



The University of Georgia

University Council
Athens, Georgia 30602

January 11, 2012

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2011-2012

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Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal for the Master of Environmental Planning and Design (M.E.P.D. Thesis & Non-Thesis Options) to be offered on the Gwinnett Campus will be an agenda item for the January 18, 2012, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

David E. Shipley, Chair
University Curriculum Committee

cc: Provost Jere W. Morehead
Dr. Laura D. Jolly

**Proposal for an External Degree
The University of Georgia**

Institution: University of Georgia

Date: October 4, 2011

College/School/Division: College of Environment and Design

Degree : **MEPD**-Thesis and Non-thesis Option (standalone)

Major: Environmental Planning and Design

CIP Code: _____

Proposed Start Date: Fall Semester 2012

The proposal for an External Degree must include a brief narrative that addresses the following points and completion of the attached Addendum for Distance Education Delivery of New Programs.

1. Assessment

A needs assessment demonstrating a sufficient pool of qualified applicants.

This report proposes a plan of implementation and a projection of viability for a new graduate program in Environmental Planning and Design to be added to the list of programs offered at the UGA Gwinnett campus. The swift success of the new Environmental Planning and Design Graduate program at the University of Georgia main campus has spurred inquiries in regard to the future market demand for this specific type of education. The new program will be tailored to non-traditional students seeking a design focused professional degree in planning. Through research of the current market status and the demand of the current target population, it was found that a MEPD program offered at the UGA Gwinnett campus was not only viable but sustainable. We intend on offering this program in both a Thesis and Non-thesis format. The program can be expected to serve a growing need for the type of education that is being demanded.

In an effort to map the potential candidates we contacted UGA alumni as a sample market group to provide an idea about the demand for such a program. We contacted UGA alumni in Gwinnett County and the surrounding counties (Rockdale, Dekalb, Fulton, Forsyth, Hall, Barrow, and Walton) holding undergraduate degrees from the list below.

Architecture
City/Urban, Community and Regional Planning
Landscape Architecture
Architecture and Related Services, Other
Biology/Biological Sciences, General
Ecology
Biological and Physical Sciences
Historic Preservation and Conservation
Science, Technology and Society

Parks, Recreation and Leisure Studies
Geology/Earth Science, General
Geological and Earth Sciences/Geosciences, Other
Community Organization and Advocacy
Public Administration
Public Policy Analysis
Anthropology
Geography
Cartography
International Relations and Affairs
Political Science and Government, General
Sociology
Urban Studies/Affairs
Social Sciences, Other
Health Services/Allied Health/Health Sciences, General
Health/Health Care Administration/Management
Environmental Health

Alumni meeting the above criteria were contacted and asked to complete a preliminary online survey. The majority of the respondents indicated interest in an opportunity to earn a professional graduate degree in planning at the UGA-Gwinnett campus. A new and detailed survey will be administered to receive additional input from the alumni.

Job outlook

Faster than average employment growth is projected for urban and regional planners. Most new jobs will be in affluent, rapidly expanding communities. Job prospects will be best for those with a master's degree; bachelor's degree holders with additional skills in GIS or mapping may need entry level positions, but advancement opportunities are limited.

Employment change

Employment of urban and regional planners is expected to grow 19% from 2008 to 2018, faster than the average for all occupations. (Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2010-11 Edition published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. <http://www.bls.gov>). Employment growth will be driven by the need for State and local governments to provide public services such as regulation of commercial development, the environment, transportation, housing, and land use and development for an expanding population. Nongovernmental initiatives dealing with historic preservation and redevelopment will also create employment growth.

The fastest job growth for urban and regional planners will occur in the private sector, primarily in the professional, scientific, and technical services industries. Specifically, planners will be employed by architecture and engineering firms to assist private developers and builders with broader issues, such as those related to storm water management, permits, and environmental

regulation, to more specific ones, such as helping to design security measures for buildings that are effective but also subtle and able to blend in with the surrounding area. Many additional jobs for urban and regional planners will be in local government, as planners will be needed to address an array of problems associated with population growth, especially in affluent, rapidly expanding communities. For example, new housing developments require roads, sewer systems, rail stations, schools, libraries, and recreation facilities that must be planned for within budgetary constraints.

