

Urban Affairs and Planning  
School of Public and International Affairs  
College of Architecture and Urban Studies



# Master of Urban and Regional Planning



2008 Handbook

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## **MURP-Blacksburg and NCR**

- The Urban Affairs and Planning (UAP) program serves the university, students, and society through its instruction, research, and outreach activities in urban planning and public policy.
- The program applies an interdisciplinary, comparative, and applied approach to instruction and research in its two undergraduate degrees (B.A. in Public and Urban Affairs and B.S. in Environmental Policy and Planning), masters in Urban and Regional Planning (MURP), and doctoral program. The curricula of these programs rest on the premise that no single discipline or approach can explain the complexities of modern communities. In UAP, faculty with expertise in economics, geography, history, sociology, political science, planning, law, and engineering all work together to provide students with a coherent vision of how communities work and how to facilitate positive changes within them.
- The graduate program in Urban Affairs and Planning is provided in two locations: Blacksburg and Old Town Alexandria in the National Capital Region. The MURP program is accredited by the Planning Accreditation Board. Concentrations in the graduate program include land use and physical planning; environmental planning; housing, community, and economic development; and international development. Joint masters degrees are available with Landscape Architecture, Natural Resources, Public and International Affairs, and Public Administration. Graduate certificates are offered in Metropolitan Development and in Urban Design.
- Urban Affairs and Planning, along with the Center for Public Administration and Policy (CPAP) and Government & International Affairs (GIA), is one of three programs in the School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) within the College of Architecture and Urban Studies (CAUS) at Virginia Tech.

# Curriculum Requirements

## Foundations of Planning (9 credit hours)

UAP 5174	Theory and Practice of Planning ( 3)
UAP 5234	Urban Economy and Public Policy (3)
UAP 5554	Land Use and Planning Law (3)

## Analytical Methods (7 credit hours)

UAP 5224	Quantitative Techniques (4)
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Choose 1 of the following Courses for the remaining 3 credit hours

UAP 5494	Advanced Quantitative Techniques (3)
UAP 5484	Advanced Urban Research Methodology (3)
UAP 5114	Computer Applications in Planning (3)
UAP 5464	Qualitative Methods (3)
OR	Approved advanced methods course (3)

## Planning Applications (6 credit hours)

UAP 5124	Urban and Regional Planning Studio (3)
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Choose 1 of the following courses for the remaining 3 credit hours

UAP 5434	Urban Development Project Studio (3)
UAP 5764	International Development Studio (3)
UAP 5774	Economic Development Studio (3)
UAP 5794	Environmental Planning Studio (3)
OR	Equivalent course(3)

## Capstone Project (2-6 credit hours)

One of the following:

Thesis Option:

UAP 5994	Research and Thesis (6)
UAP 5464, or UAP 5484, or UAP 5494	As second Methods (3)

Major Paper Option:

UAP 5904	Project and Report (3)
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Practicum Option:

UAP 5804	Practicum Problem (2)
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Area of Specialty (20-24 credit hours)

Select from elective listings.

### Sequence of Graduate Courses

Year 1	Fall Semester: UAP 5174 UAP 5224 UAP 5554* 3 hours in area of specialization	Spring Semester: UAP 5124 UAP 5234 UAP 5494/5464/5114 3 hours in area of specialization
Year 2	Fall Semester: Specialty Studio 9 hours in area of specialization	Spring Semester: Thesis/Major Paper/ Practicum 9 hours in area of specialization

- International Students may postpone UAP 5554 to 2<sup>nd</sup> year.

## Areas of Specialization

Students may pursue four possible areas of specialization in the Master of Urban and Regional Planning program:

- Environmental Policy and Planning
- Land Use and Physical Development Planning
- Housing, Community, and Economic Development
- International Development Planning

Each student is expected to select at least one of the areas of specialization for his/her degree program. Detailed descriptions of possible MURP specializations follow. Students are encouraged to work with their advisors to determine an appropriate set of electives for their particular course of study and are free to consider courses not on these lists. Specific courses may be required, and several are identified as “Recommended Electives.”

# Environmental Planning and Policy Specialization

Goal: Provide students with the conceptual and analytical skills involved in planning and policy development for protection and enhancement of environmental quality.

Career Opportunities: Students in this area of concentration may pursue careers with local, regional, and state planning agencies; state and federal environmental agencies; public interest environmental groups; and private consultants.

