

# Concentrations for the Master of Urban Planning Degree

## Urban and Regional Planning Program

### University of Michigan

The Urban and Regional Planning Program requires candidates for the Master of Urban Planning degree to select at least one concentration in order to gain depth in a specific area of the very broad field of urban and regional planning. The following are guidelines for five program-defined concentrations. In general, a concentration requires one or two foundational courses that provide the conceptual basis for analysis, decision-making, and planning in that area; techniques or methods course(s); and electives organized into streams of topics within the concentration. The structure of each concentration is slightly different, reflecting the character of that subject area. With careful planning, it is often possible to satisfy the requirements for two concentrations. Faculty are ready to advise you in selecting courses.

NOTES:

*Recommended courses listed below that are offered by other departments may require prerequisites, may not be offered regularly, and/or may restrict enrollment.*

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## LAND USE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

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At the heart of land use and environmental planning are a host of environmental and social sustainability implications related to the location and intensity of human activities across cities and regions. Many regions in the United States and worldwide are undergoing simultaneous processes of suburban sprawl and urban decline, along with other related challenges to the quality of urban areas, including ecosystem fragmentation and degradation, air and water pollution, and aesthetic decline—all yielding cities and regions that can be unhealthy, unjust, ugly, dull, and unfulfilling places to live. Within this context, this concentration seeks to enable students to inform decision-making processes related to land development and the ongoing use of land in both urban areas experiencing disinvestment and exurban/rural areas facing development pressure. The concentration aims to imbue the professional practice of land use and environmental planning with awareness of the sustainability and social justice implications of public decisions that shape place in cities and regions, toward the end of promoting cities and regions that are healthy, ecologically and economically vibrant, economically and socially just, and desirable places to live, work, and play.

Students learn to recognize the value-based and analytical conflicts common to land development and environmental planning debates and to employ planning and policymaking approaches to resolve those disputes. The challenge is to guide land development in some places and the adjustment to population loss in others in ways that preserve and restore the ecological integrity of urban and rural systems while improving the quality of life for all residents, facilitating a vital economy, promoting the efficient use of land and community facilities such as public buildings and parklands, and respecting fiscal and legal requirements. The skills of the land use and environmental planner include developing and deploying a solid understanding of: the policy tools for shaping land use, including regulation, investment, subsidy and others; the economic and political feasibility of alternative land use and land development schemes; and the societal and environmental implications of land-related decisions.

Through practice, land use and environmental planners address a wide array of overlapping issues such as sprawl and intergovernmental growth management; the relationship between land use and transportation systems; the relationship between economic development and environmental protection; open space and farmland preservation; brownfield redevelopment; transboundary environmental issues; and environmental justice. Land use and

environmental planners find employment in local, regional, state, and federal government agencies; as private sector planning consultants; and in environmental and community nonprofit organizations.

A student in this concentration must take URP 540 plus one additional foundational course, from a selection of optional courses, along with one of two techniques/methods courses, noted below. The student should then select from other courses (especially those recommended below) to complete a program of study that best fits his or her interests.

#### **Foundational Courses (URP 540 plus one additional of the following)**

URP 540	Land Use Planning and Development Management ( <i>required</i> )
URP 541	Urban Land Use Planning
URP 542	Environmental Planning
URP 543	State and Local Land Management

#### **Techniques / Methods Courses (take at least one of the following)**

URP 520	Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (or NRE 531)
URP 522	Collaborative Planning (or NRE 532 or NRE 533)

#### **Other Related Courses (optional)**

URP 521	Intermediate Geographic Information Systems
URP 525	Regional Planning
URP 528	Food Systems Planning
URP 532	Sustainable Development
URP 544	Behavior and Environment (NRE 560)
URP 553	Sustainable Urbanism and Architecture
URP 554	Liquid Planning
URP 560	Transportation and Land Use Planning
NRE 513	Comparative Strategies for Sustainable Development
NRE 514	Environmental Impact Assessment (EHS 572)
NRE 531	Principles of Geographic Information Systems
NRE 532	Natural Resource Conflict Management
NRE 533	Negotiating Skills in Environmental Dispute Resolution
NRE 534	GIS and Landscape Modeling
NRE 550	Systems Thinking for Sustainable Enterprise
NRE 551	Non-market Strategy
NRE 561	Psychology of Environmental Stewardship
NRE 566	Public Opinion and the Environment
NRE 571	Environmental Economics
NRE 593	Environmental Justice: New Directions
NRE 662	Seminar in Resource Policy and Administration
NRE 686	Politics of Environmental Regulation (PUBPOL563, HMP 686)

