

Please note all questions about the MS degree in Urban & Regional Planning (URP) need to be addressed to URB at: <http://www.urban.uiowa.edu/> and you may contact Tanya (grad admissions) at 335-0041 or Professor Charles Connerly at 335- 0032.

Approved.
John Eric Wurster
11/13/09

July 18, 2009

To: John Keller, Dean, Graduate College

**From: Charles Connerly, Director, Graduate Program in Urban and Regional Planning
Keri Hornbuckle, Chair, Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering**

Re: Joint Degree between Engineering and Planning

PLEASE NOTE: This is an update to the April 10, 2002 Memorandum of Understanding Between Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE), Urban and Regional Planning (URP), and the Graduate College

Background

There is a growing and relatively unsatisfied demand in the public sector for technically oriented professionals who have a clear understanding of policy development and implementation. Examples of the positions filled by such individuals include public works directors and their assistants, city engineers, transportation engineers, and the staffs of public utilities.

Tasks performed in the foregoing positions are typically a blend of engineering (civil and industrial) problem solving and policy analysis. The former component requires an understanding of the physical systems involved: their design, capacity, condition, and interface with other systems. The latter component requires ability to forecast demand for the system's output (which, in turn, is dependent on other policies and exogenous forces that have to be understood), and an understanding of finance and the social/political environment in which public decisions are made.

A number of universities have initiated steps toward developing programs for the training of persons possessing technical public sector-oriented skills. As yet, however, the demand outstrips supply, and usually the positions are filled with persons lacking the second component discussed above. The University of Iowa is in a rather strong position to educate the professional we describe. The University has a well developed engineering curriculum and a professional planning program featuring policy analysis.

A Joint Degree Program between CEE and URP was originally approved in 1982 and revised in 2002. During that time, only one student took this option, because it was difficult in practice to coordinate the requirements of the two degrees. Given recent changes, both in the College of

Engineering's new B.S. requirement that students develop an elective focus area (EFA), and in the volume of core classes required by the Planning Program, we believe the Joint Degree option will now be more attractive to students.

Minimum Requirements

The B.S. degree in Engineering without departmental designation requires 128 semester hours, of which 21 are drawn from an EFA. For students in the joint degree program, 21 EFA credits will be chosen from required and elective courses in Urban and Regional Planning. The M.A. or M.S. in Urban and Regional Planning typically requires 50 semester hours, of which 21 hours consist of required core courses. At least 9 hours must be taken in an area of concentration (transportation, environment and land use, housing and community development, or economic development), with the remaining 20 hours drawn from elective courses. The Joint Program will require a minimum of 35 semester hours of courses with the Urban and Regional Planning (102) prefix.

Joint Degree Advantages and Process

Students pursuing a B.S. degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering may apply for admission to the joint program with Planning during the second semester of their junior year. Graduates of the joint program with Engineering will benefit from obtaining a combination of technical skills as well as an understanding of policy development and implementation. This program dovetails with the requirement for CEE students completing the Urban and Regional Planning Elective Focus Area (EFA): see www.engineering.uiowa.edu/sdc/student_records_items/majors/civil/EFA/EFA_urban.php.

The joint program enables a student to save one academic year while completing two degrees. Joint Degree program students would normally begin to take Planning courses in their third and fourth years (the standard Engineering curriculum is to be taken during the first two years of the B.S.). During the fifth year (after receiving a B.S. in Engineering), the student will complete a curriculum similar to that of Planning's second-year students. A minimum of 30 credit hours must be taken after a student has completed his/her undergraduate degree. In most cases, students in the joint program will complete an approved planning internship during the summer between their fourth and fifth years.

All course requirements of both academic units will be satisfied under the joint program. One Planning core course (102:200, Analytic Methods I) is waived because Engineering students generally have an ample analytical background. A summary of a typical Plan of Study for a student in the joint program follows.

Faculty

Joint Program students will enroll in established courses. No additional faculty will be required.

