

URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING MAJOR

Bachelor of Science Degree
Texas State University
Geography Advising Services



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For all faculty office locations, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, and office hours, as well as information about Geography Department people, programs, courses and activities, check the Texas State Geography Web Site at www.geo.txstate.edu and Bulletin Boards on ELA 1st and 3rd floors.

Major Description

Planning is a diverse profession, which draws upon fields of knowledge and technical skills closely related to geography. Urban and Regional Planning provides the means to evaluate and facilitate programs that benefit our neighborhoods, communities, cities, and regions. Population growth, economic development, transportation, education, public services, and the environment are a few of the essential factors evaluated by planners. Many of our graduates are employed as planners in Texas, as well as within other states and countries. Others have continued in graduate studies at Texas State or in other programs at the University of Texas or Texas A&M, as well as universities outside Texas. Check <http://www.geo.txstate.edu> for more information.

Pre-Major Requirements

Students who meet the university admission requirements enter the Department of Geography's undergraduate program as pre-majors. To become a major in geography, students must:

1. Complete GEO 1309 and/or GEO 1310, GEO 2410 & GEO 3301 with a minimum grade of C for each course.
2. Complete 45 or more credit hours with an overall minimum GPA of 2.5 for all courses.

Degree/Major Requirements

1. Students majoring in Urban and Regional Planning complete the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree.
2. The B.S. degree requires a minimum of 36 semester hours of geography with:
 - a) at least a 2.5 GPA for all geography courses attempted at Texas State University and
 - b) at least a 2.25 GPA for all courses taken at Texas State University.
3. The degree requires a minor area of study with a minimum of 18 semester hours.
4. Texas State requires a minimum of 128 semester hours of coursework to graduate including:
 - a) General Education Core requirements; b) major requirements; c) minor requirements; and
 - d) Additional elective courses selected from disciplines other than major or minor.
5. At least 39 semester hours must be advanced (3000 - 4000) level courses.
6. At least 9 semester hours must be writing intensive (WI).

Minor Requirements

Minor may be any approved Texas State minor. Students interested in entering the professional planning field are strongly advised however, to consider a minor in either Public Administration through the Department of Political Science, a minor in Business Administration, or a minor in Construction Technology through the Department of Technology. A Public Administration minor will assist the planning student in understanding the workings of the municipal government - where most land use planning decisions occur. A minor in Business Administration will help prepare students for management positions in the planning process. Courses from the Construction Technology minor include construction systems, site organization, building project estimating and architectural drafting - all important for planning and land-development careers. Other minors may be appropriate depending on career goals. Plan to discuss choice of minor as well as selection of elective courses with your advisor.

Optional Certificates

Geographic Information System (GIS) - The GIS Certificate requires completion of 16 hours:

GEO 2426 & (Choose one: GEO 2427 or GEO 3411 or GEO 3416) & GEO 4426 & GEO 4427 with a minimum grade of C for each course and an overall minimum GPA of 2.5 for all four courses. Additional course work beyond minimum degree/major requirements may be required for the certificate.

Water Resources Policy - The Water Resources Policy Certificate requires completion of 13 hours: GEO 3434, GEO 4313, GEO 4314 and GEO 4341 with a minimum grade of C for each course and an overall minimum GPA of 2.5 for all four courses. Additional course work beyond minimum degree/major requirements may be required for the certificate.

URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING MAJOR COURSE CHECKLIST

This checklist provides general guidelines only.

Refer to your catalog or consult with an academic advisor for degree requirement details.

Bachelor of Science: 36 Semester Hours Minimum

REQUIRED:

- _____ 1309 Introduction to Cultural Geography **and/or** 1310 World Geography
and
_____ 2410 Introduction to Physical Geography (Prerequisite: Math 1315)
and
_____ 3301 Quantitative Methods (Prerequisite: Math 1315)

CORE: The following courses are *required* (12 hours):

- _____ 3310 Urban Geography
_____ 3320 Community and Regional Planning
_____ 4321 Planning Methods and Procedures
_____ 4338 Land Use Planning

TECHNIQUES: Select *at least one* of the following courses (more hours are recommended)

- _____ 2426 Fundamentals of Geographic Information Systems
_____ 3411 Maps and Mapmaking
_____ 3416 Principles of Remote Sensing

ELECTIVES: Select from the following courses to finish your geography hours

- _____ 2310 Introduction to Environmental Geography
_____ 3134 Water Quality Monitoring (Prerequisite or Corequisite: GEO 3434)
_____ 3303 Economic Geography
_____ 3310 Urban Geography
_____ 3313 Natural Resource Use and Planning
_____ 3321 Energy Resource Management
_____ 3323 Location Analysis
_____ 3349 Population Geography
_____ 3353 American Ethnic Geography
_____ 3434 Water Resources (Prerequisite: GEO 2410)
_____ 4310 Regional Field Studies (check with advisor)
_____ 4313 Environmental Management (Prerequisite: GEO 2410)
_____ 4314 River Basin Management (Prerequisite: GEO 2410)
_____ 4316 Landscape Biogeography (Prerequisite: GEO 2410)
_____ 4336 Transportation Systems
_____ 4339 Environmental Hazards (Prerequisite: GEO 2410)
_____ 4350 Solid Waste Planning and Management (Prerequisite: GEO 2410)
_____ 4380 Internship in Geography (Strongly recommended, may be repeated once)
_____ 4430 Field Methods (Prerequisites: GEO 2410 and GEO 3301)

Regional Geography Electives (One course may be selected as an approved elective):

GEO 3306 (American South), GEO 3307 (Europe), GEO 3308 (Latin America), GEO 3309 (US & Canada), GEO 3328 (N. Africa & Middle East)
GEO 3329 (Texas), GEO 3332 (S & SE Asia) GEO 3333 (China and Japan), GEO 4306 (Southwest US), GEO 4328 (Russian Realm)

Consider joining Texas State's Student Planning Organization (SPO). Check bulletin board across the hall from ELA 139 for more information.

Steps to Graduation

1. Consult with an academic advisor or geography faculty member.
2. Declare intention to major in Geography with Department Academic Advisor, ELA 130.
3. Declare minor with Geography Department Academic Advisor.
4. Attend Group Advising Sessions (scheduled prior to advanced registration fall and spring semesters) and/or consult with major concentration advisor.
5. After completing 45 semester hours of coursework, apply for a Degree Audit with the Geography Department Academic Advisor.
6. After completing 90 semester hours of coursework, apply for a Degree Audit Summary with the College of Liberal Arts Academic Advisor, Flowers Hall 322.
7. Apply for graduation on-line during the first two weeks of the semester of graduation.

Check the American Planning Association (planning's professional membership organization)

Website at <http://www.planning.org> for lots of great career information.