DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING

College of Business and Public Management
506 Business and Public Management Center
50 Sharpless Street
West Chester, PA 19383
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Department of Geography and Planning (http://www.wcupa.edu/geographyPlanning)
Dr. Ives-Dewey (divesdewey@wcupa.edu), Chairperson and Coordinator of Graduate Certificate Programs
Dr. Katirai (mkatirai@wcupa.edu), Graduate Coordinator - Master of Urban and Regional Planning; M.S. in Geography

Programs of Study
The Department offers two graduate degrees: a Master of Science in Geography and a Master of Urban and Regional Planning. The Master of Science in Geography is designed to develop skills and expertise in areas such as geospatial analysis, sustainability and environment, conservation of resources, and GIS analysis, including business and commercial applications. It also prepares students for entrance into Ph.D. programs in geography and in planning.

The Master of Urban and Regional Planning is a professional degree designed to prepare students for careers as professional planners or in related fields. The program is designed to develop skills and expertise in land use planning, economic development planning, and environmental planning. Geospatial analysis and techniques are integrated throughout the program. Students develop analytical and communication skills essential to a career in planning.

The department offers two certificate programs—one in urban and regional planning and the other in geographic information systems (GIS)—for students who desire specific programs of study but not a degree. The GIS Certificate is offered in a classroom-based format or online. The Certificate in Urban and Regional Planning may be combined with the core courses of the Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.) to complete the M.P.A. degree. The latter is an interdisciplinary degree described under Master of Public Administration (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/graduate/business-public-management/public-policy-administration/master-public-administration-mpa).

Programs

Master’s Programs in Geography and Planning
• M.S. in Geography (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/graduate/business-public-management/geography-planning/geography-ms)
• Master of Urban and Regional Planning (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/graduate/business-public-management/geography-planning/master-urban-regional-planning)

Certificates in Geography and Planning
• Urban and Regional Planning (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/graduate/business-public-management/geography-planning/urban-regional-planning-certificate)
  • Gainful Employment Information: Certificate in Urban and Regional Planning (http://wcupa.edu/gainfulEmployment)
• Geographic Information Systems (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/graduate/business-public-management/geography-planning/geographic-information-systems-certificate)
  • Gainful Employment Information: Certificate in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) (http://wcupa.edu/gainfulEmployment)

Accelerated Bachelor’s to Master’s
• B.A. in Geography to M.S. in Geography (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/undergraduate/business-public-management/geography-planning/geography-planning/geography-ms)

Admissions
All applicants to one of West Chester University’s graduate programs will be held to the graduate admissions requirements (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/general-information/admissions-enrollment/graduate-admissions). When applicable, additional requirements for admission into specific department program(s) may be listed below.

Admission to M.S. in Geography
Applicants should submit transcripts of all undergraduate work, two letters of recommendation, a resume that indicates relevant work experience, and a statement of career background and goals. GRE or other standardized scores are useful in the admission process but are not required. The department welcomes qualified applicants who have no previous background in geography, although additional preliminary or concurrent work may be required. Admission is based on department evaluation of course work taken for the baccalaureate degree and additional course work, if any, in combination with the other criteria above.

Admission to Certificate Programs

Students who want to enroll in a certificate program must hold a bachelor’s degree (in any subject area) from an accredited institution and have an undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of 2.8. Interested students should complete the online graduate studies application available at www.wcupa.edu/grad, and follow the instructions for the self-managed application process.

If a certificate student subsequently or simultaneously applies for and is accepted into the Master of Science degree program in geography, the geography courses taken for the certificate programs can be counted towards the degree.

Policies

All graduate students are held to the academic policies and procedures (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/graduate/academic-policies-procedures) outlined in the graduate catalog. Students are encouraged to review departmental handbooks for program tips, suggested course sequences, and explanations of procedures. When applicable, additional policies for specific department programs may be listed below.

