urban and regional planning
Michigan Planning seeks to shape place-based policy and design for social equity and sustainability, regional solutions to metropolitan problems, just and effective remedies for urban decline, and the creation of human settlements that offer alternatives to environmentally consumptive land-development patterns.

Planning is a systematic, creative approach to addressing social, physical, and economic problems. Planners identify problems and opportunities, devise alternative policies, analyze and implement these options, and evaluate implemented plans. They study the interconnections between the various forces that shape places and the quality of life in them and develop policies around these interconnections: transportation and land use; economic development and housing; physical planning and environmental quality.

Urban and Regional Planning is a profession that strives to improve the environmental quality, economic potential, and social equity of places: neighborhoods, towns, cities, metropolitan areas, and larger regions. Planners seek to improve alternatives to sprawling, auto-dependent areas; to revitalize downtowns and inner-city neighborhoods; to develop cities and towns in a manner that protects the environment; to create lively, interesting neighborhoods and commercial areas; and to foster sustainable development.

Urban planners are found throughout the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. You will find alumni of Michigan’s Urban and Regional Planning Program working in community development corporations, planning consulting firms, metropolitan planning organizations, international development entities, advocacy groups, municipal government, educational institutions, environmental agencies, land trusts, real-estate development firms, transit agencies, nonprofit think tanks, downtown development organizations, state agencies, federal agencies, and more. Urban planning graduates also serve as elected public officials at various levels around the country. Common to work in all these settings is a concern for the quality of life in places, and a professional commitment to improving both human settlements and the public and private processes that shape their development. Taubman College is seeking newly graduating students and those with postgraduate experience to join our program.

Taubman College offers two degrees: a Master of Urban Planning and a Ph.D. in Urban and Regional Planning.
The Master of Urban Planning (M.U.P.) degree offers professional education in the planning field. Graduates apply their professional skills in various government agencies, private enterprises, or nonprofit organizations within a variety of subject areas.

Graduate education at Taubman College emphasizes the development of students’ abilities to analyze, evaluate, integrate, and apply critical thinking in interdisciplinary planning processes. The course of study normally requires two years (four terms/full-time) for completion.

The M.U.P. degree, which is formally accredited through the American Planning Association and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, takes a broad view of the scope of urban and regional planning. The core courses, about one-third of the credits, provide background for all areas of planning.

Concentrations include: Land Use and Environmental Planning; Housing, Community, and Economic Development; Planning in Developing Countries; Physical Planning and Design; and Transportation Planning.

**requirements**

M.U.P. requirements (48 credits)
1. statistics course (3 credits)*
2. economics course (3 credits)*
3. theory course (3 credits)
4. quantitative methods course (3 credits)
5. law course (3 credits)
6. fiscal planning course (2-3 credits)
7. planning practice course (3 credits)
8. concentration courses (9-12 credits)
9. cognate courses (4 credits)
10. elective courses (8-9 credits)
11. capstone course (6 credits)

*These courses may be waived with appropriate prior coursework.

The Rackham Graduate School awards the Master of Urban Planning degree. Therefore, applicants are required to complete the online Rackham Graduate School admissions application. The application deadline is January 15th annually for admission the following fall term. Admission is limited to fall term only.

Please visit taubmancollege.umich.edu/applyplanning for detailed information about the M.U.P. degree requirements, application instructions, scheduling a visit, sample schedules, and course descriptions.
The Ph.D. in Urban and Regional Planning trains scholars for careers in higher education, research, and high-level policy positions. It is a doctoral degree with a flexible, interdisciplinary focus. Graduates work in universities, government, nonprofits, and the private sector in the U.S. and around the world. The curriculum integrates analytical methods, research design, a rigorous understanding of urbanization dynamics, and an examination of broader social theories, processes, and policies. Students address complex systems that typically encompass an array of spatial, environmental, social, political, technical, and economic factors. The emphasis is on theory, analysis, and action. Each student is also expected to demonstrate an understanding of the literature, theory, and research in a specialization area within the larger discipline of urban and regional planning.

Doctoral students specialize in a wide range of possible topics. Recent students have engaged in subjects as diverse as the political economy of public transit, inner-city revitalization, global city urbanization, information technology and cyberspace, the crisis of modernist urbanism, suburbanization in developing countries, regional planning institutions, the effects of environmental contamination on patterns of urban and regional development, the culture of suburban commuting, the impact of tourism on historical Mediterranean cities, and the application of complex systems analysis to sustainable development.

The Rackham Graduate School awards the Ph.D. in Urban and Regional Planning degree. Applicants are required to complete the online Rackham Graduate School admissions application. The application deadline is January 15th annually for admission the following fall term. Admission is limited to fall term only. Please visit taubmancollege.umich.edu/applyplanning for detailed information about the degree requirements, application instructions, scheduling a visit, sample schedules, and course descriptions.
degrees

Master of Urban Planning (M.U.P.)
Ph.D. in Urban and Regional Planning (Ph.D.)

concentrations

Land Use and Environmental Planning
This concentration prepares planners to work toward the long-term environmental and social sustainability of land use. The concentration focuses on training students to better inform private and public decision making processes related to land development, especially within the context of the ongoing issues of urban decline and suburban sprawl.

Housing, Community, and Economic Development
This concentration teaches students how to plan housing, neighborhoods, and the economic well-being of a community and the larger region. The goals of the concentration are to inform students how to increase social and economic capital and improve the quality of life, particularly in low-income, minority, and other disadvantaged communities.

Planning in Developing Countries
This concentration helps students develop the tools and ideas to understand issues confronting cities in diverse socioeconomic, political, and cultural circumstances; to understand how globalization impacts the local space of cities and regions; to work effectively in multicultural settings; and to understand how the international development industry functions.

Physical Planning and Design
This concentration enables planning students to contribute to the design, function, and sustainability of our communities. In this concentration, students visualize scale, density, and the physical dimensions of different built structures, transportation systems, and infrastructure requirements; learn how to review site plans; study design philosophies; and learn how community participation can enhance design.

Transportation Planning
The transportation planning concentration builds an interdisciplinary range of skills and perspectives including an understanding of transportation’s societal roles, applied technical and evaluation skills, and historical uses and misuses of transportation techniques to help foster local and regional accessibility.

Students can also create their own concentration.
Visit taubmancollege.umich.edu/concentrations for more information, including course listings and a typical class schedule.

For more information, please visit:
taubmancollege.umich.edu/planning