Community Planning (CMPL)

Graduate Degree Program
College: Architecture

Abstract
The Urban Studies and Planning Program offers graduate study leading
to the Master of Community Planning (MCP) degree. (The School of
Architecture, Planning and Preservation, in which the MCP program is
located, offers a Ph.D. in Urban and Regional Planning and Design –
see URPD for details). The MCP Program is accredited by the Planning
Accreditation Board of the American Institute of Certified Planners and
the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning. Dual Masters degrees
in Planning and Architecture, Planning and Historic Preservation, and
Planning and Landscape Architecture are offered. There is a transfer of
credit agreement with the School of Law on the Baltimore campus as
part of a joint JD and MCP program. There is also a cooperative program
with the PhD program in Policy Sciences at the UMBC campus. Entering
students have diverse academic backgrounds, such as architecture, fine
arts, English, history, business, geography, sociology, economics, and
political science. The Program’s faculty specialize in metropolitan and
regional planning, housing, transportation planning, environmental and
land use planning, social policy, quantitative planning methods, urban
design, and economic development planning. Employment opportunities
remain strong for graduates in a highly competitive field. The Baltimore-
Washington metropolitan region offers diverse employment potential in
urban planning and program management in the public, private, and non-
profit sectors.

Financial Assistance
Aside from student loans through the university, MCP students are
eligible to apply for graduate assistantships with URSP and the National
Center for Smart Growth Research and Education. MCP applicants
who are also Peace Corps veterans are eligible to apply for the Shriver
Peaceworker fellowship program that is administered by the University
of Maryland Baltimore County. Please note that competition is high for
these financial awards. The program also maintains a list of internships,
and many of our students work in part- or full-time jobs while completing
the program. Program classes are scheduled to begin at 4:00 p.m. and
7:00 p.m. to accommodate our working students.

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Courses: URSP (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/courses/
ursp/)

Relationships: Architecture (ARCH) (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/
graduate/programs/architecture-arch/)

Admissions
General Requirements
• Statement of Purpose
• Transcript(s)
• TOEFL/IETS/PTE (international graduate students (https://
gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/english-language-proficiency-
requirements/))

Program-Specific Requirements
• Letters of Recommendation (3)
• Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
• CV/Resume

The application process consists of the following:
• First, fill out the on-line application for the University of Maryland
  Graduate School. The administrative code for the Community
  Planning program is ‘CMPL.’
• Second, submit all transcripts, three professional letters of
  recommendation, statement of purpose, resume, official GRE test
  scores, and portfolio as part of the application.

All applicants must have a bachelor’s degree from an accredited
institution. There is no restriction on the applicants’ previous field of
study, and indeed we encourage diversity in all senses

For more admissions information or to apply to the program, please visit
our Graduate School website: www.gradschool.umd.edu/admissions
(http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/)

Application Deadlines
Type of Applicant     Fall Deadline
Domestic Applicants
US Citizens and Permanent 15 Jan
Residents
International Applicants
F (student) or J (exchange visitor) 15 Jan
visas; A, E, G, H, I and L visas and
immigrants

Other Deadlines: Please visit the program website at http://
www.arch.umd.edu

Requirements
• Community Planning, Master of Community Planning (M.C.P)
  (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/community-
  planning-cmpl/community-planning-mcp/)

Facilities and Special Resources
The University of Maryland is an excellent location for the pursuit of
community planning, and graduate students are encouraged to take
advantage of the opportunities. The university is eight miles from the
incomparable library and research facilities of Washington, D.C. In the
nation’s capital, UMCP graduate students have access to, among
other resources, the Library of Congress, the specialized collections of
professional associations and international organizations, and agencies at all levels of government. The College Park campus is a 45-minute drive from Baltimore City, whose planning programs have gained national attention. At least two planning studio courses are offered each year, in either Baltimore, the Washington metropolitan area, or an international setting. Baltimore city and Washington, D.C. are ideal laboratories for students interested in research on urban issues and planning.

Urban Studies and Planning is one of five graduate degree programs in the University's School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation. The School administers the National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education, which involves faculty and graduate students from several campus units in: multi-disciplinary research on the fiscal, environmental and social impacts of alternative development patterns; evaluation of growth management strategies (with a focus on Maryland's Smart Growth programs); technical assistance to state agencies and local jurisdictions; and training programs for federal program managers and state and local officials.