



## COMMUNITY & REGIONAL PLANNING MAJOR

### My Strategy to a Career in Planning?

**P**lanning includes a wide range of career opportunities. Community and regional planners develop short and long-term plans for the use of land and growth of and revitalization of urban, suburban, and rural communities and their associated regions. They help local government officials solve social, economic, and environmental problems associated with human settlements. They recommend location of roads, schools, and other infrastructure, through such tools as zoning. They work in public and private agencies with titles such as those in the bulleted list of careers on this page. It is the challenge of leading community groups of all kinds to plan their environments



Ian Ehrnstrom, Community & Regional Planning major

foundations in theory and practice of community and regional planning, so as to make your attractive, competitive, and successful in the planning profession . re polished skills.

The community and regional planning major will be accredited by the Planning Accreditation Board of the American Planning Association and the American Institute of Certified Planners. As a result, the program is made up of required courses in planning and other social science disciplines and electives courses within the guidelines of the Planning Accreditation Board (See next page.).

Your energy, imagination, and drive will define how far you go and in what direction. Good Luck!

that makes planning career exciting and dynamic.

No single program prepares you for all you will need to know in community and regional planning. However, this community and regional planning program is designed to prepare professional planners in the strong

#### Planning Careers

- Land Use Planner
- Housing & Community Development Director
- Historic Preservation
- Tourism Planner
- Transportation Planner
- Environmental Planner
- Rural Planner
- Economic Development
- Site Analysis
- Zoning Administrator

### Starting in Community College?

**I**f you begin at a community college, develop the basic skills you will use in planning. This includes office and computer competence in word processing, spreadsheets, Powerpoint, etc. Take general education

courses needed for graduation. Do not avoid courses that focus on U.S. politics and social issues. A public speaking course is important. Planning is very people-oriented, and good communication skills will be useful. Don't avoid

basic math and critical thinking courses including statistics. You will need these skills sooner than you think. And you might want to take basic business courses like accounting and project management. Website design would help too.

## University Degree Requirements

### Who Hires Planners?

- Local Governments
- State Government
- Consulting Firms
- Non-profit Organizations
- Engineering Firms
- Economic Development Agencies
- Real Estate Development Companies

### Check It Out:

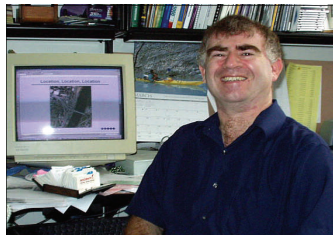
- [www.planningmi.org](http://www.planningmi.org)
- [www.planetizen.com](http://www.planetizen.com)
- [www.cyberbia.org](http://www.cyberbia.org)
- [www.acsp.org](http://www.acsp.org)

**W**estern Michigan University requires all students to complete 122 semester credit hours to receive a bachelor's degree. This includes any credit hours that have been officially recognized from other colleges or community colleges.

The specific requirements for graduation that will govern you are found in the Western Michigan University Undergraduate Catalog. Since the University changes over time, the version of the Catalog that governs you is

the one that was current when you entered the University.

Your total credit hours will include those of your Planning Major, your general education, and elective courses. The Planning Major does not require a minor.



Dr. David Lemberg, Community & Regional Planning core faculty

Please select your elective courses in consultation with an adviser or mentor, so that you can make them work together for you effectively.

The Planning Major allows you to arrange a professional internship, to do an independent study project under the guidance of a Planning faculty member, or even study abroad to experience planning issues elsewhere in the world. Please plan far enough ahead of time in to take advantage of these study opportunities.

## Internship, Study Abroad, or Research Experiences

**W**e recommend that you consider pursuing a professional internship in your planning curriculum. You will gain useful perspectives on the working world before entering it. Many employers use internships as a means of discovering whether a person would make a good employee. A number of our interns have received job offers at the end of their internship, and they learn about day-to-day issues in planning.

We recommend that Planning students consider an optional study abroad experience. This is a good way to learn about the world beyond

the U.S., and it gives insight about planning issues elsewhere.

We also recommend that students consider an optional independent research activity under the supervision of a faculty member. Carrying through an independent research project demonstrates to employers that you can work self-reliantly to generate answers to important questions. These experiences add value to your degree.



Dr. Jordan Yin—Community and regional planning core faculty member .

## The Community & Regional Planning Curriculum

**Y**our complete program of study at Western Michigan University, or at other colleges from which you are transferring credit, constitutes the entire Urban & Regional Planning curriculum. This Curriculum can be supplemented by adding knowledge and skills from other places also. The more accomplished you are, the more likely you will have a satisfying planning career.

**General Education & Liberal Education Curricular Requirements.** To complete a college degree at Western Michigan University, each student fulfills “General Education” goals. Each student gains understanding of the natural and social sciences; knowledge of the United States and some international issues/regions; computer, mathematics, and critical reasoning proficiencies, etc. Please see the General Education section of the Undergraduate Catalog for a full description. In addition, students in the College of Arts & Sciences take additional classes as listed in the Liberal Education Curriculum in the Undergraduate Catalog. The good thing about the community and regional planning major is that about 25 credits of the required courses outside planning are also general education requirement. In addition, the major does not require a minor. Please see the Geography undergraduate advisor for more information about this.

