

**MASTERS OF CITY & REGIONAL PLANNING (MCRP)
GRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK
2026-2027**



(Source: Main Street, Lamar, SC)

*City and Regional Planning Program
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School of ARCHITECTURE

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See Appendix A for a full listing of our faculty and staff

Master in City and Regional Planning (MCRP)

Program Overview

The Master of City & Regional (MCRP) was established in 1968 and has been fully accredited since 1973. The MCRP program taps the diverse resources of other planning-related departments in the University such as architecture, landscape architecture, economics, political science, civil engineering, sociology, environmental and transportation engineering, and construction science and management.

The program emphasizes sustainable land development applying appropriate technology and recognizing the balance of physical, economic, financial, social, and policy dimensions of planning. While the curriculum covers theory and policy issues, the principal focus emphasizes the applied skills that students will need to enter the job market as professional planners and to evolve as leaders in the field.

The primary mission of the City and Regional Planning Program is to serve the local, state, regional, national, and global environment by integrating theory and practice in dealing with challenges of community growth and change in an increasingly diverse society by engaging in research and service activities that address critical planning issues.

The program focuses on creating a sustainable built environment by applying policy, appropriate building practice, technology, innovation, and natural, physical, economic, and social dimensions of planning.

This program is accredited by *The Planning Accreditation Board* www.planningaccreditationboard.org

Admission Requirements

Clemson University Graduate School Admission Requirements

The Graduate School admission requirements and application form is available online at

<https://www.clemson.edu/graduate/admissions/apply/index.html>

See the [Graduate School Policies and Procedures Handbook](#) for more information on the Application Process, Application Fee and Status, Admissions Process, Orientation and Registration and Clemson Email and Official University Communication.

a. MCRP Admission Requirements

Application review begins: January 15

Minimum requirements to be considered for admission to graduate study in City and Regional Planning generally follow those of the Graduate School (see the *Graduate School Announcements* at www.registrar.clemson.edu/html/catalogGrad.htm). Minimum requirements include at least a four-year bachelor's degree from an institution whose scholastic rating is satisfactory to the University, high quality of previous academic record.

Admission to the Master of City and Regional Planning Program is restricted to applicants whose academic record indicates a high potential to be successful in graduate studies. This determination is made by the faculty of the City and Regional Planning Program and is affirmed by the Graduate School. The various indicators used to arrive at this determination may include, but are not limited to: previous academic performance, letters of recommendation, and statements of interest. In reviewing transcripts, both the difficulty of the courses taken and the grade point ratio are considered.

Below are the required documents to be submitted with your application:

1. **Graduate School application form**, available at <https://www.clemson.edu/graduate/admissions/apply/index.html>
2. **Unofficial transcripts**. Official transcripts will only be required if admitted.
3. **Statement of Interest** short and long-term career goals, research experience, planning focus you are interested in.
4. **Three letters of recommendation**
5. **English Language Proficiency Test for International Students** (e.g., TOEFL, IELTS, Duolingo, PTE)

Upon receipt of all admission materials, the Graduate School will scan your application materials into a database, thus making your materials available to the admissions committee for review. Applicants must meet all admission requirements of the Graduate School, and the City and Regional Planning Program before official acceptance will be granted. **Applications are due by March 1 to be considered for the first round of acceptances.**

International students whose native language is not English are required to submit a satisfactory score on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or to have completed approved English as a Second Language (ESL) course work from one of Clemson's ESL affiliates. International students who are applying for a graduate assistantship are encouraged to submit scores from the Test of Written English (TWE), which is administered simultaneously with the TOEFL at most locations.

International students whose native language is not English are required to submit a satisfactory score on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or to have completed approved English as a Second

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Assistantships

Assistantships are awarded on a competitive basis to qualified students, both domestic and international. All qualified students are considered for assistantships when applications are processed. Award decisions are based on academic record, statement of purpose, and letters of recommendation.

Graduate students are eligible for financial support if they are (1) enrolled in full-time graduate studies, (2) in good academic standing (i.e., not on probation), and (3) making satisfactory progress toward their degree.