Faculty

Professors
Joy Fritschle (jfritschle@wcupa.edu) (2007)
B.A., Humboldt State University; M.S., University of Memphis; Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison
Dorothy Ives-Dewey (divesdewey@wcupa.edu) (2005)
Chairperson, Geography and Planning
Graduate Coordinator, Geography and Planning
B.A., Lafayette College; M.P.I., University of Southern California; Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania
James P. Lewandowski (jlewandowski@wcupa.edu) (1991)
B.A., M.A., University of Toledo; Ph.D., Ohio State University
Joan M. Welch (jwelch@wcupa.edu) (1990)
B.A., St. Cloud State University; M.A., Ph.D., Boston University

Associate Professors
Gary Coutu (gcoutu@wcupa.edu) (2005)
B.A., Duquesne University; M.S.P.M.P., Carnegie Mellon University; Ph.D., Texas A&M University
Typically offered in Spring.

Typically offered in Fall & Summer.

Typically offered in Fall & Summer.

Typically offered in Fall & Summer.

Typically offered in Fall.

Typically offered in Fall & Summer.

Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

Typically offered in Fall.

Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

Typically offered in Fall & Summer.

Typically offered in Fall.

Typically offered in Fall.

Repeatable for Credit.

Distance education offering may be available.

Distance education offering may be available.

Repeatable for Credit.

Repeatable for Credit.

Repeatable for Credit.

Repeatable for Credit.

Repeatable for Credit.

Repeatable for Credit.
GEO 600. Independent Research in Geography. 3 Credits.
Research projects, reports, and readings in geography.
Consent: Permission of the Department required to add.
Typically offered in Fall, Spring & Summer.
Repeatable for Credit.

GEO 610. Thesis in Geography. 3-6 Credits.
A thesis is developed on a research problem for which the student formulates a theory, proposition or hypothesis, and investigates available information on the subject.
Typically offered in Fall, Spring & Summer.
Repeatable for Credit.

GEO 615. Internship in Urban and Regional Planning. 3-6 Credits.
On-the-job experience in the application of theory, execution of substantive research, and provision of service with professional agencies at selected off-campus locations.
Typically offered in Fall, Spring & Summer.
Repeatable for Credit.

PLN
PLN 505. Planning Design (Studio A). 3 Credits.
Selected experiences designed to assist the student (either as an individual or as a member of a group) to understand the fundamental knowledge and technical skills used by urban planners to research, analyze, create and implement plans and projects in the built environment.
Typically offered in Fall.

PLN 508. Qualitative Methods and Community Engagement Techniques. 3 Credits.
This course focuses on qualitative methods and citizen engagement techniques in the planning process. Topics include citizen participation, social justice, governance and working with under-represented populations. Students learn how to apply and analyze a range of qualitative techniques including community surveys, key person interviews, and focus groups. Students learn how to structure a public meeting and about techniques planners use to bring meaningful and representative citizen participation into community decision-making.
Typically offered in Spring.

PLN 525. Planning History, Theory and Ethics. 3 Credits.
This course examines current planning theories including comprehensive, incremental, advocacy, equity, radical, communicative and just city approaches to planning. The course will examine several facets of planning theory including the role of planning within a democratic society, how planning influences society and society values, new directions within the field, and finally the relationship between planning theory and planning practice. As a result, it will enable students to critically examine the purpose and contribution of planning within society as well as the role of the planner including the issue of planning ethics, professional standards and conduct.
Typically offered in Fall.

PLN 536. Environmental Planning. 3 Credits.
In-depth instruction on the concepts and tools of environmental planning which include landscape form and function in planning. Applications to local and regional issues are stressed.
Typically offered in Fall.

PLN 605. Planning Design (Studio B). 3 Credits.
Selected experiences designed to assist the student (either as an individual or as a member of a group) in developing proficiency in applied planning techniques including site analysis and development design.
Pre / Co requisites: PLN 605 requires a prerequisite of PLN 505.
Typically offered in Spring.
Repeatable for Credit.