

MCMP Specializations

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The purpose of the MCMP specializations is to help students select a set of electives that ensure a depth of expertise in one or more planning subfields. CMP specializations are guides, not requirements. We encourage students to specialize but students may select elective courses more broadly and become a “generalist.” We offer many opportunities for students to further develop their expertise through the university research centers, special initiatives, and community engagement.

Students satisfying all the requirements of a specialization will receive a certificate attesting to that completion within three months of graduation. Before graduating, students submit a specialization completion form for departmental records. Students may then include that specialization on their resume; however, the specialization will not appear on official university transcripts.

Specializations

- Ecological Planning
- Economic and Real Estate Development
- Housing & Community Development
- Small & Resort Town Planning
- Smart Growth: Land Use, Transportation & Accessibility
- Urban Design

Other ways to specialize

If students want to take the specialization further, they may enroll in one of our dual degree programs or elect to pursue a certificate program inside or outside of the department (add link: <https://catalog.utah.edu/#/content/6000afd0b1adcb001c5654ad>).

The University of Utah offers many graduate certificate programs outside of the College of Architecture & Planning. Students might consider Demography, Emergency Management, Geographic Information Science (GIS), Leadership, Justice & Community Practice, Public Health, and Sustainability. Dual degrees and graduate certificates appear on official university transcripts.

Ecological Planning

This specialization emphasizes the knowledge, practice, and processes involved in weaving together social, built, and natural systems to create functional, beautiful human habitats and thriving, resilient communities. Ecological planning takes an interdisciplinary approach, recognizing the roles of the built environment professions, natural sciences, and social sciences in understanding and working within human communities as complex social-ecological systems. Students learn how to draw upon diverse areas of expertise to plan and design with nature.

Career Paths

Employment opportunities for students with this expertise are in local and regional planning agencies, private consulting (green developers and sustainable design consultants), parks, greenway and preserve organizations (federal, state, local government, and nonprofit), and ecology and environmental organizations.

Faculty

- Reazul Ahsan (Utah Asia Campus) – urban climate risks reduction, urban resilience, smart city planning
- Divya Chandrasekhar – environmental policy and planning, disaster recovery and mitigation policy, community-based disaster recovery planning, international development and planning
- Alexandra Ponette-Gonzalez
- Alessandro Rigolon – urban green space, environmental justice, green gentrification, health equity

Practitioners who teach CMP courses:

- Sarah Hanners – urban ecology, landscape ecology, pollinator ecology, green infrastructure, ecological planning, collaborative adaptive management, scenario planning, collaborative planning, systems thinking
- Danya Rumore – gateway and natural amenity region communities, environmental policy and planning, dispute resolution, conflict management, collaborative planning, consensus building, small town and resort town planning
- Whitney Ward – VCBO Architecture

Requirements

Complete a total of 4 courses (12 credits). Substitutions must be approved prior to taking the course.

Electives

CMP 6140 Planning for Disasters & Environmental Change (3)
CMP 6270 Complexity & Systems Thinking (3)

CMP 6380 Green Communities (3)
CMP 6390 Sustainability Planning (3)
CMP 6620 Negotiation & Dispute Resolution (3)
CMP 6260 Graduate Workshop (3) – only if workshop topic related to the specialization
CMP 6370 Landscape Architecture & Design with Nature (3)
CMP 6615 Advanced Urban Ecology (3)
CMP 6660 Green Infrastructure (3)
CMP 6954 Professional Internship (1-4) – only if related to this specialization
CMP 6960 Planning Healthy Communities (3)
CMP 6971 Professional Project II (3) – only if the professional project is related to this specialization.

Approved electives in other departments
CVEEN 7440 Urban Watershed Management (3)
CVEEN 7660 Water Reuse for Sustainability (3)
EHY 6103 Ecology of Residency (3)
FCS 6630 Healthy Communities (3)
POLS 6322 Environmental & Sustainability Policy (3)
PRT 6410 Land and Resource Recreation Planning
PRT 6420 Ecology & Management of Wildland Recreation Settings (3)
PRT 6680 Parks & Community Relations (3)
PRT 6875 Sustainable Tourism & Protected Area Management
SUST 6000 Global Change & Society (3)
SUST 6800 Global Change & Sustainability Seminar (1)

Economic & Real Estate Development

This specialization equips students with advanced skills in economic analysis with an emphasis on the public sector. Students learn what drives economic growth and change and how to formulate strategies that benefit the larger community. Due to the robust real estate climate in Utah, there is a significant need for planners to be able to work with developers to create public-private partnerships. For those interested in the private sector, a graduate certificate in Real Estate Development is also available (add this link:

https://catalog.utah.edu/#/programs/VJ_oHjECZ?bc=true&bcCurrent=Real%20Estate%20Development&bcGroup=College%20of%20Architecture%20%2B%20Planning&bclItem=programs).