Faculty associated with the concentration:

Richard Norton (Concentration Coordinator)  
Scott Campbell  
Robert Goodspeed  
Lesli Hoey  
Douglas Kelbaugh

Larissa Larsen  
Jonathan Levine  
Ana Paula Pimentel Walker  
June Thomas  
Jeff Kahan (Lecturer)  
Wendy Rampson (Lecturer)

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## GLOBAL AND COMPARATIVE PLANNING

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The Global and Comparative Planning concentration provides University of Michigan students with the opportunity to examine the interconnected social, cultural, and political-economic processes that frame patterns of urban development and planning in the United States and abroad. Students learn to think creatively and critically analyze the design and implementation of planning initiatives from a comparative and global perspective, which recognizes the importance of confronting unequal power relations and social injustices of various scales.

Many cities in low and middle-income countries face challenges of rapid population growth, resource scarcity, rural-urban migration, and severe poverty and socioeconomic inequality. Yet they also exhibit remarkable planning innovations, some of which are replicated in urban settings of high-income countries. Furthermore, many cities in the Global North – such as Detroit and other deindustrialized cities – are interconnected with cities in the Global South through global economic, environmental and migratory patterns. Planners focus on understanding these issues and opportunities and formulating appropriate interventions, working with communities on achieving social justice and redistribution of development benefits. They work in project management, administration, finance, urban policy, and sustainability efforts for non-governmental organizations, the United Nations and other international institutions, government offices, private urban design and planning firms, and more.

The curriculum in this concentration prepares planners to work in the environment of concomitant urban growth and decline, economic flexibilization, and transnational patterns of urban development from a comparative perspective. Students develop the tools and ideas to understand how globalization impacts the local space of cities and regions; work effectively in multicultural settings; empower marginalized populations; and facilitate collaborative practice. Students may choose to focus on specific themes and substantive areas such as community development and housing, transportation, environmental planning, land use and physical planning, or economic development. Students may also choose to pursue regional interests by taking courses listed by Area Studies Programs in the International Institute, which include regional seminars and courses in geographic areas of interest such as Africa, Europe, Latin America, Middle East, and Asia.

Students in the concentration must take URP 570 Global and Comparative Planning, along with one other foundational course from a selection of optional courses, and one techniques course from a selection of options. Students are encouraged to take one or two additional courses in their specific area of interest. Not all of the foundational courses are offered regularly, so students should consult with the relevant faculty to find out when they are likely to be taught and plan accordingly. The list of courses below is not comprehensive; students are encouraged to seek additional coursework that might count towards the concentration subject to approval by the concentration coordinator.

### Foundational Courses (URP 570 plus one additional of the following)

URP 570	Global and Comparative Planning ( <i>required</i> )
URP 527	Comparative Housing and Property Policy
URP 552	Healthy Cities: Planning and Design

URP 571	Comparative Urban Policy
URP 573	Infrastructure Planning in the United States and Developing Countries
URP 580	Metropolitan Structure

#### Techniques / Methods (at least one of the following)

URP 524	Program Evaluation for Urban Planning
URP 523	Participatory Planning and Community Development
URP 585	Economic Development Planning Methods

#### Other Related Courses (optional)

URP 521	Intermediate Geographic Information Systems
URP 551	Planning Representation and Communication
ANTHRCUL 439	Economic Anthropology and Development
ANTHRCUL 625	Anthropological Approaches to Property & Property Rights
BA 519	Managing the Nonprofit Organization
ECON 461	The Economics of Development I
ECON 462	The Economics of Development II
ECON 561	Economic Development Policy
ECON 641	International Trade Theory
ECON 665	Economic Development of Underdeveloped Countries I
ECON 666	Economic Development of Underdeveloped Countries II
NRE 593	Environmental Justice: New Directions
PUBPOL 534	The Economics of Developing Countries
PUBPOL 541	International Trade Policy
PUBPOL 542	International Financial Policy
PUBPOL 573	Cost Benefit Analysis
PUBPOL 676	International Politics of Poverty and Development
PUBPOL 741	Principles of Finance and Global Financial Markets
PUBPOL 742	International Trade and Investments: Policies and Strategies
PUBPOL 780	Topics in Policymaking: Understanding the U.N.
SW 701	Practice in International Social Work