Requirements for MCRP Degree

a. Minimum MCRP requirements

Minimum Degree Requirements for the Master in City & Regional Planning	
Total hours of course work	49
Core courses required	31 + 3 (TP)
Elective courses required	12 (or 15 if completing a Thesis)
Final Terminal Project (TP) or Final Thesis	3 hours for TP 6 hours for Thesis
Exams	Final Oral Presentation of Terminal project or Thesis Defense

b. MCRP Core courses

CRP 8010	Planning Process and Legal Foundations	– 3 units
CRP 8040-1	Introduction to GIS for Planning and Policy	– 3 units, 1 unit
CRP 8050	Planning Theory and History	– 3 units
CRP 8060	Urban and Regional Economics for Planners	– 3 units
CRP 8070	Professional Studio	– 3 units
CRP 8080	Land Use and Comprehensive Planning	– 3 units
CRP 8410	Introduction to Environmental Planning	– 3 units
CRP 8580	Mixed Methods for Planning Practice	– 3 units
CRP 8590	Terminal Project / Thesis	– 3 units
CRP 8600	Thesis / Terminal Project Proposal	- 1 units
CRP 8940	Professional Planning Seminar	– 2 units
Total		31 units

See a complete listing of courses offered in City & Regional Planning and their descriptions in the Appendix C.

c. Schedule of courses

The following table shows the rotation schedule for graduate courses in the Master in City & Regional Planning program. You should schedule any courses you take outside of the discipline around this schedule in order to ensure that you do not miss an opportunity to take a course that is required by the program or your Advisory Committee.

Course Offering Rotation in City and Regional Planning	
Core Class	Semester Regularly Taught
CRP 8010 Planning Process and Legal Foundations	Spring 1 st year
CRP 8040-1 Introduction to GIS for Planning and Policy	Fall 1 st year
CRP 8050 Planning Theory and History	Fall 1 st year
CRP 8060 Urban and Regional Economics for Planners	Spring 2 nd year
CRP 8070 Professional Studio	Fall 2 nd year
CRP 8080 Land Use and Comprehensive Planning	Spring 1 st year
CRP 8410 Introduction to Environmental Planning	Fall 1 st year
CRP 8580 Mixed Methods for Planning Practice	Fall 2 nd year
CRP 8590 Terminal Project / Thesis Project	Fall 2 nd year
CRP 8600 Thesis / Terminal Project Proposal	Fall 2 nd year
CRP 8940 Professional Planning Seminar	Fall 2 nd year

d. Courses outside discipline

It is expected and encouraged that a student may choose non-City and Regional Planning courses as part of your plan of study. These decisions are normally made with your Advisor in coordination with the Program Director and are designed to enhance your understanding of your concentration path.

e. Directed studies

Directed study is allowed in special circumstances for students whose records indicate that they are already exceptionally well prepared in specific topics. A written prospectus of the course, including a description of the topic and the direction or purpose of the study is first required before a Directed Studies class is considered.

- A bibliography of both primary and secondary readings expected to be read or consulted during the course.
- A schedule of readings, papers and examinations.
- A statement made from the instructor to the Program Director that indicates the teacher's willingness to direct such a course.

i. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Facilities at Clemson

A Geographic Information System is a methodology for overlaying, integrating, and analyzing geographically referenced data, often assembled from different sources and is a required class and competency in the MCRP program. Clemson's commitment offers our students the finest in higher educational GIS facilities. Labs at 2-212 Lee Hall. These labs contain a "smart classroom" equipped with a video and data projector. Lee will have 18 workstations with 21-inch monitors. The workstations run Windows and use the most current ESRI ArcGIS and ERDAS Imagine software. With this arrangement, students have access to the world's most popular GIS and remote sensing software and latest computer hardware. While connected to the University network, the labs have their own sub network and server where students can access their data from anywhere on campus.

Standards of Performance | Course Grading

Plan of study (GS2)

Your graduate degree curriculum should be planned very early in your program, and the graduate degree curriculum form (form GS2) should be filed by the time you have completed about nine credit hours. Filing the form early in your program limits the possibility of confusion between you and your advisor on graduation requirements and timelines. In any case, you must file online a GS2 with the Graduate School no later than the last day of classes of the term before the term in which you plan to graduate (see Graduate School deadlines here www.grad.clemson.edu/forms/GeneralForms.php).

