 6 credit hours per semester.

GRADUATE LEVEL COURSE REQUIREMENT
UNO requires that at least half of the credits used for the MURP degree be graduate-level only classes (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 faculty advisor if you need assistance in meeting this requirement.

TRANSFER COURSEWORK
A maximum of twelve hours of relevant graduate credit from other graduate programs may be transferred into a master’s degree program, pending College approval. You must have completed at least nine hours of graduate residence at UNO with an overall B average in order for a transfer to be made. The University also requires that all course transfers be at a grade of B 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. The UNO Graduate School specifies that all coursework applied toward a master's degree must have been taken within the last six years. In order officially transfer coursework, a Request for Transfer of Credit form is completed at the same time as the student’s Candidate Plan of Study, and submitted to the Graduate School.

SUBSTITUTING COURSES
Under special circumstances, you may request the substitution of an elective for a required course. You must check with the Academic Counselor, 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. In order to waive a course, you must check with the academic counselor, and complete the Course Waiver/Substitution Form. The waiver must be approved by the MURP program coordinator and 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 your admission to the Graduate School at UNO. Transfer credits applied to your degree must also fall within this six-year window.

**NOT ATTENDING ONE OR MORE SEMESTERS**
Once you have started in the program and you do not register for more than a calendar year, you must reapply to the university. Students can "sit out" the summer semester without having to be formally readmitted.

**CANDIDACY**
You must submit a Candidate Plan of Study form to the Graduate School in the semester before the semester you intend to graduate. The Candidate Plan of Study contains the following information: courses completed, courses in progress and remaining, thesis advisor and thesis committee members. See the academic counselor to complete this form. You only need to complete this form once unless there are any changes in your program of study. If you do not graduate during your intended semester, you 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 even be necessary for students if they can successfully defend their thesis, make any or all necessary changes, and 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 (major professor).

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, he or she 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.
LIBRARY PRIVILEGES FOR THESIS STUDENTS
Students registered for MURP 7000 (Thesis Research) or MURP 7040 (Exam or Thesis Only) may check out UNO Library books for the entire semester. Bring a print-out which shows your enrollment in one of the above-mentioned courses to the Library circulation desk, and ask the desk staff person to help you begin using this privilege.

GRADUATION FEES
Students must complete an Application for Degree, and pay all graduation fees at the beginning of their last semester of enrollment (check the UNO Graduate School - graduation checklists for official deadlines). If students do not graduate as intended, they must file a new application for degree and pay an additional fee at the beginning of the semester in which they do graduate. This is very important. If students don’t file, the Graduate School will not know they are a candidate for graduation.

ENROLLMENT AND GRADUATION DATE
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 Master of Urban and Regional Planning Program Coordinator at mnelson@uno.edu or 504-280-3110.

NOTE
Some courses (such as those numbered 6900, 7000, or 7040) may be cross listed as MURP ####, URBN #### or DURB ####. Students enrolled in the Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree program should register for those sections designated as MURP.
MURP CHECKLIST – THESIS OPTION (effective Fall 2010)

**Prerequisites:**
- Microeconomics (3 hrs.)
- Introductory Statistics (3 hrs.)

(You should complete any missing prerequisites at the beginning of the program.)

### Required Courses (18 hours)

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**Note:** Program of study must include at least 15 semester hours in courses numbered 6000 and above.

Planned Semester of Graduation: _______________________

Thesis Committee: _______________________, Committee Chair

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MURP CHECKLIST – PRACTICUM OPTION (effective Fall 2010)

**Prerequisites:**
- Microeconomics (3 hrs.)
- Introductory Statistics (3 hrs.)

(You should complete any missing prerequisites at the beginning of the program.)

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**Note:** Program of study must include at least 15 semester hours in courses numbered 6000 and above.

Planned Semester of Graduation: _______________________

Examination Committee: ____________________________, Committee Chair

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