

PERFORMANCE INFORMATION
Master of City and Regional Planning Program
Clemson University
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1. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

During the summer of 2017, the MCRP Program conducted an Alumni Survey which formed part of the PAB Self-Study Report for our 2018 re-accreditation. The most comprehensive data from the 2017 Alumni Survey is used to measure MCRP progress in terms of student outcomes and to identify new opportunities and challenges. The MCRP program has an excellent record in placing students into planning and planning related jobs immediately after graduating.

Alumni Survey (2017)

The most recent survey of Clemson MCRP Alumni was conducted during the summer of 2017. The data was required as part of the Self-Study Report for the 2018 accreditation review by the Planning Accreditation Board. The survey queried alumni about overall satisfaction with the MCRP Program and the extent to which their education at Clemson prepared them for professional planning practice. On average, 80% of respondents to our survey were able to find a job within 3 months after graduation from Clemson University. This is a function of integrating four key ingredients within the MCRP program: a) maintain a very strong relationship with the South Carolina American Planning Association (SCAPA) chapter; b) keep in close touch with MCRP Alumni; c) MCRP curriculum is organized according to a generalist professional planner model which makes us nationally attractive students who are looking for jobs in either the public or private sector; and d) almost all of our students access extremely good paying internships for their entire second year in the MCRP program.

Perceptions of the MCRP Program

The survey respondents were asked their opinion of the MCRP program at Clemson, and about their experiences within it. Overall, the ratings were quite positive. Over 93% of students claimed that they were “Very satisfied” or “Satisfied” with the program in all three alumni cohorts.

Responses to the question “Overall, how satisfied are you with the education/training you received in the MCRP Program at Clemson University?” (N=78)

Response	2003-2007	2008-2012	2013-2017
5 - Very satisfied	6 (40%)	10 (34%)	16 (47%)

4 – Satisfied	8 (53%)	17 (59%)	16 (47%)
3 – Neutral	1 (7%)	2 (7%)	1 (3%)
2 – Dissatisfied	0	0	1 (3%)
1 – Very dissatisfied	0	0	0
Total	15	29	34

Respondents were also asked about how well the program had prepared them in specific subjects and workplace skills. The survey requested alumni to rank their degree of preparedness on the following 5-point scale:

- 5 – Very well prepared
- 4 – Well prepared
- 3 – Prepared
- 2 – Somewhat prepared
- 1 – Not prepared

The responses to the question are summarized. Higher means indicate a higher average level of perceived preparedness. The most significant observation about these top three abilities identified among our alumni is that the program was able to make adjustments in how we teach effective writing skills (“communicate effectively in writing”) where it was among our lowest rated ability among 2003 to 2007. These top three “abilities” are recognized by the surveyed alumni as being the top three “abilities” needed at their current employment: Work collaboratively, Communicate Effectively in Writing and Oral Communication/Present Effectively.

Responses to the question “Please rate how well your education at Clemson University prepared you in regards to your ability to:” (N=34) 2013 to 2017.

“... your ability to:”	Very well prepared	Well prepared	Prepared	Somewhat prepared	Not prepared	Total
Access and analyze secondary data (e.g. census data)	14 (41%)	13 (38%)	7 (21%)	0	0	34
Work collaboratively	14 (41%)	16 (47%)	4 (12%)	0	0	34

Conduct statistical analysis	6 (18%)	8 (23%)	17 (50%)	2 (6%)	1 (3%)	34
Orally communicate / present effectively	14 (41%)	13 (38%)	6 (18%)	1 (3%)	0	34
Communicate effectively in writing	19 (56%)	9 (26%)	4 (12%)	2 (6%)	0	34
Utilize planning-related computer applications (GIS, etc.)	16 (47%)	10 (29%)	5 (15%)	3 (9%)	0	34
Engage the public	5 (15%)	13 (38%)	10 (29%)	5 (15%)	1 (3%)	34

- 1) Work collaboratively 85% (n=66)
- 2) Communicate effectively in writing 74% (n=58)
- 3) Oral Communicate / present effectively 72% (n=56)

On the other side of the spectrum, our bottom two rated abilities identified by the alumni that rated “somewhat prepared” and “not prepared” are:

- 6.) Conduct statistical analysis 49% (n=35)
- 7.) Engage the public 51% (n=40)

These two “ability” areas are targets the faculty need to explore for improvements in our future curriculum development.

