ONLINE MASTER OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

INFORMATION PACKET FOR APPLICANTS

1. ADMISSIONS/APPLICATIONS

A. APPLICATION DEADLINES

Deadlines for applications are typically early-July for a Fall (August) start, and mid-November for a Spring (January) start.

B. PROCESS/INSTRUCTIONS

<u>Please read our Admissions Guide carefully (link)</u>. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis, and a decision can typically be reached within about 2-3 weeks once all materials are received.

C. REQUIRED MATERIALS

The following application materials are required for both the on campus and online MURP programs at UF:

- Transcripts (3.0+ GPA)
- Resume/CV
- Personal Statement
- Statement of Intent
- Letters of Recommendation (3) - at least two (2) must be academic if graduated within last 3 years
- *GRE is no longer required!*

  Note: international applicants must provide additional documentation

D. RESUME/BACKGROUND

We accept applicants from all professional and academic backgrounds! Backgrounds like public administration, law, engineering, geography, public health, liberal arts, and beyond are welcomed in the planning community, and help to diversify the field.

E. GPA REQUIREMENT/CONDITIONAL ADMIT

While our bachelor's GPA standard is 3.0+, we do look for academic improvement in both the upper-level courses, as well as any additional degrees. Keep in mind we review your application comprehensively.

2. COST/ACCOMMODATIONS

A. TOTAL COST/CREDIT HOUR

The cost of the program is $865 per credit hour (all tuition and fees included). The Program is 52 credits; this puts the total cost of the degree at $44,980. Please keep in mind no travel or relocation is required, and there are no administrative or additional fees.

B. IN-STATE/OUT-STATE RATES

Our tuition is a flat rate, regardless of location; there is no in-state, out-of-state, or international differential. Please see above for more information.

C. ACTIVE MILITARY/VETERANS

The University of Florida, as well as our online Program, honors our active and retired military by accepting the GI Bill. Please contact UF Veterans Affairs for further details on tuition reimbursements.

D. FLORIDA EEP

Unfortunately, our Online Program cannot accept Florida Employee Education (Florida EEP) tuition waivers at this time. However, State of Florida employees do have alternative tuition reimbursement options. We encourage applicants to reach out to their individual employers for more information on tuition reimbursement.

E. SCHOLARSHIPS

Unfortunately, the Online MURP program cannot offer scholarship at this time. However, we do offer professional development/conference stipends for active students. Additionally, we periodically offer opportunities for online students to engage in paid research projects.

3. COURSE PROGRESSION/TIMELINE

A. COURSE SCHEDULE

Our courses are offered in the University of Florida's stanard terms (16 weeks Fall/Spring, 13 weeks/Summer). Most students take 2 courses (6 credit hours) each semester. Our program is extremely flexible: feel free to take as many or as few courses as you'd like, take a break for a semester and re-join us – you set your own pace!

B. COURSE OFFERINGS

We offer a comprehensive suite of courses, with subject areas including Sustainability + Resiliency, International Development, Urban Economics, GIS (including a GIS Certificate), Land Use Law, Transportation Planning, and more. Please see a full list of our courses and their syllabi on our website.

C. SPECIALIZATIONS

Our program is a comprehensive and holistic urban planning program. When students graduate from our program, they can be confident that they are truly masters of the planning field. Additionally, students can take suites of courses to hone specific skills, like urban design, GIS, sustainability, international planning, and more. Please see a full list of our courses and their syllabi on our website.

D. INTERNSHIP

A 1-credit internship is required for our program. The internship must span a semester (12 – 16 weeks), and must be planning-related. We do offer an in-lieu-of internship option for students who have at least 3 years of full-time, planning-related professional experience. Please contact the Department's Internship Coordinator, Kyle Dost, for more information at kyledost@ufl.edu.

E. MASTER'S RESEARCH PROJECT

A 6-credit research project is required of all online students. The research project is similar to a thesis, in that it is based in research, case studies, or best practices; it requires a thoroughly-written research paper and defense presentation. Each student is granted a committee, and is able to choose their Chair and Co-Chair, depending on their preferences and subject area. The research project must be completed during your final semester. Examples of previous Master's Research Projects can be accessed via the University of Florida's Institutional Repository.

F. ADVISING

Each student's program trajectory is curated individually, based on preferred timeline and subject specialization. The student advisor is Kyle Dost, the Assistant Director of the Program. Each student receives a Program of Study checksheet which allows them to plan and track progress throughout their program. Typically, students check in with their Program Advisor and determine appropriate courses throughout their program, if not prior to each semester.