Support Faculty:

UAP: Browder, Goldstein, Hirt, Randolph, Rich, Richardson, Zahm

LAR: Miller

Recommended Electives:

UAP 4374 Land Use and Environment: Planning and Policy  
UAP 4384 Pollution Control Planning and Policy  
UAP 4394 Community Renewable Energy Systems  
UAP 5414 Natural Resources Planning  
UAP 5794 Environmental Planning Studio

Environmental Land Analysis and Management

UAP 4184 Community Involvement  
UAP 4344 Law of Critical Environmental Areas  
UAP 5304 Land Use Planning  
UAP 5114 Computer Applications: GIS  
GEOG 4354 Introduction to Remote Sensing  
LAR 5044 Land Analysis and Site Planning

Pollution Prevention and Management

BSE 4324 Non-point Water Pollution  
CEE 4114 Public Health Engineering  
CEE 4144 Air Resources Engineering  
CEE 4594 Soil and Groundwater Pollution (prereq.)  
CEE 5114 Solid Waste Management

Natural Resources Management

UAP 4214 Women, Environment and Development in Global Perspective  
AAEC 5000 Environmental and Sustainable Development Economics  
CEE 4344 Water Resources Planning  
CEE 5364 Water Law  
FIW 5414 Endangered Species Management  
FOR 5484 Wilderness Management  
LAR 4084 Landscape Design and Planning Studio (Pre: LAR 3016 or permission)

# Land Use and Physical Development Planning Specialization

Goal: Provide students with skills that enable them to improve the quality of life of communities through the effective analysis, planning, and development of physical land use and related resources of their environment.

Career Opportunities: Students with this area of specialization will likely become physical planners qualified to discharge a wide variety of assignments in town, county, city, and regional planning agencies, with private consulting firms, and with non-profit corporations.

Support Faculty: Dawkins, Hirt, Koebel, Randolph, Richardson, Zahm

LAR: Jacobson

AAEC: Geyer

GEOG: Campbell, Cartstenson

Recommended Electives:

- UAP 4374 Land Use & Environment
- UAP 4854 Planning the Urban Infrastructure
- UAP 5104 Urban & Regional Development Theory
- UAP 5304 Land Use Planning
- UAP 5434 Urban Development Project Studio

Land Use Analysis & Geographic Information Systems

- UAP 5114 Computer Applications in Urban Planning and Management: GIS
- GEOG 4324 Algorithms in Geographic Information Systems
- GEOG 4354 Introduction to Remote Sensing
- GEOG 4384 The ARC/INFO Geographic Information System
- GEOG 5104 Seminar in GIS/Remote Sensing

Land Development & Real Estate

- UAP 4744 Principles of Real Estate & Development
- BC 5014 Management of Interdisciplinary Functions in Construction
- BC 5124 Land Development for Construction Facilities
- AAEC 4754 Real Estate Law
- AAEC 4764 Real Estate Appraisal
- FIN 4154 Real Estate Finance (consent)
- LAR 5044 Land Analysis & Site Planning

Land Use Planning

- UAP 4184 Community Involvement
- UAP 4344 Law of Critical Environmental Areas
- UAP 5194 Urban Growth Management
- UAP 5314 Social Analysis of Land Use Planning

### Urban Design

LAR	4084	Landscape Design & Planning Studio (Pre: LAR 3016 or permission)
LAR	4234	Theory & Practice of Urban Design

### Infrastructure Planning

UAP	4394	Community Renewable Energy Systems
UAP	5984	Urban Transportation Planning
CEE	5624	Transportation & Land Use
CEE/UAP	5644	Transportation Systems Planning
CPAP	5984	Transportation Policy

## Housing, Community, and Economic Development Specialization

Goal: Provide students with the background knowledge, analytical perspectives, and methodological skills that will enable them to assist effectively in the development and implementation of public and private policies relating to socio-economic development at the local, metropolitan, and regional scales.

Career Opportunities: Students who complete this area of concentration can expect to be specialist planners who focus on community and economic development policies and issues with general planning agencies; with specialized economic development, community development and redevelopment organizations; and with private development corporations and consulting firms.

### Support faculty:

Knox, Koebel, Mayer, Stephenson

### Recommended Electives:

UAP	4184	Community Involvement
UAP	5104	Urban & Regional Development Theory
UAP	5164	Collaborative Processes & Civil Society
UAP	5774	Economic Development Studio
UAP	5784	Local Economic Development Planning
UAP	5714	Community Building Seminar

### Economic Development

UAP	4224*	Policy Making in the Federal System (*Not approved for graduate credit)
UAP	4744	Principles of Real Estate & Development
AAEC	5224	Rural Development
ECON	6054	Economic Development