The GS2 represents the formulation of an individual student's curriculum as approved by your Advisory Committee. It must adhere to Graduate School as well as departmental policies. Advisory Committee approval of your plan of study is indicated by their signatures on the GS2.

Dropping Courses

The [Academic Calendar](#) provides official dates for withdrawing from a class without record or without final grades. If you are considering dropping a course, you must ensure you comply with all other policies and conditions of your awards. You may submit a withdrawal request via [iROAR](#). Failure to attend classes or verbal notification to instructors does not constitute formal withdrawal.

A student who stops attending classes but does not withdraw is held accountable for all financial and academic outcomes of that decision. A student who officially withdraws within the first two weeks of classes will have no grades recorded. Those who officially withdraw after the first two weeks and before the last five weeks will have a grade of W (withdrew) entered on the academic record. If you are dropping all courses, please see the latest version of the [Graduate Student Policies and Procedures](#).

Before dropping courses, international graduate students must receive authorization from an advisor in the Office of International Services. You must not fall below the required full-time enrollment mandated by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

A student on an assistantship must maintain minimum enrollment levels. See the Assistantships and Fellowships section in this handbook.

Grading System

Graduate students in graduate-level (6000+) courses may be graded using the following letter grades: A, A–, B+, B, B–, C+, C, C–, F. Faculty have sole discretion as to whether they use the full range of grades available or a subset

(e.g., A, B, C, F). There is no expectation or mandate that faculty *should* use plus/minus grades. Under no circumstances will A+ be awarded. Faculty must describe their grading policy for each course, including whether they will use +/- grading, in the course syllabus. A minimum grade of C– (or P) must be earned for each and every course a student applies toward a degree. Please refer to more details in the [Graduate Student Policies and Procedures](#).

GPA (Grade Point Average)

In calculating your grade point average (GPA; sometimes referred to as a grade point ratio or GPR), the total number of grade points accumulated is divided by the total number of credit hours attempted at Clemson during the semester, session, or other period for which the grade point ratio is being calculated. For each credit hour, the student receives grade points as follows: A: 4.00, A–: 3.66, B+: 3.34, B: 3.00, B–: 2.66, C+: 2.34, C: 2.00, C–: 1.66, F: 0, I: 0, W: 0. Audited courses do not carry credit and are not noted on your academic record.

Academic Records

Your permanent academic record is maintained in the Office of the Registrar and contains personal identifying information, grades, and credits. The academic record, maintained in accordance with the University's retention policy, is a historical record of a student's academic progress

Transcripts

Information about obtaining an official transcript is available on the Registrar's website. A transcript request form is also available as a PDF from the Office of the Registrar. The University does not currently offer an official electronic transcript.

Residency

The goal of residency is to facilitate specified engagement with members of the faculty of the University and under direct mentorship and advisement of a research advisor and advisory committee in the department or program of the major. Further, it enables the student to participate in other typical activities pertinent to the development of a scholarly profile. Residency can incorporate research training of individuals and groups, laboratory activities, networking opportunities with other students and other scholars, assisting with grant proposals, and participation in scholarly outlets such as scholarly publications and presentations.

Thesis / Terminal Project requirements

The Student's MCRP program culminates during the second year with the Thesis/Terminal Project course sequence. Each student selects a particular issue of study with active participation of a faculty committee selected by the student. Students interested in research may complete a thesis, while others more interested in planning practice complete a professional quality project. In either case, each student works with the committee in a two-semester sequence in the second year that leads to a completed proposal. Virtually all students complete their degrees within two years.

Thesis/Terminal Project Defense

The City and Regional Planning Program requires that each student pass an oral defense before your Advisory Committee prior to graduation.

Please see the following link for a Thesis overview and information on formatting guidelines and online submission.

<https://www.clemson.edu/graduate/students/theses-and-dissertations/index.html>

Terminal Project Pre-requirements

- 1 consenting Committee Chair and 2 Committee Members – Submit GS2 Committee Selection in IROAR
- Approved Proposal by the Committee

Thesis Project Pre-requirements

- 1 consenting Committee Chair and 2 Committee Members – Submit GS2 Committee Selection in IROAR
- Approved Proposal by the Committee

Foreign Language Requirement

The Master in City and Regional Planning Program does not have a foreign language requirement.

Time Requirement

The Graduate Schools allows 6 years to complete the MCRP degree requirements starting from the semester of you first class.