#### Courses with a Regional Focus

AAS 403	Education and Development in Africa
AAS 408	African Economics: Social and Political Settings
AAS 426	Urban Redevelopment and Social Justice
AAS 427	Women in Africa and the Diaspora
AAS 453	Culture, Class, and Conflict in Southern Africa
ECON 467	Economic Development in the Middle East
LAW 680	Constitutionalism in South Africa
POLISCI 649	Politics and Society in Latin America
POLISCI 653	Proseminar in Middle East Politics
POLISCI 656	Seminar in Chinese Government and Politics
POLISCI 657	Proseminar in Governments and Politics of South Asia
POLISCI 659	Proseminar in Government and Politics of Africa
POLISCI 660	Proseminar in World Politics
POLISCI 677	Proseminar in Southeast Asian Politics

## Summer Internship

Students are encouraged to seek summer internships abroad at the end of their first year. Financial assistance for travel and research support is available on a competitive basis at the International Institute, Rackham Graduate School and at various area centers. Students are encouraged to expand on work initiated in a summer internship abroad through the thesis or professional project option for meeting the capstone requirement.

Faculty associated with the concentration:

Lesli Hoey (Concentration Coordinator)  
Martin Murray  
Scott Campbell  
Lan Deng  
Joe Grengs  
Larissa Larsen  
Ana Paula Pimentel Walker  
Harley Etienne  
Maria Arquero De Alarcon

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## Physical Planning and Design

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"Each generation writes its own biography in the cities it creates."

Lewis Mumford, *The Culture of Cities*

What will our cities say about this generation? While technology has allowed us to create virtual worlds of interaction, our collective need for memorable places, meaningful communities, and ecologically appropriate settlements has never been greater. The purpose of this concentration is to enable planning students to contribute to the design, function, and sustainability of our communities. The concentration consists of a combination of lecture and studio courses. In the studio classes, students propose change on real sites with real clients, considering a myriad of constraints. Through these courses taken altogether, students undertake activities that require them to:

- 1) Visualize scale, density, and the physical dimensions of different built structures, transportation systems, and infrastructure requirements;
- 2) Create and critique physical master plans with regards to their contextual appropriateness (from diverse perspectives that include aesthetics, function, inclusion, and environment);
- 3) Understand how different design philosophies and traditions have influenced form, configuration, and the distribution of uses and users;
- 4) Recognize how development and real estate influence the products and processes of urban design; and
- 5) Respect present and future inhabitants of the neighborhoods we hope to build and recognize how meaningful community participation can enhance their design.

Classes in this concentration include lectures, seminars, field trips, and studios. Students in this concentration are required to take URP 550 (Planning Representation and Communication) and URP 551 (Physical Planning and Design Workshop), along with a second foundational course from a selection of options. Students should also take the section of URP 501 (Planning Theory and History-Physical Planning and Design Emphasis) that emphasizes

physical planning topics. In addition, students are encouraged to take additional elective courses related to their interests.

### **Foundational / Techniques / Methods Courses (all three courses required)**

URP 501	Planning History and Theory (Physical Planning and Design Focus)
URP 550	Planning Representation and Communication
URP 551	Physical Planning and Design Workshop

### **Recommended Electives**

URP 531	The Social Life of Public Spaces
URP 552	Healthy Cities: Policy and Design
URP 553	Sustainable Urbanism and Architecture
URP 554	Liquid Planning
URP 555	Architect/Planner as Developer