Responses to the question “How well were you prepared in each of the following areas at Clemson University?” (N=34) 2013 to 2017

“... prepared in each of the following areas:”	Very well prepared	Well prepared	Prepared	Somewhat prepared	Not prepared	Total
Administrative and Legal Aspects of Planning	4 (12%)	10 (29%)	13 (38%)	6 (18%)	1 (3%)	34
Citizen Participation and Public Involvement	6 (18%)	8 (23%)	10 (29%)	9 (26%)	1 (3%)	34

Economic Development	3 (9%)	13 (38%)	13 (38%)	5 (15%)	0	34
Environmental Planning	5 (15%)	7 (21%)	14 (41%)	7 (21%)	1 (3%)	34
Equity and Social Justice	5 (15%)	8 (23%)	14 (41%)	5 (15%)	2 (6%)	34
Ethics of Professional Practice	14 (41%)	12 (35%)	6 (18%)	1 (3%)	1 (3%)	34
Geographic Information Systems (GIS)	16 (47%)	14 (41%)	2 (6%)	2 (6%)	0	34
History and Theory of Planning	14 (41%)	13 (38%)	6 (18%)	0	1 (3%)	34
Housing and Community Development	5 (15%)	11 (32%)	9 (26%)	8 (23%)	1 (3%)	34
Human Settlement Patterns/Urban Spatial Structures	15 (44%)	10 (29%)	7 (21%)	2 (6%)	0	34
Land Use Planning	12 (35%)	11 (32%)	4 (12%)	7 (21%)	0	34
Political Aspects of Plan-Making and Policy	3 (9%)	12 (35%)	8 (23%)	9 (26%)	2 (2%)	34
Transportation Planning	6 (18%)	7 (21%)	14 (41%)	4 (12%)	3 (9%)	34
Urban Design	10 (29%)	10 (29%)	7 (21%)	5 (15%)	1 (3%)	34

This query was used in relation to the 14 substantive fields within planning. Overall, all of the surveyed alumni seemed positive in their MCRP education preparing them for the job market. However, two themes were more apparent. First, the top four areas the surveyed alumni felt the MCRP program prepared them “very well prepared” or “well prepared” are:

- 1.) History and Theory of Planning: 79% (n=62)
- 2.) Geographic Information Systems: 77% (n=60)
- 3.) Human Settlement Patterns / Urban Spatial Structures: 72% (n=56)
- 4.) Land Use Planning: 70% (n=50)

Alumni Survey Conclusion

The results of the 2017 alumni survey show that Clemson's MCRP graduates rate the quality of Clemson's MCRP program quite high. There have been specific improvements in a number of subject areas such as environmental planning, equity and social justice, and ethics of professional practice. New faculty members have been hired in several of the areas where students felt less prepared.

The MCRP curriculum is doing a good job implementing a professional graduate curriculum that is well connected with the professional needs of our alumni. In addition, employer evaluations for public service assistantships, internships, and permanent placement indicate that students are well prepared with a good understanding of basic planning concepts and technical skills that allow them to make useful contributions to the agencies and firms where they work.

Exit Interviews, 2014-2018

For every graduating class of MCRP students both written and in-person Exit Interviews are conducted. One of the key questions is the following: **“What is your overall rating of the education you received in the MCRP Program?”** The survey asked them to rank the MCRP Program on the following scale.

- Highly valuable
- Valuable
- Somewhat valuable
- Less than somewhat valuable
- Not valuable at all

(There were no responses for the categories “Less than somewhat valuable” or “Not valuable at all.”)

Graduating Class	Highly valuable	Valuable	Somewhat valuable
2018	9	8	2
2017	6	4	1
2016	5	7	0
2015	2	3	0
2014	5	6	1
Total for 2014-18	27 (46%)	28 (47%)	4 (7%)

In conclusion, for the past graduating classes, 93% of graduates (at the time of graduation) indicated that the education they received in the MCRP Program was highly valuable or valuable.

2. TUITION AND FEES (Fall 2018 - Spring 2019)

Tuition and Fees are calculated on a semester basis, and are as follows for the Master of City and Regional Planning (MCRP) Program:

- In-State residents \$10,380 per academic year
- Out-of-State Students \$20,682 per academic year

For a complete list of student fees and a per-credit-hour breakdown of tuition rates, please refer to Clemson University's schedule of [Tuition and Fees](#).

3. STUDENT RETENTION AND GRADUATION RATES

The retention rate for a master's program is the percentage of students who return the next academic year. The graduation rate for a master's program is the percentage of students who graduate within 4 years of enrolling.

Academic Year (Entering)	Number Enrolled	Retention Rate	Graduated within 4 years	Graduation Rate
2010-2011	18	78%	14	78%
2011-2012	19	84%	16	84%
2012-2013	13	100%	12	92%
2013-2014	7	86%	n/a	71%*
2014-2015	17	88%	n/a	76%*
2015-2016	20	80%	n/a	n/a
2016-2017	23	87%	16	82*

*2-year graduation rate

Number of Degrees Produced in 2017:

During 2018, the program graduated 19 students with the MCRP degree.