Sample Timetable of Student Progress

See Appendix B

Final Check-Out/Exit Interview

When you leave the University due to graduation or any other reason, you must do the following pertaining to the department:

- Complete the program Graduate Student Exit Interview survey.
- Complete an interview with the program Director.

Appendix A Faculty and Staff

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Appendix B

Sample Timetable of student progress

The following table lays out a typical progression through the MCRP program.

A Sample MCRP Program of Study		Credits
Year 1 – 1st Semester	Take 3 core courses & one elective	13
Year 1 – 2nd Semester	Take 3 core courses & one elective	12
Year 2—1st Semester	Take 2 core courses and 2 electives, defend Thesis / TP Proposal	12
Year 2—2nd Semester	Take 2 core courses and 2 electives, defend Final Thesis / TP	12

Checklist/worksheet of requirements

Use the following checklist to track your completion of program requirements.

Checklist for Master's Students in City & Regional Planning			
What	When to Complete	How/Who	Date Completed
Prepare plan of study	Beginning of the first semester	In consultation with your Advisor	Second year first week
File plan of study form (GS2)	Beginning of your second semester	Form GS2	Second year first week
Apply for diploma	Beginning of final semester	You fill out online via IROAR	Second year January
Final Examination/Presentation for Thesis or Final Studio option	At least 3 weeks prior to graduation	Major Advisor files GS7 with Graduate School	Final Presentations Mid April
Submit your manuscript to Graduate School for formatting review—if doing a thesis	At least 2 weeks prior to graduation (earlier is better)		
All formatting revisions completed, approval of manuscript by Graduate School (thesis option only)	At least one week prior to graduation	Via email and website; the manuscript review office will notify you of any revisions required and how to submit them	

* See specific deadline dates for Graduate School forms at www.grad.clemson.edu/Deadlines.php.

Appendix C

Course Descriptions

CRP 6120 Urban Transportation Planning, 3(3)

Urban travel characteristics, characteristics of transportation systems, transportation and land-use studies, trip distribution and trip assignment models, city patterns and subdivision layout

CRP 6130 Transportation's Impact on Location and the Economy

3(3)

Explores how people and goods move and how this affects their location and our economy. Topics include how transportation impacts cities' rise and decline; logistics and goods movement; air, rail, road and seaborne transportation and commerce; transportation and globalization; the role of transportation in different economic sectors; transportation and patterns of global inequality; and the growing impacts of information and communication technology on transportation and society.

CRP 6150 Transportation and Society

3(3)

Examines how transportation systems affect, and are affected by, our lives, from the individual to the locality to the nation to the globe. Topics include transportation history, transportation and land use, travel demographics and behavior, auto travel, public transportation, walking and bicycling, parking, travel and well-being, transportation and social justice, transportation and the environment, transportation economics and finance, transportation policy, transportation and public health, transportation worldwide, and the future of transportation.

CRP 8000 Human Settlements 3(3)

Overview of forces and trends affecting community growth and change-- historical, ecological, economic, demographic, design, and development--pertaining to human settlement patterns and their interrelationship in the urbanization process, especially at the national, regional, townscape, and neighborhood scale. Course will be team-taught from various perspectives. Intended as a foundation core course for Master's in City and Regional Planning, Landscape Architecture, and Real Estate Development.

CRP 8010 Planning Process and Legal Foundations 3(3)

Introduction to the city and regional planning profession and related processes with the legal foundation for comprehensive planning and tools of implementation.

CRP 8020 Place Making and the Built Environment

3(3)

Covers the principles and practice of site planning, including site analysis, site design, infrastructure planning; exploration of site planning options for residential, commercial, office, industrial and mixed-use projects; street network, civic space, and open space planning; emphasis on walkable, mixed-use, transit-oriented, sustainable development. Preq: Consent of instructor.

CRP 8030 Quantitative Methods

3(3)

Students acquire tools for analyzing quantitative data in planning. Tools include descriptive statistics, t-tests, nonparametric statistics, regression and correlation, chi-squared tests, lambda and gamma, and ANOVA. Special emphasis is placed on communicating about data related to urbanization, planning and geography in written, oral and graphic formats. Preq: Consent of instructor

CRP 8040-1 Introduction to GIS for Planners

3 / 1

Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and the use of ESRI ArcGIS for spatial data management, analysis, and display. This course is primarily intended for students in local and regional planning and policy fields. Coreq: [CRP 8041](#).