Tuition and Fees

Students enrolled in the joint program will be assessed tuition and fees according to the schedule of the Office of the Registrar for the College of Engineering (lower or upper division) through the first semester of the senior year. Students will be assessed Graduate College-Engineering tuition and fees during the last semester of their BS program. During the 5th year in the BS/MS program, tuition and fees will be assessed at the Graduate College rate.

Financial Aid

Joint Program students will be eligible for financial support from the College of Engineering while registered in that College, and from Planning during semester 8 of the student's undergraduate program and year 5.

Advising

Each student will be assigned an advisor from both academic units. Students will be assigned to Civil & Environmental Engineering for the first four years and to Urban and Regional Planning for the fifth year.

Degrees

Students will receive a B.S. in Civil Engineering at the end of the fourth year and a M.A. or M.S. in Planning at the end of the fifth year.

Application

Students may apply for admission to the joint degree program with Planning during the second semester of their junior year. A formal application for admission to the Graduate College would be submitted at this time. Students should take the GRE in the second semester of their junior year or during the summer (or winter break) before their senior year, so the scores may be recorded by the beginning of the student's senior year. Provided students meet all requirements for a B.S. in Engineering, Planning judges their application to the Program is satisfactory, and their grade point average is at least 3.0, they would be admitted to the combined, undergraduate/graduate degree program. Students who wish to apply for financial aid from Planning should submit funding requests per departmental requirements for spring and final year funding.

Academic Standards

While students are assigned to the College of Engineering, they must maintain the overall GPA required by that College. The Graduate Program in Urban and Regional Planning will be responsible for monitoring the GPA that joint degree students earn in Planning courses. Students not maintaining a GPA of 3.0 in Planning courses while in the Joint Program may be placed on departmental academic probation. A student on academic probation in Planning would work with their Planning advisor to improve their GPA to at least a 3.0 within one semester. If the conditions of probation are not satisfied, the student will be dismissed from the Joint Program. This would not affect a student's standing in the College of Engineering. A student must have a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 for admission to the Graduate College. They must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 in order to graduate with a M.A. or M.S. in Planning.

Comprehensive Examination

Joint Program students will take the standard comprehensive examination administered to all M.A. or M.S. in Planning students, during the last semester of the 5 year.

Model Plan of Study

Year 3 Fall

4 – 5 s.h.

102:208 Planning Program Seminar (1)

[Select one of the following]

102:202 Land Use Planning: Law and Practice (4) EFA required course

102:203 History and Theories of Planning (3) EFA required course

102:205 Economics for Policy Analysis I (3) EFA required course

Year 3 Spring

3 s.h.

102:201 Analytic Methods in Planning II (3) EFA required course

OR

3 credits of electives (3)

Year 4 Fall

6 – 9 s.h.

[Select a minimum of 6 credits]

102:202 Land Use Planning: Law and Practice (4) EFA required course

102:203 History and Theories of Planning (3) EFA required course

102:205 Economics for Policy Analysis I (3) EFA required course

102:223 Financing Local Government (prerequisite 102:205) (3) EFA Elective Course

OR

102:290 Economic Impact Assessment (prerequisite 102:205) (2)

Year 4 Spring	9 s.h.
[Select one]	
102:201 Analytic Methods in Planning II (3) EFA Required Course, and 6 credits of electives	
OR	
9 credits of electives	
Planning credits (applied to CEE BS)	22 s.h.
Year 5 Summer	2 s.h.
102:335 Internship (2)	
Year 5 Fall	14 s.h.
102:209 Field Problems in Planning I (1)	
[Select one if not taken earlier]	
102:202 Land Use Planning: Law and Practice (4)	
102:203 History and Theories of Planning (3)	
[Select one if neither taken earlier]	
102:223 Financing Local Government (prerequisite 102:205) (3)	
OR	
102:290 Economic Impact Assessment (prerequisite 102:205) (2)	
And electives	
OR	
13 credits of electives (13)	
Year 5 Spring	14 s.h.
102:210 Field Problems in Planning II (3)	
11 credits of electives	
Total credits in fifth year	30 s.h.
Total Planning credits:	52 (35 credit hours must have a 102 prefix)