4. CREDIT TRANSFER

A. CREDIT TRANSFER OPTIONS

Students are eligible to transfer up to 9 credit hours from outside institutions; up to 15 credit hours can be transferred from within UF. Students must be accepted, active students (e.g. non-applicants) in order to determine which courses can transfer in.

B. REQUIREMENTS

The following are requirements for credit transfers:

- Course credit must have been earned within seven past (7) years
- A syllabus must be provided
  - Will be reviewed by corresponding faculty, by subject area
- B grade (3.0) or higher
- Must be graduate-level coursework (e.g. not undergraduate level)
- Must relate or correspond to a similar course in the program

5. INTERNATIONAL/REMOTE APPLICANTS

A. CAMPUS VISITS AND TRAVEL

There are no required campus visits or travel. You do not need to relocate, or travel to our campus or the U.S.

B. VISA REQUIREMENTS

There is no visa or international documentation required to attend our program. Only students enrolled in our campus program are eligible to apply for a student visa (Form I-20).

C TUITION RATE

The tuition rate is a flat rate for all students, regardless of location. See "Cost" Section for more details.

D. INTERNET ACCESS

You will need to have reliable and consistent access to internet or wifi in order to enroll in our online program.

6. POST-GRADUATION

A. JOB PROSPECTS

Planners can work in both the private- and public-sector. Many jobs are related to government contracts or positions, which makes them more stable than other fields. Typical urban planning jobs relate to zoning and comprehensive planning, urban design and density, transit- and transit-oriented development, land use, community engagement and representation, public health and the built environment, resilience and sustainability, and more.

B. ALUMNI NETWORK

The Gator Alumni network is strong – but our urban planning alumni network is almost stronger! We have alumni representing us across the state of Florida (from Miami to Tampa to Jacksonville), the United States (from Atlanta to California), and internationally (in the Netherlands, Indonesia, Brazil, Mexico, and beyond!).

C. JOB POSTINGS

As a student and alum, you'll have first access to strategic and multi-disciplinary job postings around the world. We circulate these daily, weekly, and monthly through our job boards and emails.

7. ACCREDITATION

The University of Florida's Master of Urban and Regional Planning has earned the first-ever Certificate of Accreditation issued to an online planning program by the Planning Accreditation Board, or PAB.

Throughout 2019, the PAB reviewed the department's program as part of a seven-year reaccreditation review. This was the first opportunity to include the online master's degree as part of the program's review. At the review's conclusion, the PAB renewed UF's accreditation for seven years, the longest term available.

The PAB acknowledged UF's "exemplary record" in planning education and stated that it found "strong research by faculty; an on-campus program that addresses the critical concerns of the state; and a high-quality online degree program." In sharing its decision to accredit the ground-breaking online degree offering, the PAB said it was "impressed by the innovation of an online degree program and the seamless integration of this modality with the campus-based program."

8. TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

A. COMPUTER (HARDWARE)

All students are required to have access to a Windows 7 OS (or newer) computer or laptop. While MacOS/Apple systems

may suffice, we cannot guarantee that they will be able to fulfill all software requirements of our program. Applicants can

visit the UF page it.ufl.edu/policies/student-computing-requirements/ for more technology requirements.

B. SOFTWARE

All software (including ArcMAP, ArcGIS Pro, statistical software like JMP and SPSS) is included in your tuition, and can be

accessed remotely via our cloud-based system, UF Apps. Additionally, all students have free access to use software like

Zoom, Skype, LinkedIn Learning (formerly Lynda), Qualtrics, and more.

C. INTERNET ACCESS

A reliable and consistent internet connection is required to fulfill course requirements and complete our completely-online

program. Examples of internet-based requirements are the need to live-video conference via Zoom, upload large files (e.g.

PowerPoints), and smoothly complete online quizzes and assignments.

9. GIS CERTIFICATE

The 12-credit/4-course GIS Certificate can be achieved standalone, or as part of your 52-credit online MURP Program.

Campus students are not eligible to enroll in the GIS Certificate. The course list and more information can be found at

www.geoplan.ufl.edu/training/gis-cert/.

10. CONTACT INFORMATION

Please reach out to our Assistant Director, Kyle Dost, at kyledost@ufl.edu or 352-294-1486 for any additional questions you

may have, or to schedule a time to speak via phone or Zoom.