### Community Development

UAP	4244	Non-Profit Organization & Management
UAP	4304	Non-Profit Organization Leadership & Management
UAP	5244	The Multicultural City
UAP	5314	Social Analysis of Land Use Planning
UAP	5604	Housing Policy
SOC	5514	Perspectives on Community

### Housing Planning & Policy

UAP	4744	Principles of Real Estate & Development
UAP	4854	Planning the Urban Infrastructure
UAP	5604	Housing Policy
AHRM	4604	Housing Design, Energy & Environment
AHRM	4664	Universal Design
AHRM	5604	Advance Family Housing
AHRM	5624	Housing & Government
AHRM	6605	Housing for Special Groups

## International Development Planning Specialization

Goal: The international development planning concentration provides graduate training in theory, methods, and skills within a multidisciplinary framework needed to prepare students for effective planning work in developing countries.

Career Opportunities: Planning students who specialize in this area may pursue professional careers in public and private agencies concerned with urban, rural and regional development, international lending institutions, non-profit organizations, advocacy groups, private business, or universities and consulting firms engaged in international development planning and policy.

### Support Faculty:

Browder, Dunaway, Hirt, Knox, Stephenson

### Recommended Electives:

UAP	4764	International Development Planning and Policy
UAP	5364	NGOs and Development
UAP	5384	Infrastructure Planning in the Third World
GIA	5525	Critical Issues in International Development
UAP	5764	International Development Planning Studio

### Urban, Regional, & Rural Development

UAP	4184	Community Involvement
UAP	5104	Urban & Regional Development Theory

AAEC 5154 International Agri Development & Trade  
PSCI 5434 Politics of Developing Areas

#### Environmental & Natural Resource Management

UAP 4214 Women, Environment & Development in Global Perspective  
UAP 4344 Law of Critical Environmental Areas  
UAP 4374 Land Use & Environment: Planning & Policy  
UAP 5414 Natural Resources Planning  
AAEC 4304 Environmental & Sustainable Development Economics  
BSE 4394 Water Supply & Sanitation in Developing Countries  
GEOG 4204 Geography of Resources  
GEOG 5204 Geography of Third World Development

#### Public Management in Development

UAP 4244 Non-profit Organization & Management  
UAP 4304 Nonprofit Organization, Leadership & Governance  
UAP 4284 Environment, Politics & Planning: Comparative Applied Political Ecology  
UAP 4714 Economics & Financing of State & Local Governments  
UAP 4724 Capital Budgeting  
UAP 5474 Program Evaluation  
UAP 5514 Public Budgeting & Management  
UAP 5544 Public & Non-profit Financial Management

## Peace Corps/Masters International Program

MURP students have the opportunity to participate in the Peace Corps' Masters International Program (MIP). Upon acceptance to both programs, students spend one year in the graduate program, then undertake a Peace Corps assignment in which they integrate both their experience and graduate study, followed by a return to campus for two semesters to finish the degree.

Students enroll in the Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree with a focus on international development and non-profit organization and management. Students can take other courses in environmental planning and policy, economic and community development, physical development, or social planning and policy (housing, health).

#### ADMISSION

Prospective students apply to both Virginia Tech's Graduate School and the Peace Corps separately, indicating the MIP program in both applications. To ensure timely processing of application materials students should have submitted all of the required application materials to the Peace Corps before arriving on campus for their first semester. Given the normal Peace Corps placement cycle, new MIP students are strongly encouraged to begin their graduate studies in the Fall Semester.

While prospective MIP students who meet admission requirements for the graduate degree programs in Urban Affairs and Planning will be admitted into the program with the expectation that they will serve a full two-year term in the Peace Corps, the approval of applications for field service are made entirely by the Peace Corps. Students admitted to the graduate program who do not receive Peace Corps field service invitations may complete their graduate studies as any other graduate student.

#### MASTERS INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM CURRICULUM:

Year 1: at Virginia Tech (all courses 3 credit hours unless noted)

Fall Semester: 14 credit hours

- UAP 4764 International Development Planning & Policy
- UAP 5174 Theory & Practice of Planning
- UAP 5224 Research Methods in Planning & Policy (4 hrs)
- Electives (2-4 hrs)

Spring Semester: 12 credit hours

- UAP 4244 Nonprofit Organization & Management
- UAP 5124 Urban & Regional Planning Studio
- UAP 5364 NGOs & Development
- UAP 5764 International Development Studio

Year 2-3: on Peace Corps assignment: Up to 4 credit hours

- UAP 5924 Peace Corps Enrollment (0 hrs; placeholder class)
- UAP 5974 Independent Study (up to 4 hrs)