**The Community and Regional Planning Major.** Students will complete 32 hours of core courses in community and regional planning, 25 hours of required courses outside planning and 12 hours of electives.

- *Required Core Courses:*

CORP 2560 Introduction to Community and Regional Planning	3 cr. hrs.
CORP 300 History and Theory of Planning	3 cr. hrs.
GEOG 3010 Fundamentals of Geographic Information Systems	4 cr. hrs.
CORP 3030 Planning Inquiry*	4 cr. hrs.
CORP 3040 Methods of Planning Analysis	3 cr. hrs.
CORP 4030 Planning Law and Administration	3 cr. hrs.
CORP 4120 Professional Practice (Internship)	3 cr. hrs.
CORP 4560 Seminar in Community and Regional Planning	3 cr. hrs.
CORP 5700 Cities and Urban Systems	3 cr. hrs.
CORP 5580 Planning Studio	3 cr. hrs.

\*Prerequisite: a course in Statistics (Stat 2160, 2600, or 3660 or equivalent)

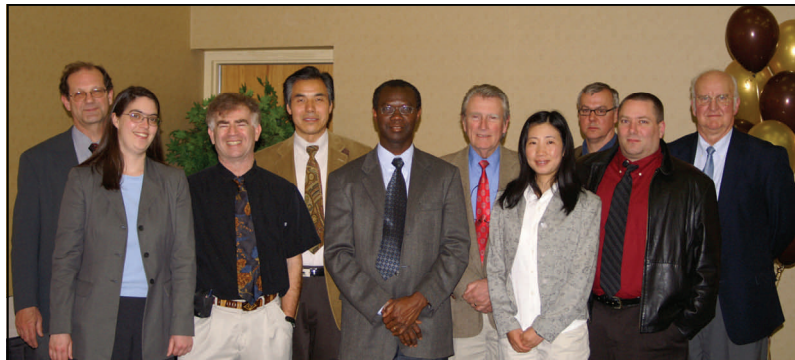
- *Required Courses Outside Planning*

GEOG 1050 Physical Geography	4 cr. hrs.
GEOG 2050 Human Geography	3 cr. hrs.
GEOG 2650 Introduction to Geospatial Technologies	3 cr. hrs.
GEOG 2440 Economic Geography	3 cr. hrs.
ECON 2010 Principles of Microeconomics	3 cr. hrs.
ECON 2020 Principles of Macroeconomics	3 cr. hrs.
PSCI 3000 Urban Politics in the United States	3 cr. hrs.
STAT 2160 or 2600 or 3660	3 cr. hrs.

- *The Elective Courses:* The remaining 12 hours of the major should be selected from the following:

CORP 5540 Outdoor Recreation, Resources and Planning; CORP 5430 Transportation Planning, Econ 3190 Environmental Economics, Econ 5580 Economic Development, Geog 3500 Conservation and Environmental Management, Geog 3100 Introduction to Tourism, Geog 4080 Tourism Marketing, Geog 4180 Tourism Development and Planning, Geog 4540 Water Resources Management, Geog 5440 Studies in Economic Geography, Geog 5700 Environmental Impact Assessment, Geog 5670 Spatial Analysis, Geog 5690 Intermediate GIS, Geog 5820 Remote Sensing, Hist 3240 Everyday Life in America, Hist 4100 Historical Preservation, Psci 2020 State and Local Government, Psci 3040 Introduction to Public Policy, Psci 3060 Environmental Politics

Other courses may be selected with the consent of an advisor



Geography Faculty

Not photographed: L. Hallett, L. DeCahno-Cook, J Yin



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## Western Michigan University and Urban & Regional Planning

**F**ounded in 1903, Western Michigan University has had a strong Geography program from the start. The University has nearly 30,000 students with a comprehensive variety of academic programs. Usually about 2,000 of our students come from outside the United States, representing more than 100 countries. Western is one of the U.S.'s 40 largest universities by student size, and by international student size.

The Department has offered a Geography major concentration in Urban & Regional Planning for al-

most 25 years and WMU is an affiliated member of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning. The program's alumni work in many areas of the planning discipline, both nationally and internationally, and many of our graduates have gone on to earn professional certification from the American Institute of Certified Planners, the leading professional association in the field.

The University is located in Kalamazoo, Michigan about half way between Chicago and Detroit. Kalamazoo is a safe, small metropolitan area accessible by

air, rail and highway, (US-131 and I-94).

The University offers comprehensive cultural and athletic programs. The City offers even more, so there are many recreational opportunities.

Michigan lies in the heart of the Great Lakes Region, one of the wonders of the world. The Great Lakes possess one-fifth of the world's surface fresh water. Michigan is a good "laboratory" for tourism, environmental, and regional planning, with many small (1-4 person) urban and regional planning departments.



The Community & Regional Planning Major is located in the Geography Department in Wood Hall.