Job prospects

Besides opportunities from employment growth, job openings will arise from the need to replace experienced planners who transfer to other occupations, retire, or leave the labor force for other reasons. Graduates with a master's degree from an accredited program should have much better job opportunities than those with only a bachelor's degree. Additionally, AICP certified planners should have the best opportunities for advancement. Computers and software—especially GIS software—are increasingly being used in planning; therefore, candidates with strong computer skills and GIS experience will have an advantage in the job market.

Employment

Urban and regional planners held about 38,400 jobs in 2008. About 66% were employed by local governments. Companies involved with architectural, engineering, and related services, as well as management, scientific, and technical consulting services, employ an increasing proportion of planners in the private sector. Information on careers, salaries, and certification in urban and regional planning is available at <http://www.planning.org/>

Through our research of the current market status and the demand of the current target population it was found that a MEPD program is currently in high demand. This demand is projected by the US Department of Labor and US Bureau of Labor Statistics to continue to be in high demand in the future. The high growth rate of the profession is due to the increasing need for qualified planners to play a significant role in solving the problems that have arisen from our ever increasing population in cities across the nation. Due to the close proximity to Atlanta and the University of Georgia in Athens, the UGA-Gwinnett campus sits in a prime location to facilitate a successful Environmental Planning and Design Education. Students will not only be able to get a hands on education of the growth problems of a large metropolitan area such as Atlanta, but will also learn firsthand the dynamics of many surrounding small and mid-sized cities that are experiencing both rapid growth and rapid decline in population. In addition the close proximity to Atlanta and Athens, the UGA-Gwinnett Campus is an accessible location for a very large population of potential students seeking this unique education.

The distinct and hands on, studio based education that this degree offers can be found in very few locations worldwide. This increasingly popular method of teaching the planning process and implementation will potentially draw non-traditional students from outside the region and state.

The facilities at the UGA Gwinnett campus are ideal to hold both lecture and studio classes. The addition of this type of program will add great value to the already established programs at the UGA-Gwinnett Campus. Through the use of state of the art distance learning technologies,

professors and students will have the ability to easily commute from both Atlanta and Athens in this location.

Excitement and success of the current Master of Environmental Planning and Design offered to full time students at the UGA main campus in Athens, GA is proof that there is an unmet need to offer the same education to non-traditional students. In conclusion, we have found that offering a Master of Environmental Planning and Design Program at the UGA Gwinnett Campus would thrive and sustain in meeting the needs of the profession.

2. Admission Requirements

All requirements for admission to an External Academic Degree Program will be the same as those for the same degree at an authorized unit.

All requirements for admission to the MEPD at Gwinnett will be the same as those for the MEPD on the Athens campus.

3. Program Content

The basic curriculum of the program will be equivalent to the authorized unit's approved program. The criteria for electives or substitutions for specific requirements will be equivalent at both (or all) locations.

The program will be the same program as is offered on the Athens campus. This includes the criteria for selecting electives or substitutions for classes as outlined in the program of study.

The Master of Environmental Planning & Design is a professional graduate program with an emphasis on a studio-based integrative planning process grounded in environmental and ecological principles.

Program hours completed over a 2 or a 3-year period:

Core required courses = 37 hours

- Design studio = 12 hours (Emphasize a hands on physical design)
- Remaining lecture courses = 25 hours
- Student focus of interest courses = 21 hours

Total = 58 hours

Evening and weekend classes will create the structure to accommodate non-traditional student success. Requirements for the MEPD degree include satisfactory completion of all coursework and an approved master thesis or a capstone experience with an applied research paper.

CURRICULUM STRUCTURE

2-Year Program

58 minimum hours required for the program, includes 9 thesis hours or 9 capstone experience hours.