Year 4: at Virginia Tech

Fall Semester: Up to 12 credit hours

- UAP 5554 Land Use Law
- UAP 5804/5904/5994 Practicum, Project/Report, or Thesis (3-6 hrs)
- UAP 5964 Field Study (4 hrs)

Spring Semester: Up to 12 credit hours

- UAP 5234 Urban Economy and Public Practice
- UAP 5804/5904/5994 Practicum, Project/Report, or Thesis (3-6 hrs)
- Electives (3-6 hrs)

## Program of Study

To be eligible for graduation, all students must file a Program of Study no later than the end of the semester prior to the proposed graduation date. However, students and their advisors should begin drafting their Program of Study in their first semester, and have a draft program on file at pre-registration during the second semester. Students should complete a Program of Study form, which is available on the UAP website or in the UAP department office. Programs of Study must be signed by all of the appropriate faculty members before being submitted to the UAP department office.

MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS  
FOR MASTERS' DEGREES

In developing your program of study you must adhere to the following requirements:

4000-level courses (grad credit) Maximum hours.....	18
5000-level courses *Minimum.....	21
4984, 5974, & 5984 courses ** Maximum.....	9
Project and Report (5904) Maximum.....	3
Practicum (5804) Maximum.....	2
Research & Thesis (5994) Maximum.....	6
Total Hours.....	36
* Does not include 5804, 5904, 5994	
**A maximum of nine hours of independent study courses and a maximum of nine hours of special study courses, with the total for both independent study and special study of no more than 12 hours, may be used on the plan of study.	

# Capstone Projects

All students must successfully complete a thesis, major paper, or practicum. Student work on the capstone project will be directed by a student committee consisting of: Thesis (3 faculty members with two members-including chairperson-from UAP), Major Paper (2 faculty members with Chair from UAP; the Program Chair must also sign the Graduate School examination form), Practicum (1 faculty member with the signature of the Chairperson from UAP as lone reader; Program Chair and School Director must also sign the Graduate School examination form). Theses must be submitted electronically to the Graduate School and conform to its guidelines. Major papers and practicum reports are submitted electronically to the UAP Program Chair.

While a specific schedule and details related to completion of degree requirements will be established by each student's committee chair, there are certain general expectations which are outlined here. For a more detailed description of the capstone project process, including relevant deadlines and milestones, see the flow charts including in the graduate section of the UAP department website.

## THE PRACTICUM (2 HRS)

The practicum provides graduating students with an opportunity to demonstrate their grasp of general concepts, principles, skills, and techniques in planning, policy analysis or public management by executing a task typical of professional practice in these areas. Students selecting this option should enroll in UAP 5804 – Practicum Problem.

The student completing a practicum is expected to demonstrate his/her ability to:

1. define and assess a problem;
2. design an appropriate work program to address the problem; and
3. perform the work described in the work program.

## THE THESIS (6 HRS)

The thesis presents the results of a well defined and original research effort that involves either:

1. the analysis of primary or secondary data sources (an example of a primary source would be the statistical analysis of the results of a questionnaire you designed and mailed to a set of state economic development agencies, a secondary source would be a statistical analysis of HUD Housing Survey data in an innovative way);
2. the analysis of primary or secondary document sources (an example of a primary document source would be a set of municipal ordinances relating to economic development which you collect and analyze, a secondary source would be a set of such sources collected by someone else but which you analyze in an innovative way);
3. the analysis of primary or secondary ethnographic sources (an example of a primary ethnographic sources is a set of interviews with city planning directors whom you

- interview personally, a secondary source would be a set of interviews someone else collected but which you interpret in your own original way); or
4. the use of another academically legitimate analytical technique (such as history, jurisprudence, philosophy) with approval and guidance of your thesis advisor and your committee.

Students selecting this option should enroll in UAP 5994 - Research & Thesis.

#### THE MAJOR PAPER (3 HRS)

The major paper can be considered a “scaled-down” thesis. It does not necessarily involve formal analysis of primary sources. Instead, the major paper may consist of a case study or a comprehensive review of the theoretical literature related to a specific policy, planning, methodological issue or technique. The exact nature of the activities reported in a major paper will be approved by a student’s committee, and should be reflected in a written proposal signed by committee members and the Program Chair. Students selecting this option should sign up for UAP 5904 - Project & Report.

