The profession of city and regional planning involves helping people and communities manage growth and change in their physical, social, and economic environments. The focus is on understanding how cities and towns (human settlements) function and how to make them better places for people to live, work and play. City planning has its roots in engineering, architecture, landscape architecture, law, social welfare and government reform. The practice of city and regional planning is both science and art. It involves technical competence, creativity, hard-headed pragmatism and the ability to develop a vision of the future and to build on that vision. Contemporary planners combine design, quantitative, and people skills to assist communities and society. Both the undergraduate (BSCRP) and the graduate (MCRP) programs are accredited by the national Planning Accreditation Board.

The degree programs prepare students for professional careers in the design of human settlements in harmony with the natural environment and the needs of society. Practicing planners work in public agencies, non-profit organizations, and private consulting firms, preparing comprehensive plans for projects, neighborhoods, cities, and entire regions. The plans address the use of land, housing, transportation, public facilities, and open space. In addition, they are responsible for finding the means to make their plans become a reality by budgeting for public projects and programs and by reviewing and regulating private development.

The curriculum leading to the Bachelor of Science in City and Regional Planning provides a broad, interdisciplinary education as well as competency in physical planning with an emphasis on urban design and development. The Master of City and Regional Planning degree builds on a general undergraduate preparation in the humanities, architecture, landscape architecture, social sciences or natural sciences, and offers four areas of specialized study: Urban Design, Environment and Sustainability, Transportation and, Housing, Economic, and Community Development.

**Undergraduate Programs**

**BS City and Regional Planning**

The BSCRP program cultivates creativity and problem solving in the management of urban change. Technical design and analytic skills for professional practice are taught utilizing field-based experiences.

The BSCRP program is one of the most studio/lab intensive, four-year undergraduate planning degree in the United States. Beginning in year two and continuing through year four, students must take at least seven studio courses. In addition, students take the foundation courses necessary to be able to fulfill the studio expectations and learn from the studio experience. These foundation courses include urban design, computer skill, planning theory, plan implementation methods and land use law.

The BSCRP degree curriculum is a total of 180 quarter units, composed of three parts:

1. Required CRP major courses
2. Required Support courses; and
3. Required General Education courses

The Support courses are designed to provide core knowledge in the areas of ecology, natural science/geology, political science, and statistics. These skills provide the scientific, policy and analytical tools necessary for community planning.

All BSCRP students are required to do an Internship. They must take an internship seminar course that contextualizes the practice experience and allow professional reflection.

In addition, all students prepare a “Senior Project” or they can meet this requirement by completing the Senior Project-Professional Practice studio.

**Degree Requirements and Curriculum** ([http://catalog.calpoly.edu/collegesandprograms/collegeofarchitectureandenvironmentaldesign/cityregionalplanning/bcityandregionalplanning](http://catalog.calpoly.edu/collegesandprograms/collegeofarchitectureandenvironmentaldesign/cityregionalplanning/bcityandregionalplanning))

**City and Regional Planning Minor**

The minor provides students with an interdisciplinary understanding of the science and the art of city planning and its relationship with other environmental design professionals. The student is provided with an understanding of how growth and change affect the physical, social and economic aspects of the city, including the relationships among land use, transportation, housing and the environment. Courses that build skills in the preparation of plan documents, land use studies and environmental studies are combined with laboratory courses providing opportunities for involvement in community building and plan-making projects.

The minor is excellent preparation for creating visions of the future, participation in government and community organizations. It enhances skills in disciplines that have linkages with cities and the built and natural environments. It provides the student with the knowledge, skills and values that help people build better communities and cities.

**Additional Minors**

The department also participates in offering interdisciplinary minors in Real Property Development, and Sustainable Environments. See the College of Architecture and Environmental Design ([http://catalog.calpoly.edu/collegesandprograms/collegeofarchitectureandenvironmentaldesign](http://catalog.calpoly.edu/collegesandprograms/collegeofarchitectureandenvironmentaldesign)) page for further information.