Year 1	Weekday Courses	Weekend Courses
Fall	LAND 6210 Representation (3) LAND 6310 Landscape Ecology (3)	PLAN 6520 Environmental Planning Studio1 (4) EDES 6270 GIS and LAB (3)
Spring	LAND 6900 Research Strategies (2) EDES 6640 Hist/Theory American U Plan(3)	PLAN 6540 Environmental Plan/Des Studio2 (4)
Summer	HIPR 6200 Preservation Law (3) EDES 6540 Ideas of Community (2)	EDES 6650 City Planning (3)
Year 2	Weekday Courses	Weekend Courses
Fall	Specialization Elective 1 (3) Specialization Elective 2 (3)	PLAN 6560 Environmental Plan/Des Studio3 (4)
Spring	Specialization Elective 3 (3) Specialization Elective 4 (3)	PLAN 6124 Ethics, Justice and Pro Practice (3)
Summer	PLAN 7300 Thesis (1-9) or PLAN 7200 Capstone Experience (9)	

Prerequisite: Intro to Statistics -prior to enrolling or during the first year

Areas of Specialization (10-12 hours)

Environmental Planning & Design

Field Studies in Env. Planning & Design (PLAN 6810)

Special Studies (PLAN 6910)

Internship PLAN 6700 (in Environmental Studies)

Intro to Historic Preservation (HIPR 4000/6000)

Preservation Planning Studio (HIPR 6950)

Contemporary Preservation Perspectives/Study Travel Trip (HIPR 6800)

Design in Historic Preservation (HIPR 6660)

Community Charrette (HIPR 4680/6680)

Environmental Design Theory (LAND 6090)

Environment and Behavior (LAND 6660)

Evolution of American Architecture (LAND 6620)

History & Theory of 20th Century Architecture (EDES 6630)

History of the Built Environment (LAND 6550/6560)

Evolution of the American Landscape (EDES 6510)

Land Development Studio (LAND 6150)
Landscapes (LAND 6010)
Community and Place (LAND 6040)
Field Study in Contemporary Landscape Architecture (LAND 4800/6800)
Design and Meaning (LAND 7050)
Environmental Planning Studio I (PLAN 7453) (New)
Sociopolitical Ecology (SOC 6450)
Principles of Conservation Ecology & Sustainable Development I (ECOL 6080)
Principles of Conservation Ecology & Sustainable Development II (ECOL 6140)
Nature and Sustainability (LAND 6030)
Ecological Biogeography (GEOG/BTNY 4220/6220)
Sustainable Building Design (LAND 4660/6660)

Design and Health

Gardens as Nurturing Environments (LAND 6080)
Water Pollution and Human Health (EHSC 6610)
Ecology and Evolution of Human Disease (ANTH 6590)
Planning and Design Issues in Health (PLAN 6890)
Environmental Health Quality (EHSC 6080)
Environment and Health (ANTH 6540)

Community Development and Cultural Resource Planning

Field Studies in Env. Planning & Design (PLAN 6810)
Special Studies (PLAN 6910)
Cultural Resources (HIPR 6100)
Evolution of the American Landscape (EDES 6510)
Internship PLAN 6700 (in Community Development)
Housing Policy (HACE 6310)
Gender and Geography (GEOG 4680/6680)
Introduction to Historic Preservation (HIPR 4000/6000)
Preservation Perspectives (HIPR 6025)
Rural Preservation (HIPR 6460)
Preservation Planning Studio (HIPR 6950)
Design in Historic Preservation (HIPR 6660)
Contemporary Preservation Perspectives/Study Travel Trip (HIPR 6800)
Design Guidelines (HIPR 6600)
Community Charrette (HIPR 4680/6680)
Evolution of American Architecture (LAND 6620)
History & Theory of 20th Cen. Architecture (EDES 6630)
Theory & Management of Nonprofit Orgs (MNPO 7123)
Managing Volunteers in Public & Nonprofit sectors (PADP 7900)
Social Change (SOC 6090)
Sociology of Development (SOC 6160)
Sociology of Race and Ethnicity (SOC 6370)

