

Frequently Asked Questions for Community College Transfer Students

What is community and regional planning?

Planning is an applied social science that focuses on how cities and towns function, and helping society manage change. Planners help to evaluate opportunities and to understand and solve problems. Most planners work at the local level, but they are concerned with issues that affect the world — the preservation and enhancement of the quality of life in communities, the protection of the environment, the promotion of equitable economic opportunity, and the management of growth and physical change. Planning involves the responsible use of land in rural, suburban, and urban regions.

Is artistic ability required to major in community & regional planning?

No. No drawing is required!

What kinds of students major in community & regional planning?

Planning tends to appeal to students with a wide range of interests, including those interested in environmental protection, promoting social change, alleviating poverty, local and state politics, promoting alternative forms of transportation, and preserving historic buildings.

Students interested in planning come from rural, suburban, and urban backgrounds and have an interest in working with communities of all types to make them safer, more efficient, and more livable.

Is Iowa State's program accredited?

Yes. The Bachelor of Science in Community and Regional Planning (BSCRCP) offered Iowa State is a professional program and is fully accredited by the American Planning Accreditation (APA) Board. It is one of only 16 undergraduate planning programs in the entire US.

How is the curriculum structured?

The BSCRCP degree requires 24 credit hours of core courses, 24 credit hours of planning electives, and 24 credit hours of general electives. Studio courses provide students opportunities to work on real world projects. Opportunities for study abroad also exist. Students entering with an AA have fulfilled all general education requirements.

Transfer students can take both core and elective courses beginning in their first semester in the program.

What's the culture of the program?

The CRP program is small with a very high level of student-faculty interaction. The program averages about 25 students per cohort, and courses usually average around 20 students each.

The CRP Department also has several opportunities for student professional development. The department has recently initiated a mentorship program. The program pairs undergraduate planning students with practicing planners who are graduates of Iowa State who share their your knowledge and professional experiences, and questions about the profession. The undergraduate CRP Club also provides students with special educational, networking, and career development opportunities.

What are the day-to-day duties of a planner?

Meeting with the public, elected officials, and developers; Reviewing proposed development projects; Reviewing plans and ordinances; Conducting meetings to inform the public about development projects; Corresponding with colleagues regarding planning issues; Visiting proposed development sites; Responding to queries for information

What kinds of internships do planners get?

Planning internships are available around the state and region. Most undergraduate students complete an internship before they graduate. The program provides assistance finding internships. Examples of recent planning internships include:

- City of Nevada, Iowa
- City of Ames, Iowa
- City of Ankeny, Iowa
- City of Naperville, Illinois
- Washington University Medical Center Redevelopment Corporation, St. Louis, Missouri
- ESRI, Redlands, California
- Polk County Housing Trust Fund, Des Moines, Iowa

What kinds of jobs do planners get?

Many of the department's graduates work with cities, counties, metropolitan councils, regional planning, etc., others in the private sector or with nonprofit organizations. Job placement record for Iowa State planning graduates is outstanding. 90% to 95% of graduating students find full time employment as planners or continue their education within 6 months of graduation. Graduates accept positions around the country. The average starting salary for a new planner is approximately \$45,000.

Recent graduates from the undergraduate program hold positions as entry-level planners. Examples of positions obtained by graduates in the last four years include:

- Stormwater Coordinator, City of Pleasant Hill, Iowa
- Planner, City of Lawrence, Kansas
- Planner, New Mexico Department of Transportation, Santa Fe, New Mexico
- Planner, City of Clive, Iowa
- Senior Planner, Laramie County, Wyoming
- Planner, City of Pierre, South Dakota
- Policy and Communications Coordinator, Polk County Housing Trust Fund, Des Moines, Iowa
- Planner, Hunterdon County, New Jersey

How long does the CRP program take to complete?

This transfer-friendly non-enrollment managed major allows for a "2+2 plan." If you have an Associate of Arts (A.A.), an Associate of Science (A.S.), or have completed four semesters of general education requirements, you may be able to complete the CRP program in just two years (four semesters). You will begin taking courses in the CRP major immediately upon enrolling at ISU, and you can start your studies in fall, spring, or summer semester. You can also pursue this major in conjunction with a double major, secondary major, or minor at Iowa State.

Is there a minimum GPA required for transfer students?

A minimum GPA of 2.0 is required; however, a GPA of 2.5 or better is preferred.

How do I receive more information?

Find us online at www.design.iastate.edu/CommunityPlanning.

Contact the Academic Adviser, Malinda Cooper, at (515) 294-3680 | macooper@iastate.edu.

How do I apply?

Apply online at www.admissions.iastate.edu/apply.