The PhD in urban planning integrates geography and planning to help you solve complex challenges. The program will prepare you for research in planning, urbanism and sustainability. Our Phoenix metro location is a laboratory for engaging with pressing issues related to planning, including autonomous vehicles, climate change and social equity.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: PHD Urban Planning

The PhD program in urban planning educates scholars for positions in leading universities; research institutions; nongovernmental organizations; international multilateral institutions; national, state and local governments; and high-level consulting firms. Topics and methods are wide-ranging and include spatial, theoretical and urban design inquiry, with a focus on the built environment, its problems, and potential solutions that improve the quality of life of urban residents.

Students benefit from a wide variety of coursework and research opportunities in five broad interdisciplinary themes that span the expertise of the faculty within the School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning:

- city building and urban structure
- environmental and resiliency planning
- housing, neighborhoods and community development
- spatial analytics and smart cities
- transportation planning and policy
At a Glance

- **College/School:** The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- **Location:** Tempe campus

Degree Requirements

84 credit hours, a written comprehensive exam, an oral comprehensive exam, a prospectus and a dissertation

**Required Core (6 credit hours)**
- PUP 710 Current Planning Theory and Practice (3)
- PUP 724 Planning Methods for Doctoral Students (3)

**Electives and Research (34 credit hours)**

**Other Requirement (2 credit hours)**
- PUP 701 Urban Planning Colloquium (1)

**Culminating Experience (12 credit hours)**
- PUP 799 Dissertation (12)

**Additional Curriculum Information**

Students take two semesters of PUP 701 for a total of two credit hours.

When approved by the student's supervisory committee and the Graduate College, this program allows 30 credit hours from a previously awarded master's degree to be used for this degree.

Up to six credit hours of 400-level courses may be applied to the plan of study.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a master's degree, in a related field such as urban studies, geography, environmental studies, sustainability, architecture, public policy or public administration from a regionally accredited institution.
Applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program and a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. personal statement
4. resume
5. GRE scores
6. three letters of recommendation
7. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency.

The personal statement must be 600 words or fewer and explain the applicant's interest in planning at the doctoral level; academic and professional background and, if appropriate, preparation for the selected area of specialty which may include written samples or portfolio; and educational and professional objectives.

Letters of recommendation should be from three faculty members who can attest to the applicant's academic achievements.

Application Deadlines

Fall

Global Opportunities

PLuS Alliance
Global Experience
Global Degree

Career Opportunities

Contact Information