CRP 8050 Planning Theory and History

3(3)

Development of the planning practice and theories of planning process: historical evolution of planning practice in the U.S. ; social issues in planning; theories of planning and critiques of those theories; and ethical issues in planning practice.

CRP 8060 Urban and Regional Economics

3(3)

Overview of basic principles of urban and regional economics and local government public finance for planners. Topics covered include frameworks and methods for analyzing regional economies, municipal budgets, and the impact of public and private investment, particularly land development. The role of analysis in the planning process is also addressed. Preq: Consent of instructor.

CRP 8070 Professional Planning Studio

3(3)

Serves as a vehicle for synthesis and application of skills developed in other courses and includes participation in one or more real-world planning projects in addition to seminars and readings to development of professional practice skills.

CRP 8080 Land Use and Comprehensive Planning

3(3)

Overview of forces and trends affecting community growth and change, including historical, ecological, economic, demographic, cultural, and design-related. Introduction to the comprehensive planning process with a special focus on basic methods of land use planning, including land suitability analysis and strategies for formulating alternative land use plans.

CRP 8090 Current Issues in Planning

3(3)

Students are exposed to current practice issues in various fields of the planning profession through a series of guest speakers representing various areas of planning practice. The course is organized around the various concentration areas of the Clemson MCRP program. Preq: Enrollment in MCRP program.

CRP 8120 Current Issues in Planning

3(3)

Provides an overview of how globalization influences development and urbanization, with a focus on policy and planning implications. Students review the global trends affecting industrialized and developing countries, regions and cities; and examine case studies for urban and regional management alternatives, using case studies centered on transitional regions such as Southeast Asia and Africa. Preq: Graduate standing

CRP 8130 Fundamentals of Transportation Planning

3(3)

Familiarizes students with core concepts and practices in public transit. Course modules examine modes and design, planning issues and organizational environments inherent to public transit, and technical operations. Course concludes with an examination of comprehensive transit systems. Preq: Consent of instructor

CRP 8140 Public Transportation

3(3)

Familiarizes students with core concepts and practices in public transit. Course modules examine modes and design, planning issues and organizational environments inherent to public transit, and technical operations. Course concludes with an examination of comprehensive transit systems. Preq: Consent of instructor

CRP 8150 Transportation Innovation

3(3)

Through lectures, seminar discussions and collaborative learning activities, course interaction develops students' transportation knowledge, research and ideas. Students are encouraged to use information already obtained to create visionary thinking and interaction skills needed to become transportation leaders. Preq: [CRP 8130](#).

CRP 8170 Planning for Bicycle and Pedestrian Friendly Communities

3(3)

Explores key aspects of active transportation, such as pedestrian and bicycle fundamentals; benefits and challenges of creating bicycle and pedestrian-friendly environments; and issues related to the planning, design, implementation, and assessment of such projects. Central to the course is a semester-long practical analysis of existing conditions and proposal for the betterment of an area.

CRP 8200 Negotiation and Development Dispute Resolution

3(3)

Skill-building course in conflict resolution and consensus building through bargaining and negotiation, primarily in the design professions. Students play active roles in discovering, applying, reflecting on and critiquing the theories, styles and techniques of conflict resolution and consensus building that work in different types of disputes

CRP 8220 Urban Design

3(3)

Analysis of the evolution of the physical patterns of cities through research in the historical development of urban form in Europe and America within the context of prevailing social, economic and political influences; approaches to the analysis of contemporary cities through the study of modern planning theorists.