### **Other Related Courses (optional)**

URP 520	Introduction to Geographic Information Systems
URP 521	Intermediate Geographic Information Systems
URP 529	History of Urban Form
URP 530	American Planning 1900-2000
URP 532	Sustainability and Social Change
URP 540	Land Use Planning and Development Management
URP 541	Urban Land Use Planning
URP 542	Environmental Planning
URP 544	Behavior and Environment (NRE 560)
URP 582	Neighborhood Planning
URP 591	Financing Real Estate Development
URP 592	Real Estate Essentials
ARCH 506/724	Theorizing Place
ARCH 563	Colonial/Post-Colonial Architecture and Urbanism
NRE 605	Green Construction and Design (BA 605)
CEE 532	Construction Management and Project Engineering

### **Additional Opportunities for Students in the Physical Planning and Urban Design Concentration**

*Hines Competition:* Sponsored by the Urban Land Institute, this annual project engages multidisciplinary student teams in proposing development concepts and financing. This project occurs in late January/early February each year. Team organization begins in the fall.

*Post-professional Master of Urban Design:* Students who want greater depth in urban design can apply for admission to the Urban Design Program after completing their MUP degree.

*Dual Degree in MArch/MUP Urban and Regional Planning Program:* Students who want much greater depth in architecture and structures can apply for admission to the Architecture Program and the dual degree program between Architecture and Urban Planning.

*Student-Initiated Dual Degree in Landscape Architecture (MLA) and MUP:* Students who are interested in site planning and design at a range of scale that consider the built and natural environment may apply for admission to the School of Natural Resources and Environment for admission to the Landscape Architecture Program (three year graduate program).

*Real Estate Development Certificate:* Design and development are closely intertwined. Students in the physical planning and design concentration will be encouraged to consider earning the real estate certificate in addition to the MUP.

Faculty associated with the Urban Design Concentration:

Larissa Larsen (Concentration Coordinator)

Maria Arquero de Alarcon

Robert Fishman

Douglas Kelbaugh

Kimberly Kinder

Kit McCullough (Architecture)

Roy Strickland (Architecture)

Paul Fontaine (Lecturer)

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## TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

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Movement has always been central to the economies and quality of life in cities and regions. The importance of connecting physically disparate locations spawned professions in transportation engineering and transportation planning in early 20<sup>th</sup>-century America, professions that were subsequently exported worldwide. Transportation planning has opened up previously inaccessible territory and distributed an unprecedented level of mobility throughout a broad range of society. At the same time, the transportation system's rapid growth has had serious societal, environmental, and economic side effects. The transportation professions have frequently treated mobility as inherently desirable, neglecting the fact that access, not movement, is what people seek in a transportation and land-use system.

The transportation planning concentration builds an interdisciplinary range of skills and perspectives in transportation planning, including understandings of transportation planning's societal roles, applied technical and evaluation skills, historical uses and misuses of transportation planning techniques, and the rich interdependencies between transportation planning and other areas of urban and regional planning.

Major themes in transportation planning include the interaction of transportation and land use planning, transportation needs of the poor, alternative approaches to public transit policy, the role of technology in improvement of transportation systems, transportation's role in environmental quality planning, and the intergovernmental and interjurisdictional dimensions of transportation problems.

The transportation planning concentration prepares students for professional work in transportation related organizations at local, regional and national levels, and in private planning/engineering firms that are engaged in transportation planning. Transportation planners develop transportation and traffic plans, forecast travel conditions, and prepare transportation demand management programs for their jurisdictions. At the broader level, transportation planners provide input into transportation policy questions, such as the relative benefits of alternative approaches to transit investment, pricing of public and private transportation, or innovative approaches to addressing needs in "welfare-to-work" transportation. New transportation technologies and institutions create opportunities that eventually change land use patterns. Conversely, new land use patterns change the burden on the transportation system and affect available transportation strategies. Transportation planners anticipate and plan for these interactions.

The concentration requires the completion of three courses, including the two foundational courses URP 560 and URP 561, and one techniques course in introductory Geographic Information Systems. Also recommended for students in the transportation planning concentration are URP 521 and an additional course from the list of Other Related Courses.