## CERTIFICATES/ JOINT DEGREE PROGRAMS

<p><b>Certificates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graduate Certificate in Watershed Management</li> <li>• Graduate Certificate in Race and Social Policy</li> <li>• Graduate Certificate in Non-profit and Non-governmental Organization and Management.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Dual Degree Programs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dual Degree MLA/MURP</li> <li>• Dual Degree MPA/MURP</li> <li>• Dual Degree MNR/MURP</li> </ul> <p>In departments outside of SPIA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geospatial Information Technology (GEOG)</li> <li>• Infrastructure Systems (CEE)</li> <li>• Intermodal Transportation Planning and Analysis (ENG)</li> <li>• Construction Engineering and Management (BC/ENG)</li> <li>• International Research and Development</li> <li>• Natural Resources</li> <li>• Solid Waste Management</li> <li>• Transportation Policy</li> </ul>
<p>For more information, see:</p> <p><a href="http://www.grads.vt.edu/academics/programs/certificates.html">www.grads.vt.edu/academics/programs/certificates.html</a></p>	

## Graduation Procedures

1. Schedule Final Exam or Final Defense: A “Request to Admit Candidate to Final Exam” form may be obtained online from the Graduate School website. Once completed, it is to be returned to the Graduate School *not later than two weeks prior* to the date of the examination to permit a complete clerical review and to ensure that all degree requirements have been satisfied. All graduate students must schedule a final exam or final defense. When the exam request is submitted, the ETD archiving fee (\$20.00) is assessed to the student’s account if the student chooses the thesis option.
2. Application for Degree: Electronically submit Application for Degree (AFD) and/or Application for Certificate Conferral (ACC) online using Hokie SPA by deadline. An AFD fee will be assessed to the student’s account when the application is submitted. If the student does not apply for a degree on time, his/her name will not appear in the Commencement bulletin and there will be a delay in receiving a diploma.
3. Submission of Final Electronic Thesis/Dissertation (ETD): Students have two weeks after the date of the exam to submit the electronic copy of the thesis, dissertation, project or paper to the Graduate School office (see Graduate School ETD instructions: <http://etd.vt.edu>). If additional time is needed, the Advisor will need to submit a request in writing to the Dean of the Graduate School indicating the reason and date to be submitted.
4. Record Review: All students (especially non-thesis masters) should plan to stop by the Programs and Clearances office to verify that all records are complete before leaving campus.
5. Defending Student Status (1 hour): Students not registered for classes during the semester of their defense must register at the Programs and Clearances office in the Graduate School under GRAD 6864. The advisory committee chair’s signature is required on the form. To be eligible for registration as a defending student, the degree candidate should have completed all course and degree requirements including writing of the capstone product. Further, she/he needs to schedule and pay for the defense before the academic term begins and take their exam during the first twenty class days of the semester. Exceptions to this requirement, such as inability to get the advisory committee together, must be requested on the form used for defending student registration and certified by the advisory committee chair’s signature. Please note that this fee is non-refundable.
6. Completing Between Semesters: Students who are defending or taking a final exam between semesters can qualify to be a graduate of the earlier semester if they were enrolled during the earlier (previous) semester and have completed all requirements by the deadline for the earlier (previous) semester. Permission to defend or complete degree requirements between semesters requires a dean’s approval. Master’s candidates finishing degree requirements, as listed above, are welcome to attend fall and spring commencement.

For more information on graduation procedures, see [www.grads.vt.edu/academics/dates\\_deadlines/commencement\\_deadlines.html](http://www.grads.vt.edu/academics/dates_deadlines/commencement_deadlines.html), or contact 231-5078 or 231-9558.

# Student Advising

The faculty members in UAP take their teaching and advising responsibilities seriously. Any faculty member will be available for either academic or career advising by appointment.

## ASSIGNMENT OF ADVISORS AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Upon entrance into the program, all first year students are assigned an interim advisor by the Program Chair. Assignments are made on the basis of student academic interests as stated in their application as well as faculty advising loads. Students should take the opportunity to introduce themselves to their advisor and meet with them sometime early in their first semester to begin preliminary planning for their program of study. If a student eventually wishes to change advisors, this may be done simply by:

- Obtaining approval from the new advisor,
- Notifying the old advisor, and
- Notifying the Program Chair of the change.

During spring semester of the first year, students should work with their advisor to establish their capstone project advisory committee. Committee membership varies depending upon the form of capstone project a student selects (see “Capstone Projects” on p. 12). Final membership must be approved by the Program Chair.

Before the Program of Study is signed by the advisory committee, changes in the composition of the committee may occur following the procedure for changing advisors outlined above. After the Program of Study is signed, committee changes are made with the Graduate School “Change of Committee” form requiring signatures of both old and new members and the Program Chair. This form may be obtained from the UAP department main office.