Career Paths

Employment opportunities in municipal, regional and state government (economic development, redevelopment, small business assistance); nonprofit sector (chamber of commerce, community & economic development organizations, land banks), private consultants as well as academic institutions (research parks, university extension offices).

Faculty

The primary CMP faculty teaching and conducting research in this area include:

- Stacy Harwood – community economic development, neighborhood planning, gentrification, scenario planning, local immigrant integration, planning in multicultural communities, race, and space, cross-racial coalition building.
- Danny Wall – forensic appraisal and consulting related to a wide range of markets and property types, including large industrial and manufacturing operations, large land-development projects, special-use facilities, commercial and residential properties, and recreational and resort properties.

Practitioners and researchers who teach CMP courses:

- Dejan Eskic – Kem Gardner Policy Institute
- Josh Green – C.W. Urban
- Eric Robinson – Kirton McConkie
- Shaleane Gee – Zion Bank

Requirements

Complete a total of 4 courses (12 credits). Substitutions must be approved prior to taking the course.

Electives:

CMP 6460 Real Estate Market Analysis (3)

CMP 6260 Graduate Workshop (3) – only if workshop topic related to the specialization (for example, Housing Affordability Lab, Small & Resort Town Planning)
CMP 6405 Urban Design Methods (3)
CMP 6440 Urban Design Principals (3)
CMP 6410 Site Development (3)
CMP 6630 Real Estate Development Due Diligence (3)
CMP 6954 Professional Internship (1-4) – only if related to this specialization
CMP 6960 Public Private Partnerships (3)
CMP 6971 Professional Project II (3) – only if the professional project is related to this specialization.

Approved electives in other departments:

ARCH 6581 Main Street Revitalization (3)
ECON 6300 Public Finance (3)
FINAN 6040 Excel for the Finance Professional (3)
FINAN 6390 Real Estate Principals (3)
FINAN 6760 Real Estate Finance (3)
PADMN 6335 Governance and the Economy (3)
PADMN 6380 Public Budgeting & Finance (3)

Housing & Community Development

This specialization focuses on building thriving communities and neighborhoods by enhancing social, economic, and environmental conditions through capacity building, collaborative planning, community organizing, asset-based development, and advocacy. Faculty and students work in underserved urban and rural areas with a particular focus on Salt Lake City's diverse westside, as well as the rapidly growing gateway and natural amenity areas in the western United States. In these contexts, we explore the relationships between the local and global; theory and practice, experiential and technical knowledge, equity and equality. Students learn how to effect change by building bridges and finding common ground in complex systems. For those wanting to develop expertise in community engagement, a graduate certificate in Community Engaged Practices is also available (add link:

[https://catalog.utah.edu/#/programs/SJzCxj3kv?q=community%20engaged%20practices&itemTypes=programs&limit=20&skip=0&bc=true&bcCurrent=Community%20Engaged%20Practices%20\(Certificate\)&bcItemType=programs](https://catalog.utah.edu/#/programs/SJzCxj3kv?q=community%20engaged%20practices&itemTypes=programs&limit=20&skip=0&bc=true&bcCurrent=Community%20Engaged%20Practices%20(Certificate)&bcItemType=programs)).

Career Paths

Employment opportunities in municipal and regional government (planning, community development, housing, neighborhood improvement, redevelopment, community outreach); nonprofit sector (community development agencies, community organizing, labor unions), foundations and philanthropic organizations, private consultants as well as academic institutions (community engagement programs, university extension offices).

Faculty

- Divya Chandrasekhar – environmental policy and planning, disaster recovery and mitigation policy, community-based disaster recover planning, international development and planning
- Stacy Harwood – community economic development, neighborhood planning, gentrification, scenario planning, local immigrant integration, planning in multicultural communities, race and space, cross-racial coalition building
- C. Aujean Lee

Practitioners who teach CMP courses:

- Thomas Eddington – Integrated Planning & Design, LLC
- Danya Rumore – gateway and natural amenity region communities, environmental policy and planning, dispute resolution, conflict management, collaborative planning, consensus building, small town and resort town planning

Complete a total of 4 courses (12 credits). Substitutions must be approved prior to taking the course.