Food Systems Planning

Field Studies in Env. Planning & Design (PLAN 6810)
Special Studies (PLAN 6910)
Internship PLAN 6700 (in Food Systems)
Community Charrette (HIPR 4680/6680)
Agribusiness & Nat. Resource Law (AAEC 4050/6050)
Rural Economic Dev. & Growth (AAEC 4710/6710)
Env. Law & Gov. Regulation (AAEC 4930/6930)
Agricultural Programs and Policy (AAEC 8210)
Env. Policy & Management (ECOL/AAEC) 8700)
Agricultural Ethics (EETH/AESC) 4190/6190)
Issues in Contemporary Agriculture (ALDR 4600/6600)
Agricultural Anthropology (ANTH 4060/6060)
Agro-Ecology (CRSS/HORT) 4400/6400)
Ecol. of Food, Diet, & Nutrition (ANTH4580/6580-4580L/6580L)
Pedology (CRSS/GEOL) 4540/6540-4540L/6540L)
GIS for Env. Planning (ECOL 6130)
Perspectives on Conservation Ecol. & Sustainable Dev. (ECOL 8400)
Principles of Agroforestry/Agroecology (ECOL 8440)
Culture of Foods & Nutrition (FDNS 4630/6630)
GIS Applications in Ag. (GEOG/CRSS) 4375/6375)
The Industrial Agro-Food System and Its Alternatives (GEOG 4860/6860)
Athens Urban Food Collective (AUFC) Service Learning (GEOG 4890/6890)
Food and Power in American History (HIST 4020/6020)

Certificate Programs

Certificate in Historic Preservation	18 hours
Environmental Ethics Certificate	18 hours
Conservation & Sustainability Certificate	20 hours
Certificate in Historic Landscapes (pending)	18 hours
Geographic Information System Certificate	17 hours

3- year Program

58 minimum hours required for the program, includes 9 thesis hours or 9 capstone experience hours.

Year 1	Weekday Courses	Weekend Courses
Fall	LAND 6210 Representation (3) LAND 6310 Landscape Ecology (3)	PLAN 6520 Environmental Planning Studio1 (4)
Spring	EDES 6640 Hist/Theory American U Plan (3) EDES 6650 City Planning (3)	EDES 6270 GIS and LAB (3)
Summer	EDES 6540 Ideas of Community (2)	
Year 2	Weekday Courses	Weekend Courses
Fall	LAND 6900 Research Strategies (2) HIPR 6200 Preservation Law (3)	PLAN 6540 Environmental Plan/Des Studio2 (4)
Spring	Specialization Elective 1 (3) Specialization Elective 2 (3)	PLAN 6560 Environmental Plan/Des Studio3 (4)
Summer		
Year 3	Weekday Courses	Weekend Courses
Fall	Specialization Elective 3 (3) Specialization Elective 4 (3)	
Spring	PLAN 6124 Ethics, Justice and Pro Practice(3)	PLAN 7300 Thesis (1-9) or PLAN 7200 Capstone Experience (9)

Prerequisite: Intro to Statistics - prior to enrolling or during the first year

*Areas of Specialization (10-12 hours)

Same as the two year program.

4. Student Advising

Each student must have reasonable access to an advisor or advisory committee.

When accepted into the program, the Director will match each incoming student with a faculty advisor from our regular pool of MEPD faculty members. The Director will also be involved with the students in selecting a major professor and help to arrange their graduate committee.

5. Residence Requirements

Residence requirements will be identical to those established for the authorized degree program with residence at the approved location serving to meet that requirement.

Residency requirements will be equivalent to those for existing MEPD programs. No more than 6 hours of credit may be transferred into the program.

6. Program Management

Each proposal must contain a specified plan for program maintenance and program quality. This plan will provide contact persons at cooperating units, a detailed timetable, and complete plans for application and matriculation of students. In addition, specific plans should be provided concerning the schedule of courses, the duration of the program, program review, and possible duplication with other programs in the immediate area.

The Director of the program will serve as the person in charge to oversee the program's quality and long-term maintenance. In addition to the Director, the MEPD faculty will hold meetings each semester to review the program's progress, which would include the progress of these students enrolled in the program. The Director will also be responsible for overseeing the need for staff for this program in Gwinnett. At this time we are planning on housing the teaching facilities at the Gwinnett Heritage Center. The College of Environment and Design will be responsible for outfitting a studio space with desks, drafting tables and chairs. We will use the existing technology available to us at the GHC.

We are planning to offer the program as early as Fall 2012, adding to the first year offerings on a yearly basis for three years which will get the program to its full size by Fall 2014. Once underway, the Gwinnett program will be examined every five years as part of the ongoing accreditation process handled by the American Planning Association.

7. Library and Laboratory Resources

The proposal must include a review of existing library and laboratory (or other specialized resources) at the host location. If deficiencies exist, the proposal must include a plan, including timetable and budget, for alleviating the deficiencies.

