

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS  
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & URBAN STUDIES

**MASTER OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING**

**CURRICULUM OUTLINE & STUDENT ADVISING GUIDELINES**

(effective fall 2010; revised summer 2017)

**OVERVIEW**

**45 Total Hours (excluding deficiencies/prerequisites)**

- 18 credit hours of required courses
- MURP 6720 Practicum in Urban and Regional Planning **OR** MURP 7000 Thesis Research (3 credit hours) + thesis
- 9 credit hours of courses in an area of specialization
- 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 6020	Analytic Methods for Planners
MURP 6030	Social Policy Planning
MURP 6620	History, Theory, and Practice of Planning
MURP 6710	Urbanism & Urban Design
MURP 6071	Zoning and Land Use Regulation
URBN 6005	Statistics for Urban Analysis

**PRACTICUM/THESIS OPTION (3 credit hours)**

Students must take MURP 6720 Practicum in Urban and Regional Planning **OR** MURP 7000 Thesis Research (3 credit hours) and complete a thesis. Students should decide if they will complete the practicum or thesis option during their first year of study. Students can opt to complete both requirements.

## **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

*And one of the following courses:*

MURP 5145	Coastal Zone Planning and Administration
URBN 5810	Environmental Justice in Urban Environments
TRNS 6100	Environment and Energy

### **II. Historic Preservation**

*Select three of the following courses:*

MURP 5010	Introduction to Historic Preservation
ANTH 5721	CRM, Archaeology, and Historic Preservation
URBN 5002	The Shape of the City
URBN 5100	Gentrification in Historic Districts
URBN 5800	Legal Aspects of Housing and Historic Preservation

### **III. Housing and Community Economic Development**

MURP 6051	Housing & Community Development
MURP 6175	Development Finance for Planners
MURP 6450	Local Economic Planning & Policy

### **IV. Land Use & Urban Design**

*Select three of the following courses:*

MURP 5050	Urban Land Use Planning and Plan Making
MURP 5063	Land Use and Transportation Planning
MURP 5750	Design and Management of Urban Parks
MURP 6180	Site Planning

## **V. Transportation Planning**

*Select three of the following courses:*

MURP 5063	Land Use and Transportation Planning
TRNS 6020	Intermodal Freight Transportation
TRNS 6061	Introduction to Transportation Planning
TRNS 6200	Transportation Policy & Administration
TRNS 6300	Applied Techniques for Transportation Professionals

### **PROFESSIONAL PROJECT REQUIREMENTS**

To assess student readiness for practice, the program has professional project requirements for all MURP students in three required courses: MURP 6020 Analytic Methods for Planners; MURP 6030 Social Policy; and MURP 6710 Urbanism & Urban Design. 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 requirement

#### **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 to 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 by 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](mailto:mnelson@uno.edu).

#### **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)

Course	Semester	Grade	Remarks
MURP 6030 Social Policy Planning			
MURP 6710 Urbanism & Urban Design			
MURP 6071 Zoning & Land Use Regulation			
MURP 6020 Analytic Methods for Planners			
MURP 6620 History, Theory & Practice of Planning			
URBN 6005 Statistics for Urban Analysis			

**AND**

### SPECIALIZATION (9 hours)

Course	Semester	Grade	Remarks

**AND**

Course	Semester	Grade	Remarks
MURP 7000 Thesis Research (3 hrs.)			
Elective:			
Elective:			
Elective:			
Elective:			
Elective:			

**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.)

### Required Courses (18 hours)

Course	Semester	Grade	Remarks
MURP 6030 Social Policy Planning			
MURP 6710 Urbanism & Urban Design			
MURP 6071 Zoning & Land Use Regulation			
MURP 6020 Analytic Methods for Planners			
MURP 6620 History, Theory & Practice of Planning			
URBN 6005 Statistics for Urban Analysis			

**AND**

### SPECIALIZATION (9 hours)

Course	Semester	Grade	Remarks

**AND**

Course	Semester	Grade	Remarks
MURP 6720 Practicum in Urb and Reg Plng			
Elective:			
Elective:			
Elective:			
Elective:			
Elective:			

**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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