Graduate Certificate in Community Planning

The URI Graduate Certificate in Community Planning provides students advanced instruction and training in community planning and development to address contemporary planning challenges at different geographical levels in the United States. The certificate focuses on the knowledge of the principles and practices of community planning and development, specifically in areas of land use and environmental planning as well as urban design. The graduate certificate offers the knowledge and technical skills for those students interested in a career in governmental planning agencies, private sector consulting and/or real estate development companies as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Those who already practice in the field and wish to enhance their skills and understanding of the community planning and development issues are also encouraged to consider the graduate certificate.

Requirements

The total number of courses required to complete Certificate are five (15 or 16 credits).

Required course:

CPL 410 (or 501): Fundamentals of Community Planning Practice (3 cr.)

Plus 6 credits from the following core courses:

CPL 434 (or 539): Introduction to Environmental Law (3 cr.)
CPL 450: Urban Design (3 cr.)
CPL 483: Land Development (3 cr.)
CPL 485: Environmental Planning (3 cr.)
CPL/MAF 516: Seminar on the Urban Waterfront (3 cr.)
PSC 505: Public Program Evaluation (3 cr.)

Plus 6 or 7 credits from the following elective courses:

CPL 538: Site Planning (3 cr.)
CPL 549: Seminar in Ecological Planning (3 cr.)
LAR 444: Landscape Architecture Design Studio III: Sustainable Design (4 cr.)
LAR 445: Landscape Architecture Design Studio IV (4 cr.)
MAF 465: GIS Applications in Coastal and Marine Management (3 cr.)
MAF 475: Human Responses to Coastal Hazards and Disasters (3 cr.)
MAF 564: Port Planning and Policy (3 cr.)
PSC 524: Seminar in Public Policy Problems (3 cr.)
Admission requirements

Bachelor’s degree from an accredited College or University is required. International students are required to have an overall TOEFL score of 80 or more AND meet the minimum in each individual area: Reading 20, Writing 22, Listening 17, Speaking 17.

Application Instructions

Application for admission is done electronically. You will need to provide: (1) college transcripts certifying successful completion of bachelor’s degree, (2) two letters of recommendation from peers, mentors, or colleagues attesting to your ability to complete graduate-level coursework, and (3) a personal written statement explaining why you are seeking a graduate certificate in Community Planning. GRE’s are not required. Applications for Fall semester admission should be completed by 15 July and application for Spring semester admission should be completed by 15 November.

Application instructions can be found at: http://www.uri.edu/gsadmis/gs_apply.html

If you are currently a URI graduate student in another program (Masters or PhD), application for the Community Planning Certificate is simple.

1. Create a new application in Apply Yourself with an email address that differs from the one you used to apply to your current grad program. For example, if you applied to your current graduate program using one gmail account, you could use another gmail account or your new my.uri.edu email address to apply for the Community Planning Certificate. The Apply Yourself system does not allow one email address to apply for two different graduate programs.

2. Current students do not need to provide new letters of recommendation. Simply put pva@uri.edu in the email address field of the letter-writer to bypass filing letters. In your personal statement please mention that you are requesting a waiver of letters of recommendation.

3. The unofficial transcript field can be completed by uploading a pdf version of your eCampus unofficial transcripts report.

4. Select that you are currently in a Graduate Program at URI in the online application; you receive an automatic fee waiver.

Contact

For more information, contact Professor Farhad Atash (fatash@uri.edu) in the Department of Landscape Architecture.
Once in the program

The Graduate Certificate in Community Planning is treated as full-fledged graduate program of the University of Rhode Island. Students must follow standard graduate school guidelines, policies, and deadlines as they pursue the certificate. Important information resources for new students in the program can be found at:

The URI Graduate School

Grad School Forms

New students should meet with Dr. Atash to develop a Program of Study. The Program of Study lists all the classes the student must take to complete the requirements for the certificate.

In the student’s final semester, a Nomination to Graduate form must be completed.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Can credits in Community Planning classes taken for another graduate degree count toward the certificate? Yes, as long as you are enrolled in both programs at the same time.

- Can I transfer in credits taken before being admitted? Yes, you can transfer in 3 credits of graduate Community Planning classes and apply them toward your certificate.