CRP 8350 GIS and Remote Sensing Applications for Trend Analysis

3(3)

Principles of remote sensing and land information systems in trend analysis. Addresses aspects of change detection for monitoring natural resources and urban growth. Designed for those interested in planning, natural resources management and environmental analysis. Lectures and hands-on laboratory work emphasize the use of imagery for database generation and analysis. Preq: [CRP 6300](#) or [CRP 8040](#) or [CRP 8340](#); or consent of instructor. Coreq: [CRP 8351](#)

CRP 8351 GIS and Remote Sensing Applications for Trend Analysis Laboratory

1(3)

Principles of remote sensing and land information systems in trend analysis. Addresses aspects of change detection for monitoring natural resources and urban growth. Designed for those interested in planning, natural resources management and environmental analysis. Lectures and hands-on laboratory work emphasize the use of imagery for database generation and analysis. Preq: [CRP 6300](#) or [CRP 8040](#) or [CRP 8340](#); or consent of instructor. Coreq: [CRP 8351](#)

CRP 8400 Seminar in Coastal Planning

3(3)

Issues relating to development and conservation of coastal environments, focusing on inherent tradeoffs between growth and environmental quality; ecology and carrying capacity of coastal areas; appropriate management approaches to balance coastal resource demand.

CRP 8410 Introduction to Environmental Planning

3(3)

Current and emerging environmental issues and appropriate planning options, including population dynamics and limits to growth, entropy law, waste management and global climate change; students pursue individual research on an environmental issue of particular concern and report findings.

CRP 8420 Coastal Resilience, Climate Change and Hazard Mitigation

3(3)

Basic issues and theoretical concepts that allow students to plan for coastal resilience in light of projected climate change. Provides an overview of basic coastal geography and management, followed by planning for coastal resiliency and natural hazard mitigation. Preq: Graduate standing

CRP 8440 Outdoor Recreation Resource Management and Planning

3(3)

Issues relating to planning and development of natural areas for recreational purposes. Emphasis is on the policy-making process at the federal, state, regional and local levels. May also be offered as [PRTM 8440](#). Preq: Consent of instructor.

CRP 8450 Water Resource Policy and Law

3(3)

Surveys the history, science, economics, politics, legal framework and current debates regarding the allocation of freshwater resources in the U.S., with emphasis on relevant Southeastern issues. Scientists, engineers, planners, landscape architects, policy makers and economists will benefit from understanding water allocation and associated conflicts

CRP 8580 Mixed Methods in Planning

3(3)

Provides opportunity for students in their final year of study in the planning program to develop a proposal for the terminal project or thesis. Students are responsible for completing the research, writing and editing necessary for an acceptable proposal. Preq: Consent of faculty. Coreq: [CRP 8600](#).

CRP 8600 Terminal Project/Thesis Proposal

1(3)

Taken in conjunction with [CRP 8580](#), this lab provides students the opportunity to apply concepts learned in [CRP 8580](#) to their own thesis or terminal project research. Coreq: [CRP 8580](#).

CRP 8700 Seminar in Sustainable Development 3(3)

Concept of sustainable development traced from its historical roots through the popularization of the term in the international development literature; scientific base and the application of sustainability through economic sectors and building practice. Students will conduct individual/group research projects.

CRP 8720 Housing Issues in the United States, 3(3,0)**3(3)**

Regulation, stimulation, salvage and replacement of housing through public policy administrative procedures; specific housing programs analyzed in detail.

CRP 8730 Economic Development Planning**3(3)**

Economic development planning process, focusing on applied programmatic techniques, especially at the state, local and neighborhood levels. Emphasizes theoretical models, economic development process, private/public partnerships, economic development tools, political context, and economic development planning administration and organization. Preq: Consent of instructor.

CRP 8890 Selected Topics in Planning, 3(3,0)

Topics emphasizing current literature and results of current research. May be repeated for credit.

CRP 8900 Directed Studies in City and Regional Planning, 1-6(0,3-18)

Student pursues individual professional interests under guidance of city and regional planning program graduate faculty. May be repeated for credit.

CRP 8720 Housing Issues in the United States, 3(3,0)**3(3)**

Regulation, stimulation, salvage and replacement of housing through public policy administrative procedures; specific housing programs analyzed in detail.

CRP 8890 Selected Topics in Planning**3(3)**

Topics emphasizing current literature and results of current research. May be repeated for credit. Preq: Consent of instructor.

CRP 8900 Directed Studies in City and Regional Planning**1-6(1-6)**

Students pursue individual professional interests under guidance of City and Regional Planning graduate faculty. May be repeated for credit.

CRP 8940 Selected Topics in Planning**2(2)**

Seminar-based analysis of careers and professional development in planning, enabling students to compare experiences and gain greater understanding of professional practice by reflecting on planning issues.