



Planning

Department of Environmental Studies and Planning
Sonoma State University
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Beginning Your Career in Planning

The pre-professional Planning program is intended to provide the knowledge and skills for entry-level positions in urban, rural, environmental, regional and private-sector planning. It also is designed to prepare students for graduate-level education in these or other related professions, including law.

Planning is a relatively new field of study, having emerged only in the past seventy years in response to pressing environmental, economic and social concerns. From its early focus on city beautification, the field has broadened considerably and now addresses such diverse issues as earthquake and flood hazard avoidance, growth management, housing for low income and elderly persons, transit system development, farmland preservation, environmental impact assessment, job creation, community-wide energy conservation, commercial district revitalization and historic preservation, to name just a few. Planners are called upon to creatively solve current problems, to anticipate future problems and develop effective methods to help avoid them, and to assist communities in achieving their desired goals for the future.

Sonoma State University's Professional Planning Program

Students who select the professionally-oriented and California State University-approved Planning Emphasis in the Department of Environmental Studies and Planning fulfill General Education requirements during the first two years. It is common for many students to change majors and enter the Planning program at the Junior level. A typical situation is a student who enrolls at SSU or at a junior college in another major "discovers" Planning as a possible interesting career and major during his or her Freshman or Sophomore years, and transfers into the program. Students entering the program early in their college careers may take some of the required introductory planning courses during their Freshman or Sophomore years. Those transferring from within SSU or from other universities or junior colleges after their sophomore year usually can complete the scheduled sequence of courses in two years, or may require additional time as work schedules or other commitments dictate. Many of the planning courses are offered late in the day or at night.

The Planning program contains six unique elements which add to the student's personal and professional development. The first is an environmental perspective which focuses on a general understanding of environmental systems and the effects of human activities on such systems. The second is a solid grounding in land use and environmental law. Third, the program stresses practical problem-solving skills which are useful in a wide variety of career directions. Fourth, all Planning students complete a year-long Comprehensive Planning Workshop sequence during their Senior years. The ENSP 411A-B courses simulate as closely as possible the type of research, plan making, proposal implementation and public presentation experience which many will encounter early in their professional careers. This sequence serves as a focus for application of knowledge acquired in other planning courses. Fifth, all planning students participate in a Senior Seminar prior to graduation, to help them prepare for the job market. Finally, most students complete an internship with a local public planning agency or private consulting firm working under the supervision of a professional planner. Internship placement provides students with a unique learning experience in a professional setting.

Environmental Studies and Planning

The Department of Environmental Studies and Planning (ENSP) has provided an inter-disciplinary program at Sonoma State University since 1972. The Department offers students excellent preparation for the future--in society, in career and in personal fulfillment. It enjoys a strong and unique identity in itself while supporting and drawing upon the overall liberal arts and sciences offerings of the University as a whole. Four professionally-oriented study plans are offered for the Baccalaureate degree. Additionally, students may pursue a double major with other departments at SSU. Those interested in a double major must be accepted and advised by both departments. A popular double major is with the Department of Economics, and has a unique set of requirements. A copy of the flyer describing these may be obtained by contacting either department.

Institute for Community Planning Assistance

ENSP sponsors the Institute for Community Planning Assistance (ICPA). The Institute contracts with public agencies to conduct needed studies and surveys. Students with senior standing may be hired to work and gain valuable experience on one of the Institute's many community service projects.

Check our website: www.sonoma.edu/ensp/

Other ENSP Study Plans include Education and the Environment • Energy Management and Design • Environmental Conservation and Restoration • Outdoor Leadership • Planning Concentration • Water Quality and Hazardous Materials Management

Planning Study Plan

REQUIRED COURSEWORK FOR THE B.A. DEGREE (45 - 49 UNITS)

ENSP Basic Requirements	4	Planning Skills	3-4
		(at least one course)	
ENSP 201 Environmental Forum	1	ENSP 416 Environmental Planning	3-4
ENSP 490 Senior Project	3	ENSP 418 Planning for Sustainable Communities	3
or 499 Internship		ENSP 419 Transportation Planning	3
 Planning Core Requirements	 22	 Technical & Research Skills	 2-4
		(at least one course)	
ENSP 310 Introduction to Planning	3	ECON 317 Econometrics (prereq. Econ 204, 205 and Math 165)	4
ENSP 311 Planning Theory and Methodology	4	ENSP 305L Computer-Aided Communications	3
ENSP 315 Environmental Impact Reporting	3	ENSP 403 Computer Modeling	3
ENSP 411A Planning Workshop (part I) (prereq. ENSP310 and ENSP 311)	4	ENSP 405 Qualitative Research Methods	2-3
ENSP 411B Planning Workshop (part II)	4	ENSP 422 Special Topics in C&R	2-3
ENSP 415 Land Use Law	3	ENSP 428 Conservation Research Methods	2-3
ENSP 498* Senior Seminar: Issues in Professional Practice	1	GEOG 387 Geographic Information Systems (prereq. Geog 205, can be taken concurrently)	4
		POLS 302 Social Science Research Methods	4
 Natural Science Requirements	 8		
ENSP 302 Applied Ecology	4		
ENSP 303 Applied Physical Science	4		
 Humanities Requirement	 3-4	 Recommended Electives	
		(at least one course)	
ENSP 306 Environmental Ethics	3	ENSP 309 Soil Science	3-4
ENSP 307 Environmental History	4	ENSP 322 Conservation Biology (prerequisites)	4
ENSP 308 Environmental Literature	3	ENSP 330 Energy, Technology & Soc.	4
ENSP 314 Urban Design I: The Urban Form	3	ENSP 401 Environmental Policy	4
ENSP 414 Urban Design II: Placemaking	3	ENSP 404 Environmental Law	3
ENSP 421 Nat. Resources of the American West	3	ENSP 425 Restoration Seminar	3

*Must be taken within two semesters of graduation

Revised 8/1/2011 – ENSP 200 removed
Revised: 07/06/2009 – No curriculum changes