**Graduate Programs**

**Master of City and Regional Planning**

**General Characteristics**

The Master of City and Regional Planning (MCRP) degree is an applied, comprehensive, and professionally-based program. It is open to students from any undergraduate major, with high standards of
Students may choose to pursue specialized studies in one or a combination of four areas:

- Urban Design
- Environment and Sustainability
- Transportation
- Housing, Economic, and Community Development

In addition, skill building in all aspects of planning communications (visual, verbal, written) is stressed. The City and Regional Planning Department jointly offers the MCRP degree with the Master of Science in Engineering with a specialization in Transportation Planning.

The program is six quarters (two years) in duration and consists of 72 approved units (not including courses necessary to compensate for deficiencies). Because of the sequencing of courses, students admitted to the program are generally expected to begin their studies in the fall quarter. Students with prerequisite coursework deficiencies and those with backgrounds allowing waivers of first-year core courses may be admitted in other quarters. The degree culminates in a thesis, professional project, or a community planning studio.

Students have an opportunity to develop a close working relationship with the planning faculty. Self-directed study, tailored to the student’s interests and needs, is also encouraged.

**Prerequisites**

Students entering the MCRP program are required to have a basic working knowledge of word processing, spreadsheets and presentation software.

Applicants for admission to the Master of City and Regional Planning program are expected to:

1. Have earned a bachelor’s degree from an accredited university or college.
2. Demonstrated academic excellence by earning at least a 3.0 (out of 4.0) grade point average in the last 90 quarter (60 semester) units of undergraduate work, and in cases of borderline grade point average, by earning qualifying scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).
3. Show evidence of motivation, maturity, work ethic, academic excellence, and intellectual ability through references (3 letters required), work experience, and other life experiences.
4. Submit a representative example of a self-authored paper or project to demonstrate writing ability.
5. Demonstrate understanding of, and areas of interest in, city and regional planning from the perspective of their career and educational objectives, through the statement of purpose.

Applicants lacking prerequisites or other background requirements for classified standing requirements may be admitted on a conditionally classified basis, depending on the results of an individual analysis of their applications.

**Degree Requirements and Curriculum**

The MCRP/MS Engineering with Specialization in Transportation Planning (http://catalog.calpoly.edu/collegesandprograms/interdisciplinaryprograms/mcrpmsengineeringtransportationplanning) is a joint interdisciplinary program between the College of Engineering and the City and Regional Planning Department of the College of Architecture and Environmental Design. Participation in the program requires enrollment in both Colleges. Participants successfully completing the program are awarded both the MCRP and the MS in Engineering, each with a Specialization in Transportation Planning.

**MCRP Advising Track (5+1) for BLA & BARCH Students**

Students may pursue an accelerated route to a graduate professional degree through enrollment in MCRP courses during their fourth and fifth years of undergraduate study and an additional year of graduate study after completion of their undergraduate degree. Contact the Graduate Coordinator, City and Regional Planning Department, for additional information.

**Blended Program - Bachelor of Landscape Architecture/Master of City and Regional Planning (BLA/MCRP)**

The blended BLA/MCRP Program is an accelerated route to the graduate professional degree in City and Regional Planning. Under this program a student can simultaneously graduate with a BLA and MCRP. Contact the Graduate Coordinator, City and Regional Planning Department, for additional information.

**MCRP, Architecture Planning Track**

This track is available only to students who are enrolled in Cal Poly's Bachelor of Architecture (BArch) program. Students may request permission to enroll in Master of City and Regional Planning (MCRP) graduate level courses during their fourth and fifth years of study. Upon completion of the BArch degree, students are eligible to formally apply for graduate student status in the MCRP program. Students who fulfill all the requirements first receive the BArch and then the MCRP. Contact the Graduate Coordinator, City and Regional Planning Department for additional information.