### Advising Requirements

All graduate students in UAP must:

1. Have an advisor assigned in their first semester. Students should meet with their advisors early in the semester.
2. Have an advisory committee appointed by the first semester of their 2<sup>nd</sup> year.
3. File a program of study by the end of the fall semester of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year.
4. File a form to take the final oral examination for their thesis, major paper, or practicum during the last semester of their 2<sup>nd</sup> year.
5. File an application for degree (available online) in the last semester of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year by March 1.

# Internships

For-credit and not-for-credit internship placements are an important part of the pre-professional experience and are highly encouraged. Students in the master of urban and regional planning degree program may receive up to three hours of credit for successful completion of an internship placement. The internship coordinator assists in locating internship opportunities and distributing information about their availability, but the student is responsible for acquiring the position.

General requirements when an internship is to be taken for course credit:

1. Students must be in good academic standing (GPA 3.0 or higher.)
2. Students must attend an internship orientation session prior to enrolling for credit.
3. The student, the sponsor/supervisor and the internship coordinator enter into an internship agreement that defines the duties and responsibilities of the position and establishes objectives relative to student learning and/or skill development. In general, the internship experience should be:
  - consistent with the student's professional goals;
  - related to the major program of study; and
  - integrated into full range of activities and responsibilities of the organization.
4. The internship must provide the student an opportunity to engage in independent professional work. Clerical work is not acceptable.
5. Credit for internships is based on total hours worked. The policy is 60 hours of work equals one hour of credit, with a maximum of 3 credit hours for the internship. Students must enroll in the appropriate number of credits during the time of the internship placement (e.g., summer credits for summer work).
6. Each student submits a portfolio of work to the coordinator for the final grade. The portfolio includes:
  - examples of work completed during the internship, with a description of the intern's role/responsibility relative to the final product/deliverable; and
  - a reflective essay assessing preparedness for the internship, learning achieved during the internship, relationship to personal and professional background, goals, etc., and any needs identified (relative to future coursework).

A site supervisor's evaluation will constitute a small portion of the grade (~10-15%).

If any of the work the student completes is confidential so that he/she can not produce copies for review by the coordinator, the intern and the coordinator will agree on a proxy for that particular requirement.

# Student Organizations

## CAPITAL AREA STUDENT PLANNING ASSOCIATION (CASPA)

The Capital Area Student Planning Association (CASPA) serves as a student organization for the Urban Affairs and Planning program at Virginia Tech's Alexandria campus. CASPA's committees are: Curriculum/Faculty Liaising, Social Activities/Lectures, Volunteering, Mentoring/Job Listings/Alumni, and website maintainance.

The organization aims to provide a creative and professionally forum for the program's graduate students to facilitate dialogue and friendship, while also providing resources and support from the university, faculty, and the public and private sectors to help students reach their academic and professional goals. Ultimately, the organization serves as the "voice" for students in the UAP program. CASPA representatives attend faculty meetings offering input on the curriculum. Social activities, often paired with lectures, are held on campus or in the D.C. Metropolitan area.

## GRADUATE URBAN AFFAIRS & PLANNING ASSOCIATION (GUAPA)

Students in Urban Affairs and Planning, Blacksburg, have an active organization, the Graduate Urban Affairs and Planning Association (GUAPA), which maintains links with professional organizations at the local, state, and national levels and is the liaison between the students and the faculty on departmental issues. GUAPA elects student representatives for the following:

- Faculty meetings
- UAP curriculum committee
- UAP visiting speakers committee
- Alumni committee
- State Chapter of the American Planning Association
- University and College student committees

GUAPA sponsors a speakers series for UAP students. Professionals from the local area are invited to present their perspectives on issues germane to the planning and policy fields. GUAPA also organizes social activities for graduate students, including parties, athletic teams, and various outdoor events.

## AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION (APA)

Full-time students interested in planning are eligible to join APA at a reduced cost. The APA will be offering free membership to first-year planning students. When submitting a membership form, students must remember to also join the local APA chapter, either the Virginia Chapter, or the National Capital Area Chapter.

## OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

There are a number of graduate student organizations on campus that seek to help students successfully complete their course of study and integrate them into campus life. The Graduate Student Assembly ([www.gsa.uusa.vt.edu](http://www.gsa.uusa.vt.edu)) represents the interests of graduate students on campus. Election to that body is through the college. The Cranwell

Center serves as the headquarters of the International Student Organization on campus. For those interested, there are also numerous social, athletic, political and academic societies and clubs on campus. A list of student groups is available from the Student Affairs Office.