**Foundational Courses (both of the following required, can be taken in either order)**

URP 560            Transportation and Land Use Planning  
 URP 561            Transportation and Public Policy

**Techniques / Methods Courses (at least one GIS course required)**

URP 520            Introduction to Geographic Information Systems  
 URP 521            Intermediate Geographic Information Systems (prerequisite: URP 520 or NRE 531)  
 CEE 570            Introduction to Geostatistics (requires advanced math proficiency)  
 NRE 531            Principles of Geographic Information Systems (equivalent to URP 520)

**Other Related Courses (optional)**

URP 522            Collaborative Planning  
 URP 532            Sustainability and Social Change  
 URP 580            Metropolitan Structure  
 URP 582            Neighborhood Planning  
 URP 585            Economic Development Planning Methods  
 EHS 687            Air Quality Seminar  
 NRE 527            Energy Markets and Energy Politics  
 NRE 543            Environmental Spatial Data Analysis  
 NRE 550            Systems Thinking for Sustainable Development  
 NRE 570            Environmental Economics: Quantitative Methods and Tools  
 NRE 571            Environmental Economics (has prerequisites)  
 NRE 574            Sustainable Energy Systems  
 POLSCI 623        Proseminar in Municipal Problems  
 PUBPOL 519        Sustainable Energy Systems (NRE 574)  
 PUBPOL 558        Microeconomics B: Economic Decision-Making  
 PUBPOL 559        Accelerated Microeconomics  
 PUBPOL 564        Government Regulation of Industry and Environment  
 PUBPOL 569        Applied Regression Analysis  
 PUBPOL 573        Benefit Cost Analysis  
 PUBPOL 580        Values & Ethics  
 PUBPOL 585        Political Environment of Policy Analysis  
 PUBPOL 682        Leadership and Communications in State-level Policy  
 PUBPOL 686        State and Local Policy Analysis: Focus on Development Policy  
 PUBPOL 689        Equality in Public Policy  
 PUBPOL 718        Real World Sustainability  
 PUBPOL 723        Wealth Inequality and Public Policy  
 PUBPOL 724        Urban Politics  
 PUBPOL 726        Normative Theories of Taxation  
 PUBPOL 753        Fossil Fuel Use in the Age of Climate Change  
 PUBPOL 764        Topics in Transportation Policy

PUBPOL 765	Aviation and Public Policy
PUBPOL 775	The History of the Automobile
SOC 530	Social Demography
SOC 610	Statistical Methods
STAT 501	Applied Statistics II
STRAT 646	Solving Societal Problems Through Enterprise and Innovation

Some students complement their concentration in transportation planning by earning a Certificate in Spatial Analysis from the Rackham Graduate School.

Faculty associated with the Transportation Planning concentration:

Joe Grengs (Concentration Coordinator)  
Jonathan Levine

Others associated with the concentration:

Lidia Kostyniuk, University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute and Adjunct Professor of Urban and Regional Planning.

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## HOUSING, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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Healthy cities and regions need affordable housing; safe, vibrant and diverse neighborhoods; and good jobs and public services. The tasks are complex and challenging: reconciling affluence and equity; mobility and a sense of place; global markets and local traditions; retaining manufacturing jobs while embracing post-industrial digital technologies; providing housing as both a market commodity and a social need. Moreover, these various tasks work best if interconnected: housing integrated into the larger neighborhood; economic activity embedded into local communities; and equal partnerships between public and private actors.

The Housing, Community, and Economic Development (HCED) concentration takes on these challenges through planning for housing, neighborhoods, and the economic well being of a community and the larger region. The goals are to increase social and economic capital and improve the quality of life generally but particularly in low-income, minority and other disadvantaged communities.

Planners with this background work with local residents, neighborhood and community organizations, community development corporations, and nonprofit and for-profit housing developers, as well as for municipal, regional, state, and federal agencies and the private sector. Their work is directed toward securing decent, affordable housing; improving job opportunities; increasing safety; and restoring or maintaining community stability. They work for state departments of commerce or economic development, city departments and mayors' offices, and federal agencies to plan and implement development projects, strengthen tax base, improve employment opportunities, and enhance housing policy.

HCED is a broad concentration consisting of three tracks: housing; community development; and urban and regional economic development. HCED students may choose to specialize in one or more of these interrelated but distinctive tracks and do not need to take courses across all three areas. Students acquire knowledge of political, economic, and social systems that lead to urban growth and decline, low incomes, inadequate housing, unemployment, uneven development, deindustrialization, and poor neighborhoods. Students may further specialize in particular skills and techniques, such as: local and regional economic analysis; real estate finance and development; neighborhood planning; site planning; nonprofit management; public-private partnerships; and community participation (to facilitate an open planning process with people and organizations of multiple backgrounds and interests).

