



MURP

MASTER OF URBAN + REGIONAL PLANNING

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER

enduring places emerging practices engaged communities

CAP

COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE + PLANNING

<http://cap.ucdenver.edu>



THE DEGREE

The Master of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP) Program at the University of Colorado Denver is one of the most innovative and respected planning programs in the United States. Here you will find a hands-on, real-world oriented program that uses “Colorado as our classroom” and allows students to engage with top professionals and the community in every course we teach. Our presence in a College of Architecture and Planning means a strong connection to physical planning and design, and our location in the heart of downtown Denver provides our students endless opportunities to learn what it takes to create amazing cities.

The MURP is a two-year, fully accredited program that has produced over 1300 alumni since our founding in 1971. As the only graduate planning program in Colorado and the largest in the Rocky Mountain West, we have a proud history of graduating exceptionally qualified individuals who achieve success in a variety of positions and careers. Our AICP pass rates and job placement success are among the top in the country.

Our program looks beyond traditional professional silos and instead centers on issues at the forefront of planning practice. Our three initiatives – Healthy Communities, Urban Revitalization, and Regional Sustainability – form the basis of our research, instruction and community outreach. Similarly, our unique, self-directed curriculum allows students to understand the breadth of the planning field while gaining the technical expertise demanded by the profession. Our world-class faculty includes some of the most respected researchers and practitioners in the planning field.

MURP



MURP students Juan Sabogal and Erica Cole in the final review for Urban Spatial Analysis.
Photograph by Jesse Kuroiwa

CAREER PATHS OF GRADUATES

In a 2012 survey of alumni, 96% said the MURP Program prepared them very well, well, or okay for employment. In addition, our graduates fare extremely well on the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) licensing exam. From 2004-11, our MURP Program had a pass rate 8% higher than the national average and ranked third out of 96 accredited programs in total number of alumni who passed the exam.

A recent survey revealed that our alumni work in every area of planning, as well as in other city-building professions. They work in Denver, across the nation, and around the world. A few alumni positions include:

Real estate market analyst
Transportation Planner
Small-town Planner
Park Planner
Planning Director
Professor of City and Regional Planning
Urban planning consultant, World Bank
City Manager
Editor-in-chief of an academic journal
County Planning Director
Director of Community Development

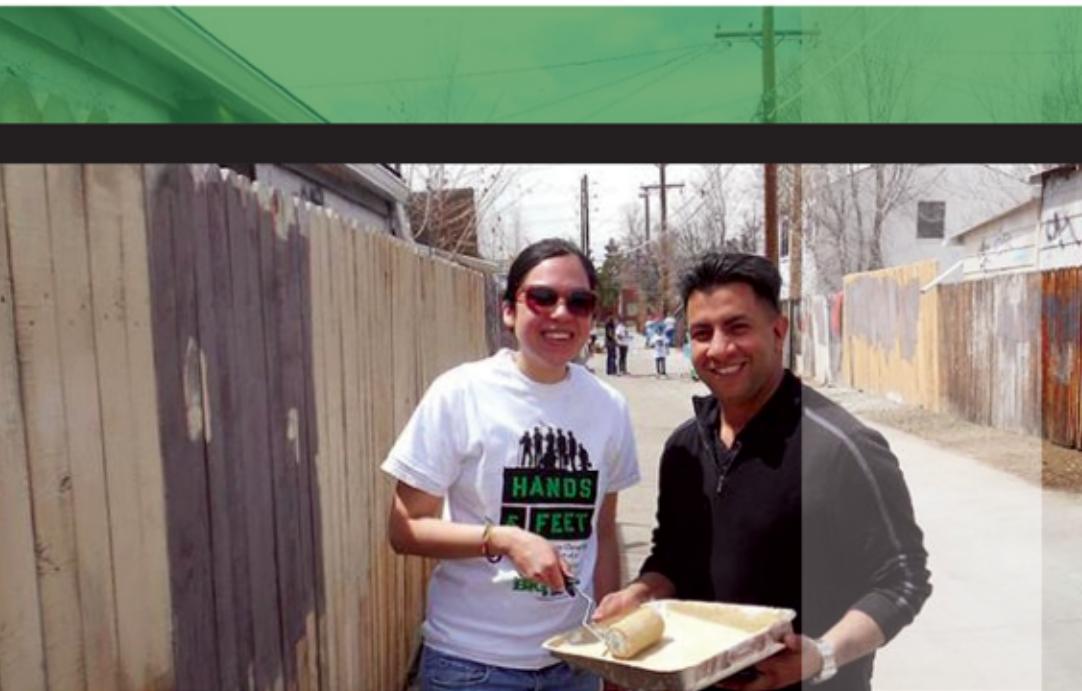
Development Consultant
Director of Natural Resources
Solar Farm Project Planner
Growth Management Planner
Department of Defense Air Force
Community Planner
Housing Division Director
Principal Comprehensive Planner
Public Art Director
GIS Program Specialist
Environmental Project Manager