## Faculty

- James R. Bohland, Professor, and Executive Director, Virginia Tech Northern Virginia Operations. Ph.D. (geography), Georgia. Research Methods, information technology and society, health policy and planning. (540-231-5517, [jayjon@vt.edu](mailto:jayjon@vt.edu))
- John O. Browder, Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Ph.D. (planning), Pennsylvania. International development, Latin American development, environmental planning, planning theory. (540-231-6217, [browder@vt.edu](mailto:browder@vt.edu))
- Casey Dawkins, Assistant Professor and Director, Center for Housing Research. Ph.D. (planning), Georgia Tech. Research methods, growth management, land use and diversity. (540-231-2690, [dawkins@vt.edu](mailto:dawkins@vt.edu))
- Bruce Goldstein, Assistant Professor. Ph.D. (planning), UC-Berkeley. Environmental planning, biodiversity, collaboration. (540-231-7507, [brugo@vt.edu](mailto:brugo@vt.edu))
- Sonia Hirt, Assistant Professor. Ph.D. (urban and regional planning), Michigan. Land use policy and planning, environmental planning, sustainable metropolitan development, urban design, physical planning, urban governance, international planning. (540-231-7509, [shirt@vt.edu](mailto:shirt@vt.edu))
- Paul L. Knox, University Distinguished Professor, College of Architecture and Urban Studies. Ph.D. (geography), Sheffield, U.K. Urban social policy, comparative urbanization, urban service delivery. (540-231-6416, [knox@vt.edu](mailto:knox@vt.edu))
- C. Theodore Koebel, Professor, UAP; Senior Associate, Center for Housing Research. Ph.D. (planning and development), Rutgers. Housing, urban, regional development. (540-231-0412, [tkoebel@vt.edu](mailto:tkoebel@vt.edu))
- Robert Lang, Associate Professor and Director, Metropolitan Institute. Ph.D. (sociology), Rutgers University. Suburban studies, world cities, demographic and spatial analysis, housing and the built environment, and metropolitan governance. (703-706-8101, [rlang@vt.edu](mailto:rlang@vt.edu))
- Heike Mayer, Assistant Professor, Acting Associate Chair and Acting Director, NCR. Ph.D. (urban studies), Portland State. Economic development, regional economy, community development. (703-706-8122, [heikem@vt.edu](mailto:heikem@vt.edu))

- John Randolph, Professor and Chair, Urban Affairs and Planning. Ph.D. (civil engineering), Stanford. Environmental planning, natural resources, energy planning. (540-231-6971, [energy@vt.edu](mailto:energy@vt.edu))
- Jesse J. Richardson, Jr., Associate Professor, J.D., Virginia. Land use law, environmental law. (540-231-7508, [jessej@vt.edu](mailto:jessej@vt.edu))
- Max Stephenson, Jr., Associate Professor and Director, Institute for Policy & Governance. Ph.D. (government), Virginia. Public policy, public management, non-profit organizations and management. (540-231-7340, [mstephen@vt.edu](mailto:mstephen@vt.edu))
- Kris Wernstedt, Associate Professor. Ph.D. (city and regional planning), Cornell University. Environmental planning, management, and policy, with emphases on contaminated properties and water resources. (703-706-8132, [krisw@vt.edu](mailto:krisw@vt.edu))
- Diane L. Zahm, Associate Professor, Associate Chair, and Undergraduate Director. Ph.D. (environmental science), SUNY Syracuse. Land use, physical planning, design and crime prevention. (540-231-7503, [dzahm@vt.edu](mailto:dzahm@vt.edu))

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- Minnis Ridenour, Adjunct Professor. M.S., Tennessee. Public and non-profit financial management. (540-231-6235, [ridem@vt.edu](mailto:ridem@vt.edu))
- Alan W. Steiss, Adjunct Professor. Ph.D. (planning), Wisconsin. Public budgeting and finance, policy management, strategic planning. ([asteiss@vt.edu](mailto:asteiss@vt.edu))

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- Wilma Dunaway, Associate Professor. Ph.D., University of Tennessee. Globalization, world political economy, women and development. (540-231-5177, [wdunaway@vt.edu](mailto:wdunaway@vt.edu))
- Randy Dymond, Associate Professor, CGIT Director. Ph.D. (civil engineering), Penn State. Geographic Information Systems (GIS). (540-231-9023, [dymond@vt.edu](mailto:dymond@vt.edu))
- Richard Rich, Professor and Director, Ctr. Environmental & Energy Studies. Ph.D., Indiana University. Environmental policy, public policy analysis, urban ecology, citizen participation, and research methods. (540-231-5323, [urban@vt.edu](mailto:urban@vt.edu))