Electives

CMP 6030 Leadership & Community Engagement (3)
CMP 6050 Community Engagement for Equity and Belonging (3)
CMP 6140 Planning for Disasters & Environmental Change (3)
CMP 6260 Graduate Workshop (3) : Westside Studio (3)
CMP 6280 Housing Affordability Lab (taught through Business School) (3)
CMP 6260 Graduate Workshop (3) – only if workshop topic related to the specialization (for example, Puerto Rico Lab, Westside Studio, Housing Affordability Lab, etc)
CMP 6380 Green Communities (3)
CMP 6620 Negotiation & Dispute Resolution (3)
CMP 6954 Professional Internship (1-4) – only if related to this specialization
CMP 6960 Public Private Partnerships (3)
CMP 6960 Health City Planning
CMP 6971 Professional Project II (3) – only if the professional project is related to this specialization.

Approved electives in other departments:

ANTH 6245 Human Migration & Social Change
ECS 7665 Visual Arts & Social Justice
ECS 7826 Youth & Action Research
ECS 6822 Pacific Islander Indigenous Education
ECS 6857 Education and Sustainability in Biocapitalist Society
ELP 6260 Critical Race Theory
ELP 6290 Community Engaged Partnership
FCS 6730 Community Development & Environmental Chang
FCS 6400 Nonprofit Community Organizations
NURS 7510 Social Determinants of Health
OCTH 6720 Immigration & Resettlement
PADMN 6340 Organizational Leadership & Change
PRT 6046 Advanced Culture Studies
PRT 6680 Parks & Community Relations
PHIL 6710 International Human Rights
SOC 6050 Classical Social Theory
SOC 6674 Global Health
SOC 6085 Cities & Communities
SUST 6870 Environmental Justice

Small & Resort Town Planning

This specialization works in conjunction with the other specializations with a focus on the unique planning issues faced by small towns and rural places near natural amenities (such as national parks) and resorts. Those interested in this specialization focus on the challenges of managing and planning with limited resources and capacity. Some issues include community and economic development, community engagement, historic preservation, land conservation, transportation, and interfacing with large and small farming enterprises.

Career Paths

Students who complete this specialization will be uniquely well prepared for planning, community development, and related positions in rural communities, particularly those that are destination areas. Additional employment opportunities may include work with federal land management agencies, consultancies that work with rural and destination communities, tourism and outdoor recreation industry, and non-governmental organizations.

Practitioners who teach CMP courses:

- Thomas Eddington – Integrated Planning & Design, LLC
- Bruce Parker – Planning & Development Services, LLC
- Danya Rumore – gateway and natural amenity resources communities, environmental policy and planning, dispute resolution, conflict management, collaborative planning, consensus building, small town and resort town planning

Requirements

Complete a total of 4 courses (12 credits). Substitutions must be approved prior to taking the course.

Electives

CMP 6270 Land Use and Transportation

CMP 6330 Growth Management Law & Policy

CMP 6405 Urban Design Methods

CMP 6620 Negotiation & Dispute Resolution

CMP 6260 Graduate Workshop (3) only if workshop topic related to the specialization (for example, Small & Resort Town Planning)

CMP 6660 Green Infrastructure

CMP 6954 Professional Internship (1-4) – only if related to this specialization

CMP 6960 Public Private Partnership

CMP 6971 Professional Project II (3) – only if the professional project is related to this specialization.

Approved electives in other departments:

ARCH 6236 Cultures & Architecture of the Southwest

ARCH 6500 Historic Preservation

ARCH 6581 Main Street Revitalization

FCS 6730 Community Development & Environmental Change

FINAN 6390 Real Estate Principles

LAW 7200 Natural Resources

PADMN 6390 Administration in Local Government

PRT 6875 Sustainable Tourism & Protected Area Management

PRT 6410 Land and Resource Recreation Planning

Smart Growth: Land Use, Transportation & Accessibility

This specialization focuses on how planning practices can preserve public goods such as air, water, and land; secure positive land-use interactions and avoid adverse ones; effectively enhance economic/fiscal benefits; create desirable and resilient places; apportion benefits and burdens equitably, and remove barriers experienced by many environmental justice populations. Accessibility looks at how transportation or transportation substitutes like information technologies enrich people's lives by giving them opportunities for employment, education, health care, etc. Market preferences today are much more diversified, with marked shifts towards communities interwoven with pedestrian-oriented features and easily accessible to jobs, services, and amenities. Students learn how these trends impact professional planning practice and develop the skills to craft effective Smart Growth policy responses.