Library

The University Libraries are composed of three Athens-campus facilities, the Main Library, the Science Library and the Law Library. The University Library is the largest university library in the state, having over 4.7 million volumes and 37,000 full textbooks available online (2007-2008 figures). Approximately 750,000 printed volumes are in the Science Library. As a regional depository, the Library automatically receives all U.S. government publications made available to depositories through the Depository Library Program.

The UGA Libraries have access to 80,748 current serials, including 7,763 purchased print subscriptions, 48,691 purchased electronic subscriptions and access to 24,294 titles outside of traditional subscription models. These and over 400 databases can be accessed through GALILEO, a statewide on-line resource ("virtual library") for scholastic publications. The Library also has three special collections: the Felix Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, the George Foster Peabody Awards

Collection, containing over fifty years of broadcast materials, and the Richard B. Russell Library.

Access to much of the UGA library is available through online resources.

Laboratory Resources

Master of Environmental Planning and Design Studio courses will be held at the Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center. Home of Gwinnett County's first "green" buildings, the Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center Foundation received a Gold-level certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. The facility's design incorporates new, robust technology to support the advanced electronic, multi-media components. The design utilizes locally harvested materials and numerous energy-and-water saving strategies that serve as a working model of ecologically sensitive site management. The facility is a demonstration of best management practices in the areas of storm water protection, energy conservation, and pervious pavements and green roof implementation. The Center opened in September of 2006.

The Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center has three classrooms adjoining the water feature or the surrounding woods. The classrooms range in size from 450 sq. ft. to 600 sq. ft. No drafting tables, computers, or computer stations are currently in the classrooms. GEHC management will provide an AV technician to assist a tenant with Audio Visual Equipment. Technology in the classrooms include XP Windows computer, DVD, CD, VHS, USB, Laptop interface connection, Wireless internet, Document camera, and 9" drop screen. Other amenities at the facility include a dining area, board room (wired for video conferencing), and a 200 person Exhibit Hall. The Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center has a current partnership with the University of Georgia College of Environment and Design to develop continuing education courses for K-12 teachers. The Heritage Center will house the Master of Environmental Planning and Design program through an expansion of the existing partnership between the College of of Environment and Design and the Center.

Nineteen classrooms seat from 15–70 participants. Several large classrooms offer the popular case-style seating arrangement with tiered levels and fixed tables. Other classrooms can be setup with or without tables and chairs. All classrooms have touch control, electronic smart-podiums with ceiling mounted projectors and complete electronic peripherals. Classroom technology is available for videoconferencing and digital recording. All classrooms have touch control, electronic smart-podiums with ceiling mounted projectors and complete electronic peripherals. Meeting rooms and a large (150 seat) gathering room are available. Parking is free and shared by UGA program participants and other building tenants.

8. Budget

The budget must provide a realistic estimate of the costs of developing and implementing a quality program. Consequently, each program budget must contain detailed estimates -- specified separately for authorized and cooperating units -- concerning faculty and staff positions, library, laboratory, and other specialized facility resource requirements, travel and other significant operating expenses. If the support for the program is the result of an internal reallocation of resources, explicit details should be included in the proposal. The budget must reflect the start-up costs of the program, projected costs for completion of the first cycle of students, and additional costs associated with any future cycles of students.

The MEPD program is a new program, just two years of history at this point, and was funded for a faculty that could not only handle the work load on the Athens campus, but also a program at a location other than Athens. Besides outfitting a studio classroom in Gwinnett, we do not see any additional cost associated with this program. With a maximum class size of 15 in the new location, we estimate a total of \$1000 per student station to outfit the studio space. For the first year we would estimate a cost of about \$15,000 and an additional \$15,000 during the second to third year. This would be based on the enrollment. These costs will be handled by the College of Environment and Design through the annual budgeting process. All classes will be taught face-to-face by the College of Environment and Design faculty.

9. Program Costs Assessed to Students

Any costs beyond those normally associated with the program on campus must be spelled out and justified.

There will be no costs to students beyond those normally associated with the program in Athens. We currently have no plans to add additional required funding beyond the normal UGA tuition and fees.

10. Accreditation

Appropriate accreditation procedures will be carried out by the authorized institution.

Upon accreditation of the program in Athens, the Gwinnett program will be accredited since the program is under the umbrella of the MEPD program in Athens. For accreditation purposes they are the same program.