- Joyce Rothschild, Professor. Ph.D. (sociology), University of California, Santa Barbara. Economy and jobs policy, cooperative workplaces and community development. (540-231-5426, joycer@vt.edu)

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- John W. Dickey, Emeritus Professor of UAP and CPAP. Ph.D. (transportation), Northwestern. Transportation planning, computer applications, developing countries. (jdickey@vt.edu)
- Robert G. Dyck, Emeritus Professor. Ph.D. (public and international affairs), Pittsburgh. International development, regional planning, environmental health. (bobdyck@vt.edu)
- Patricia K. Edwards, Emeritus Dean and Professor. Ph.D. (sociology), Virginia Tech. Urban sociology, survey and evaluation research, policy analysis. (edwardsp@vt.edu)
- John M. Levy, Emeritus Professor. Ph.D. (urban public policy), NYU. Urban planning, urban economics, economic development. (levy@vt.edu)

## Frequently Asked Questions

1. WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME AS A GRADUATE STUDENT AND/OR GA?  
For more information on expectations for Graduate study, the Graduate Honor System, principles of community, and the Code of Student conduct, visit [www.grads.vt.edu/academics/expectations](http://www.grads.vt.edu/academics/expectations).
2. WHERE CAN I FIND A LIST OF GRADUATE COURSES?  
The graduate catalog is online at [www.grads.vt.edu/academics/gcat/index.html](http://www.grads.vt.edu/academics/gcat/index.html).
3. WHERE CAN I GET HELP FINDING A JOB? Students can visit Virginia Tech's Career Services office at the Career Services Building (at the corner of Washington Street and West Campus Drive), as well as its website: [www.career.vt.edu](http://www.career.vt.edu). Job announcements are also posted on the program's bulletin boards in the Architecture Annex.
4. CAN I RECEIVE A GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP (GA)? Decisions made concerning financial aid are made solely on the basis of merit (academic performance). GAs are awarded on the recommendation of the Program for 5, 10, 15, or 20 hours. Two stipend levels are used by UAP for GAs: Step 5 for students with less than 24 hours of course work completed and Step 6 for students with 24 hours or more of completed course work. All GA students also receive a tuition scholarship proportional to their GA support (10-hour GAs receive a half tuition scholarship, 20-

hour GAs receive a full tuition scholarship). For more information on financial matters such as assistantships and stipend amounts, visit [www.grads.vt.edu/financial/assistantships/index.html](http://www.grads.vt.edu/financial/assistantships/index.html).

5. TO WHOM DOES THE “OUT-OF-STATE TUITION WAVER” APPLY?  
Graduate students who earn more than \$4000 an academic year on assistantship appointments qualify for this waiver. Students must also be enrolled full-time (12 hours).
  
6. CAN I RECEIVE OTHER FORMS OF FINANCIAL AID? Financial aid information is available at [www.grads.vt.edu/financial/financial\\_aid](http://www.grads.vt.edu/financial/financial_aid). Information about other sources of financial aid is available at the Council of Graduate Schools website ([www.cgsnet.org](http://www.cgsnet.org)).
  
9. WHERE CAN I FIND OUT TUITION & FEES FOR THE CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR?  
Current tuition and fee rates are listed at the University Bursar’s website: ([www.bursar.vt.edu/tuition/index.php](http://www.bursar.vt.edu/tuition/index.php)).
  
7. HOW DO I APPLY FOR ADMISSIONS TO VIRGINIA TECH? Students may apply online or download a paper application at [www.grads.vt.edu](http://www.grads.vt.edu). Applicants are required to submit the application along with two copies of their transcripts (one sent to the Graduate School and one sent directly to UAP), Official GRE (and TOEFL for international applicants) scores from ETS, three recommendations sent to UAP, and a resume and personal statement (applicants may use the space provided in the online application to submit these). Although the department accepts applications on a rolling basis, assistantship decisions are made by March 1. Students who wish to be considered for an assistantship are encouraged to submit their applications before that time. For more information, visit the Graduate School and UAP websites or call (540) 231-5485.
  
8. DO YOU HAVE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS TO BE ACCEPTED INTO THE PROGRAM?  
The minimum qualifications are: 1) 3.1 GPA, 2) a cumulative GRE score of 1100, and 3) a total TOEFL score of 213 (550 of paper-based tests) (not required of U.S. permanent residents and U.S. naturalized citizens). Although these are the stated minimums, the admissions committee looks at the overall application rather than individual elements.

**OTHER LINKS:**

Information for new graduate students: [www.grads.vt.edu/admitted](http://www.grads.vt.edu/admitted)

International Graduate Student Services: see [grads.vt.edu/international](http://grads.vt.edu/international)