Career Paths

Land-use and transportation are the traditional responsibilities of municipal and regional government agencies (planning, transportation, regional planning, public transportation departments). Other employment opportunities for students in this specialization are in state agencies and private architecture, planning and engineering consulting firms.

Faculty

- Keith Bartholomew – land use law, transportation planning & policy, scenario planning, growth management, farmland preservation, environmental law
- Reid Ewing – smart growth, urban design, climate change, transit-oriented development, traffic calming, traffic engineering, public health
- Andy Hong – health and transportation, active transportation, physical activity, air pollution, environmental health, nature-based solutions, geospatial data analysis
- Alessandro Rigolon – urban green space, environmental justice, green gentrification, health equity

Practitioners and researchers who teach CMP courses:

- Ted Knowlton – Wasatch Front Regional Council
- Tom Millar – Salt Lake City Corporation, Transportation Division

Requirements

Complete a total of 4 courses (12 credits). Substitutions must be approved prior to taking the course.

Electives

CMP 6260 Graduate Workshop (3) only if workshop topic related to the specialization (for example, Transportation Academy, Transportation Planning)

CMP 6270 Land Use and Transportation (3)
CMP 6330 Growth Management Law and Policy (3)
CMP 6390 Sustainability Planning (3)
CMP 6410 Site Planning (3)
CMP 6453 Intermediate GIS Applications (3)
CMP 6455 Spatial Data Analytics (3)
CMP 6500 Preservation Theory and Practice (3)
CMP 6700 Planning for Biking and Walking (3)
CMP 6710 Introduction to Transportation Planning (3)
CMP 6954 Professional Internship (1-4) – only if related to this specialization
CMP 6960 Transportation Analysis Methods (3)
CMP 6960 Healthy Urban Planning (3)
CMP 6960 Public Private Partnerships (3)
CMP 6971 Professional Project II (3) – only if the professional project is related to this specialization.

Approved electives in other departments:

CVEEN 6560 Transportation Planning
CVEEN 7590 Public Transportation Systems
LAW 7632 Environmental Planning Law & Policy

Urban Design

This specialization is for students interested in shaping the places we live, both how they will look and how they will function. Urban design involves a complex inter-relationship between municipalities, real estate developers, property owners, planners, architects, the construction industry, public administrators, and the public. Students learn to engage in this process effectively to produce vital and vibrant places. A Graduate Certificate in Urban Design is also available (add this link: <https://catalog.utah.edu/#/programs/NJcKcnVA-?bc=true&bcCurrent=Urban%20Design&bcGroup=College%20of%20Architecture%20%2B%20Planning&bclItem=programs>).

Faculty

- Idil Ayral (Utah Asia Campus)
- Reid Ewing – smart growth, urban design, climate change, transit-oriented development, traffic calming, traffic engineering, public health
- Alessandro Rigolon – urban green space, environmental justice, green gentrification, health equity

Practitioners who teach CMP courses

- Molly O’Neil Robinson – Salt Lake City Planning Division
- Mark Morris – Voda Landscape Design
- Ryan Wallace – MHTN Architects
- Whitney Ward – VCBO Architecture

Requirements

Complete a total of 4 courses, options:

- no studio (12 credits)
- 1 studio + 2 additional courses (11 credits)
- 2 studios (10 credits)

Substitutions must be approved prior to taking the course.

Electives

CMP 6150 City in Literature (3)

CMP 6370 Landscape Architecture and Design with Nature (3)

CMP 6380 Green Communities (3)

CMP 6400 Urban Design Visualization (3)

CMP 6405 Urban Design Methods (3)

CMP 6410 Site Development (3) (3)

CMP 6440 Urban Design Principals (3)

CMP 6445 Urban Design Studio I (5)

CMP 6446 Urban Design Studio II (5)

CMP 6453 Intermediate GIS Applications (3)
CMP 6455 Spatial Data Analytics (3)
CMP 6500 Preservation Theory & Practice (3)
CMP 6570 Building Conditions Assessment and Preservation Technology (3)
CMP 6700 Planning for Biking and Walking (3)
CMP 6954 Professional Internship (1-4) – only if related to this specialization
CMP 6960 Urban Design Fundamentals (3)
CMP 6971 Professional Project II (3) – only if the professional project is related to this specialization.

Other ways to specialize

The University of Utah offers many graduate certificate programs (add this link: <http://catalog.utah.edu/#/content/5b16ec141e3e3e001a14b99b>) outside of the College of Architecture & Planning. Students might consider Demography, Emergency Management, Geographic Information Science (GIS), Leadership, Justice & Community Practice, Public Health, and Sustainability.