

THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

MASTER OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING ADMISSIONS GUIDE

ON-CAMPUS PROGRAM

STEPS TO APPLY

APPLICATION PACKAGE

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2. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE
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STEPS TO APPLY

1. Complete UF Graduate Application form, including the application the UF Office of Admissions requires. Please refer to the UF Graduate School for additional admissions requirements.
2. Go to applyweb.com/uflgrad/index.ftl
3. Create an account or log in
4. Once logged in, go to Apply Online
 - Please note: there are multiple pages to complete. You can save your application and return at a later time to complete it.
5. On the Application Information page, under Location of Intended Program, select “Main Campus - Gainesville”
6. On the Program of Study page, select “Urban and Regional Planning (Degree Name – Master of Urban and Regional Planning)”
 - You can do this either via the search bar or under the College of Design, Construction and Planning dropdown option
7. Select the desired start term
 - Please note: the Department of Urban and Regional Planning only processes applications for Fall and Spring start terms. If you select a Summer term, your application will be processed for the following Fall.
8. Under Additional Information:
 - Select an Area of Concentration if you intend to apply for a Certificate or Concentration. Note: these programs are administered by other departments. You will need to contact these programs separately to apply upon enrollment.
 - Leave Program Specialization and Department Contact name blank.
9. Complete the remaining application sections, and submit.

Note for Letters of Recommendation: *the application system allows for up to 5 recommenders to be inputted. The Department of Urban and Regional Planning requires 3 letters of recommendation. Recommenders' information cannot be altered or changed after submission. Recommenders are sent a link to submit their letters virtually into the application portal. **Letters of recommendation should be submitted directly via the application portal. Do not send letters to the department or via email.***

APPLICATION PACKAGE

Submit all application materials directly to the University of Florida's Office of Admissions portal. Do not send any materials directly to the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. Applications will not be reviewed until they are complete, with all required materials. A complete application package includes:

- 1. Unofficial Transcripts** (the university will require official transcripts upon your acceptance of an offer of admission)
 - **Minimum GPA:** 3.0 on a 4-point scale, for upper division coursework
 - **Please note:** *The university requires applicants for graduate study to compute their college-level junior and senior year grade point average, unless your institution uses a non-traditional grading system. The university requires an accurate self-reported GPA, which it will verify. Providing an accurate self-reported GPA will expedite our processing of your application. The university worksheet is available here: <https://admissions.ufl.edu/pdf/worksheet.pdf>*

- 2. Statement of Purpose** (500 words maximum - 5 prompts, 1 paragraph each)

Clear and compelling writing is an important skill for planners, both in our graduate program and in practice. For your Statement of Purpose, prepare a response for each of the five (5) prompts below.

Each prompt should be approximately one paragraph, 5-6 sentences in length. Applicants are expected to submit materials that honestly reflect their own experiences, abilities, ideas, and work. The Admissions Committee values specificity, originality and authenticity, and hearing student voice within submissions. If any unanticipated experiences have negatively affected your academic career, please explain them so that we can review your academic record in the context of these experiences.

Take care to properly attribute any content from another source. Plagiarism, including the use of language from generative AI, is grounds for rejecting an application.

Your responses should be uploaded as a single document into the Application Portal > Additional Questions > "Statement of Purpose" upload box.

- 1.** Our students are diverse in thought, background, and experience. Each student's path to graduate school is unique. Tell us about your path to planning. Describe your personal and academic background; life experiences, opportunities, and challenges that provide context for your motivations to become a planner; leadership skills and experiences; and values.
- 2.** Why are you interested in planning as a professional field? Include any professional, volunteer, or internship experiences that have prepared you for this field of study, as well as your research interests and career aspirations.
- 3.** How will UF's Urban and Regional Planning program help you meet your professional goals?
- 4.** How do you plan to tailor your studies with us? Address which courses, faculty, lines of research, and "beyond the classroom" experiences pique your planning interests.
- 5.** What are your expectations of our graduate planning program at UF?

4. Résumé or CV

5. Merit-based Aid. If you make a request, we will consider you for merit-based aid, such as assistantships or scholarships. To be considered for merit-based aid, please download and complete this form: graduateschool.ufl.edu/media/graduate-school/pdf-files/fellowship-assistantship.pdf. Then, upload the form, and examples of your work, to your application. Please submit examples of your work, such as:

- a portfolio of previous academic or professional work (If submitting work from group projects, please distinguish your work from that prepared by others);
- a detailed description of community service or engagement experiences;
- a detailed description of professional work experience, including example projects; or
- a description of relevant skills such as graphic design, GIS, and community engagement.

6. Three Letters of Recommendation

Arrange for three recommenders to submit letters of recommendation on your behalf. The recommenders should sign their letters and submit them directly to your application using the CollegeNET email link. Letters of recommendation should be addressed to the attention of the UF Department of Urban and Regional Planning Admissions Committee.

Your recommenders should be qualified to evaluate your academic achievements, skills and abilities, and/or professional qualifications.

Letters of recommendation from family members and friends will not be accepted.

If you have received your undergraduate or graduate degree within the last three years, at least two of the three letters must be academic references. If you have been out of school for longer than three years, and you are unable to contact former professors, letters from other individuals who can address your achievement and potential would be appropriate. If you are unable to garner academic letters of reference you may draft a memo to the Admissions Committee requesting a waiver. 3 letter of recommendation are still required.

Professional recommenders must:

- be or have been a supervisor or otherwise in a capacity to objectively assess your professional abilities, contributions, skills, and achievements;
- not be a colleague or subordinate;
- know you or your work well; and
- not offer a personal reference.

The content of the letters should:

- speak to your academic achievement;
- present your strengths, interests, abilities, interpersonal skills, and vision for the
- future; evaluate your potential for success in our program; and
- explain and provide context for professional experience.

7. Additional submittal requirements for international students

- **Transcripts.** The university has additional requirements for international transcripts. International applicants must submit to the Office of Admissions an official copy in the native language of each transcript, a mark sheet, and a diploma/degree certificate from each university or college attended, along with certified, literal (exact) English translations for documents not originally issued in English.
- **TOEFL or IELTS Scores.** See admissions.ufl.edu/apply/graduate for additional information on English proficiency requirements.
- **Financial Certification.** The university requires financial certification only upon your acceptance of our offer of admission.

POST-APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Once your application is submitted, you will be sent an email confirmation by the University of Florida. This confirmation email will contain a link that allows you to access your application, view missing materials, and check the application status. You may also be contacted by the Department via email regarding your application status and/or any missing materials.

Once your application package is complete, it will be sent to the Department of Urban and Regional Planning's Admissions Committee for review. Once reviewed by the Department, your application will be sent for University review. After both the Department and University have reviewed your application, you will be sent a decision letter via email. The entire review process typically takes about 2 business weeks, but may take longer.

CONTACT

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