Masters of Urban and Regional Planning

Why do I want a MURP degree?

Dr. Louis A. Merlin, PhD, AICP
Who am I?

- Assistant professor at the School of Urban and Regional Planning
- Started July 2016
- Teach Transportation Planning, Future of Urban Mobility, Regional and Scenario Planning, Statistics, and Urban and Regional Theory
- Research transportation-land use relationship and traffic safety
Degrees of Professional Planners

Education pays.

Source: US Census Bureau, "The Big Payoff: Educational Attainment and Synthetic Estimates of Work-Life Earnings"
Value of the Masters

AICP Certification

- AICP = American Institute of Certified Planners
- Nationwide independent certification of professional credential
- The most recent APA/AICP Planners Salary Survey shows that certified planners earn more than noncertified planners, even when experience and responsibility are considered. It also opens more career opportunities, and can enhance a planner's professional credibility.
- https://www.planning.org/aicp/
## Earning AICP Faster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Education *</th>
<th>Total Years of Professional Planning Experience Required</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduate degree in Planning from a program accredited by the PAB **</td>
<td>2 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor's degree in Planning from a program accredited by the PAB **</td>
<td>3 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate degree in Planning from a program not accredited by the PAB</td>
<td>3 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Any other post-graduate, graduate, or undergraduate degree ***</td>
<td>4 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>No college degree</td>
<td>8 years</td>
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Developing a Specialization

In Transportation Planning:
- Introduction to Transportation Planning
- Transportation and Land Use Planning
- Future of Urban Mobility
- Regional and Scenario Planning
- TTE 6815 - Highway Engineering
- TTE 6272 - Intelligent Transportation Systems

In Environmental Planning:
- Sustainable Cities
- Managing GIS Projects
- GIS Applications in Planning
- Environmental Analysis in Planning
- Environmental Policy and Programs
Working on Research

- Learn about cutting-edge research
- Improve quality of life for local and national communities
- Receive a stipend and tuition remission

- Collaborative Sciences Center for Road Safety
  - [http://www.roadsafety.unc.edu/](http://www.roadsafety.unc.edu/)
- Center for Urban and Environmental Studies
  - [http://cues.fau.edu/](http://cues.fau.edu/)
- Visual Planning Technology Lab
  - [http://vpt.fau.edu/](http://vpt.fau.edu/)
Importance of Writing Skills

0 20 40 60 80 100

Extremely important

Very important

Somewhat important

Not important

Not at all important

Unsure

Employers  Faculty  Grad Students  Undergrad Students
Advanced Standing Program

- BURP and BUD students eligible
- GPA of > 3.25
- No GRE requirement
- Earn up to 12 hours of credit that work towards both your undergraduate and MURP degree in your senior year
- Complete ¼ of MURP degree before you even graduate
- Talk to your undergraduate advisor to ensure you have room for necessary electives
How to Apply

- Apply online through the School of Urban and Regional Planning website
  - [http://cdsi.fau.edu/surp/murp/](http://cdsi.fau.edu/surp/murp/)

- Graduate program advising contact:
  - Brandon Johnson
  - [johnsonb@fau.edu](mailto:johnsonb@fau.edu)
Come talk to our faculty
Thank you

- Questions for me?
- Dr. Louis A. Merlin, PhD, AICP
- lmerlin@fau.edu