

Community and Regional Planning Department Ten-Year Strategic Plan 2023-2032

Vision Statement

The Iowa State University Department of Community and Regional Planning will be nationally recognized for professional planning education, research, and outreach.

Mission Statement

The Department of Community and Regional Planning delivers high-quality education that combines innovative teaching, scholarly research, community engagement, data-driven decision-making, and cutting-edge technology applications. We aim to educate diverse students to become professional planners who contribute to impactful change by engaging with stakeholders to make decisions about the future and by conducting transformational place-based research and scientific inquiry in Iowa, the Midwest, the United States, and globally.

Diversity, Inclusion, Equity, and Social Justice Statement

The Department of Community and Regional Planning aspires to be a change agent advancing equity and inclusiveness in society through our work. We seek to make transformational changes by building relationships and trust. Diversity is embraced as a source of strength, with differences and unique identities honored to fulfill our mission. We aspire to reflect the communities that we serve to encourage a more diverse and just society. The department strives to be a safe, nurturing, and welcoming place, fostering social justice and expanding opportunities for all.

| Strategic Issues Program Goals | Objectives and Actions |
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| 1. High-Impact Learning | The CRP Department will prioritize practices that include project- and community-based learning and undergraduate research by expanding experiential, service learning, studio, and internship opportunities nominating students for external awards, improving the teaching evaluation process, promoting student presentations at ISU events and external conferences, promoting the use of new technologies, internationalizing the curriculum and supporting study abroad, promoting hybrid and online learning, and promoting teaching approaches that enhance experiential learning. |
| 2. Student Professional Development | The CRP Department will focus on advancing student professional development and seek to increase the number of undergraduates participating in internship or professional development opportunities with CRP alumni, Planning Advisory Council and/ or APA members. We will build exposure to diverse settings into these opportunities, create a professional learning panel for studio review, and develop a rubric for studio presentation critique, promote taking the CRP professional development and optional studio courses earlier in the cycle, and support interdisciplinary course offerings for students. Further, we will increase the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) pass rate by offering students and alumni exam preparation classes/learning materials. |

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| 3. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice | The CRP Department will seek to attract, recruit, and retain diverse faculty of color and other underrepresented groups. Our effort will focus on integrating justice-related objectives into the learning outcomes for all courses; attracting, recruiting, and retaining diverse students of color and other underrepresented groups; understanding diversity concepts more deeply; expanding students' knowledge of the broad range of planning-related career opportunities; educating students in inclusive engagement and outreach practices; and integrating opportunities for developing ethical judgment throughout the curriculum. |
| 4. Research Culture | The CRP Department will strengthen the research culture through initiatives that promote interdisciplinary research teams, submit interdisciplinary proposals, promote peer-reviewed publications, engage in research that involves students, expand funded projects, and promote presentations at conferences. |
| 5. Outreach, Engagement, and Empowerment | The CRP Department will expand opportunities for outreach, engagement, and empowerment through support to develop topic-specific courses; encourage collaborative teaching; encourage guest lectures; collaborate with ISU Extension and Outreach Community and Economic Development (CED) in teaching and research; and disseminate the research knowledge produced by the faculty to decision-makers at the local level. |
| 6. Civic Innovation | The CRP Department will expand civic innovation by focusing on efforts that include an annual "enduring problems and innovative solutions" lecture series, participating in college- and university-wide Innovation and Entrepreneurship efforts, engaging with professional organizations and government entities in search of innovative solutions to community challenges; and using web-based communication technologies and social media to inform and update planners, policymakers, and communities about cutting edge planning solutions. |
| 7. Build Bridges with Alumni and Practitioners | The CRP Department will build bridges with alumni and practitioners by prioritizing collaborative teaching with practitioners and alumni, engaging Extension and Outreach, bringing planning professionals to campus to inspire/attract students and promote the planning discipline, addressing credential barriers (Professor of Practice), providing continuing education opportunities for planners, and collaborating and partnering with departments outside of the College of Design, across ISU, and outside ISU. |
| 8. Lifelong Learning | The CRP Department will embrace lifelong learning and provide "emerging topics" educational workshops for planners in Iowa, encourage partners to engage in studio classes and sponsor internship opportunities, offer AICP continuing |

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| | education classes, maintain an active affiliation and participation by the Iowa APA, CRP alumni, Planning Advisory Council, and other stakeholders, and offer current professionals the opportunity to enroll in the GIS certificate program. |

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