WHAT WE DO

The MURP Program produces “reflective practitioners” by equipping students with both foundational skills and knowledge and a strong ethical compass to guide future decision-making. Our commitment to students extends across many areas: providing them with exceptional instruction and evidence-based knowledge about planning; inspiring them to achieve great things in their professional lives; exposing them to real-world planning situations and state-of-the-art learning resources; and helping them choose their best career paths through advising and mentoring.

Our passion for creating confident, principled and visionary planners is reflected in five key features integrated throughout our program:

- **Physical Planning and Design:** Housed within the College of Architecture and Planning, we work closely with Architecture, Urban Design, Landscape Architecture, and Historic Preservation programs to provide our students an interdisciplinary design-focused education.
- **Experiential Learning:** Our students gain hands-on planning experience and interact directly with Colorado’s planning professionals. We use the region’s diverse landscape as a real-world classroom for students to experience and analyze the built and natural environment.
- **International Opportunities:** Students expand their worldviews by taking seminars on global planning issues and studios involving on-site coursework in countries around the world.
- **Innovative Planning Technologies:** We integrate state-of-the-art technology into many of our courses and activities and demonstrate how these tools can support the planning process.
- **Self-Directed Curriculum:** Students have the unique ability to craft an education suited to their personal career goals and interests. All students craft their own professional capstone project supervised by a real client.



MURP student Michelle Zuniga and Denver City Councilman Paul D. López at Westwood Alley Clean Up Day. Photograph by Jaser Jimenez.





Photograph by Jesse Purpura

PROGRAM INITIATIVES

We teach students how to solve complex problems facing cities and regions today. Therefore we have structured our entire program – research, curriculum, faculty and student efforts – around three initiative areas at the forefront of the planning profession and particularly prominent in our region.

Healthy Communities: The link between human health and the built environment is a key factor in planning cities and regions. Colorado is a national leader in planning and designing healthier environments, and the MURP Program's Healthy Communities Initiative is central to that effort. We work with partners to provide students training in the tools, innovations and policies necessary for creating physically, socially and economically healthy communities.

Urban Revitalization: The U.S. is experiencing a resurgence of traditional urbanism and a reorientation toward central cities. Nowhere is that phenomenon more evident than in Denver, where infill and transit-oriented development, historic preservation, adaptive reuse, and multi-modal transport are transforming the urban landscape. The MURP Program's Urban Revitalization Initiative gives students opportunities to help revive and enhance established cities, retrofit the suburbs, and plan sustainable new developments.

Regional Sustainability: Climate change, environmental degradation, resource scarcity, and sprawling development present critical challenges to planners worldwide. In the Rocky Mountain West, impacts are evident in habitat loss, wildfire risk, and conflicts over water and energy resources. The MURP Program's Regional Sustainability Initiative explores ways to tackle these issues, drawing on the region's successes to help students understand how built and natural environments can co-exist more sustainably at various regional scales.

ADMISSIONS

The University of Colorado Denver MURP Program seeks exceptional, engaged applicants who have demonstrated academic excellence, are passionate about urban and regional planning, are excited to study in downtown Denver and experience Colorado and the Rocky Mountain West, and seek to enrich the program through their unique, diverse perspectives. The MURP Program has WICHE-WRGP status, which grants in-state resident tuition to students from 15 western states including California, Washington, Oregon and Arizona.

Required materials of the MURP Program application:

- A 2-3 page statement in which you discuss your interest in the program, the planning areas of interest about which you are passionate, your unique values, personal beliefs, background and/or experiences that you believe will enable you to make a unique contribution to the program, and how our MURP Program will prepare you to make important contributions in your career
- A résumé documenting your educational and professional background
- A list of courses you have taken and experiences relating to urban and regional planning
- A sample of your academic writing, approximately 3-5 pages long. This sample should demonstrate your writing skills as well as your ability for critical analysis. Include a sentence or two explaining why you selected the particular paper or project for submission
- 3 letters of recommendation. At least one of these should be from an academic reference
- 1 official copy of your transcript from each institution you have attended (except study abroad)
- Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores are not required for the MURP Program unless your GPA is below 3.0, in which case you must submit GRE scores

For more information, see <http://cap.ucdenver.edu/murp>, then select admissions.

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