The concentration requires URP 580 (Metropolitan Structure) and recommends one additional foundational course and one technique/methods course, depending on the track.

### Foundational Courses

*Housing and Community Development Tracks (URP 580 required, plus one of the following recommended)*

URP 580	Metropolitan Structure ( <i>required</i> )
URP 581	Housing Policy and Economics
URP 582	Neighborhood Planning
URP 583	Race, Difference, and Social Justice

*Economic Development Track*

URP 580	Metropolitan Structure ( <i>required</i> )
URP 584	Introduction to Economic Development Planning

### Techniques / Methods Courses

*Housing Track (at least one of the following)*

URP 555	Architect/Planner as Developer
URP 591	Financing Real Estate Development
URP 592	Real Estate Essentials

*Community Development Track (at least one of the following)*

URP 522	Collaborative Planning
URP 523	Comparative Participatory Planning and Community Development

*Economic Development Track (at least one of the following)*

URP 585	Economic Development Planning Methods
MO 672	Leading Nonprofit Organizations
PUBPOL 639	Quantitative Methods of Program Evaluation
PUBPOL 686	State and Local Policy Analysis

### Other Related Courses (optional)

URP 522	Collaborative Planning
URP 525	Regional Planning
URP 532	Sustainability and Social Change
URP 533	Thinking about Crime
BE 570	Tax Policy and Business
SW 674	Community-Based Policy Advocacy
SW 650	Community Development
PUBPOL 580	Values, Ethics, and Public Policy
PUBPOL 587	Public Management
PUBPOL 671	Policy and Management in the Non-Profit Sector

PUBPOL 730	Women and Employment Policy
PUBPOL 756	Local Government: Opportunity for Activism
POLSCI 623	Proseminar in Municipal Problems
POLSCI 719	Racial Politics in the United States
BA 612	Business Strategies for the Base of the Pyramid
STRAT 646	Solving Societal Problems Through Enterprise and Innovation
SOC 530	Social Demography
SW 560	Community Organization, Management and Policy/Evaluation Practice
SW 647	Policies and Services to Enhance Community Participation and Well-Being
SW 663	Grantgetting, Contracting, and Fundraising
MO 512	Bargaining and Influence Skills

## Other Opportunities Related to Housing, Community, and Economic Development

### [Dual degree in Social Work and Urban and Regional Planning](#)

The student-initiated dual degree, M.U.P./M.S.W., enables students to study community planning in greater depth and to obtain two master's degrees in about three years of study.

### [Dual degree in Business Administration and Urban and Regional Planning](#)

The M.B.A./M.U.P. degree provides much more extensive background for students who would like to work in urban revitalization through business development or in real estate development.

### [Dual degree in Public Policy and Urban and Regional Planning](#)

The student-initiated dual M.U.P./M.P.P. degree provides the student with additional background for going into housing and economic development policy making at the state or the federal government levels.

### [Dual degree in Law and Urban and Regional Planning](#)

The J.D./M.U.P. degree prepares students for community development advocacy, affordable housing development, and other areas related to the concentration.

### [Graduate Certificate in Real Estate Development](#)

This program admits students who want to gain the background for implementing development ideas to create better neighborhoods, stronger cities, and better housing. Many of the urban planning students taking the certificate are concentrating in Housing, Community, and Economic Development.

### **The Non-Profit and Public Management Center**

Students may also want to take courses associated with this program that prepares students to work in nonprofits and in government. See <http://nonprofit.umich.edu/index.php>

Faculty associated with the Housing, Community, and Economic Development concentration:

Scott Campbell (Concentration Coordinator)  
 Lan Deng  
 Harley Etienne  
 Joe Grengs  
 Kimberly Kinder

Ana Paula Pimentel Walker  
David Thacher  
June Thomas  
Peter Allen (Lecturer)  
Eric Dueweke (Lecturer)  
Wendy Rampson (Lecturer)  
Barry Checkoway (Affiliated, School of Social Work)