1) **What is the MURP Program?** A: The MURP program refers to the Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree program in the Toulan School, part of the College of Urban and Public Affairs. The MURP degree is a 2-year, fully accredited professional degree. Students seeking the degree are committed to a career as a practicing professional planner.

2) **Who are the MURP Students?** A: MURP students are terrific! This has become a very selective program, receiving about 200 applications a year to fill an incoming class of about 35-40 graduate students. These students have done very well as undergrads, come from a wide range of majors, and many bring with them professional experience. All of them are united by their desire to be engaged in planning and making great communities, whether that be through a job in the private, public, or nonprofit sector.

3) **What is the Internship Requirement?** A: Every MURP student must complete 400 hours of internship before they graduate. We have instituted this requirement for two reasons. First, we consciously have sought to make planning practice the focal point for this program. We want every student to be engaged with practice from the moment they arrive, and to begin to understand their role and responsibilities as a professional planner throughout their graduate school experience. Second, we want students to learn about the breadth of practice as they are engaged in their training, and to use the internship as a means for better understanding the career direction that makes the most sense for them.

4) **What makes a good internship?** A: Several things: an attentive and engaged supervisor; work that can yield tangible on-the-job experience, a real product, or both; an understanding on the part of the supervisor that the students also need to graduate, and have to schedule their hours in conjunction with class and project schedules; exposure to the life of the sponsoring organization or firm, the roles that planners play, and the challenges and satisfactions of the job. We encourage students to seek internships with private planning consulting firms, design firms, public policy firms, public agencies at all levels, nonprofit organizations interested in all issues affecting places and the people that live there, and other organizations, jurisdictions, and firms able to utilize their skills.

5) **What kinds of things have MURP interns done in the past?** A: In a word, everything! Analysis, Background research, Current planning, Data collection and organization, Environmental reviews, Facility planning, GIS, Historical research, Involvement and citizen engagement, and just about everything else, all the way through Writing, X and y axis displays, Youth planning, and Zoning. Again, many students already have professional experience, and the core curriculum for the MURP degree equips them with new and useful skills.

6) **Do MURP interns get paid?** A: Frequently they do, at a rate of between $12.50 and $20 per hour. However, internships range from unpaid, to expenses (particularly transportation), to a stipend or honorarium, to an actual hourly wage. It all depends on...
the organization and its capacity to pay these students for the contributions they’ll make. Most graduate students need a job to afford the program, so paid internships are especially desirable, though not the only kind that our students have accepted. Obviously, paid internships get the best response. Please note that any wages or stipend would go from you to the student directly, and would not pass through the university. And please keep in mind that we do not want students working more than 20 hours per week outside of school during the 9-month academic year.

7) **How do I get a MURP intern? A:** It’s easy! Just email Andree Tremoulet (atrem@pdx.edu) with a one paragraph internship description that lays out who you are and who the supervisor will be, the nature of the work that you need to have done, when the internship will start and stop, where the work will take place, whether there is any pay or stipend available, and who they should send a cover letter and resume to. We will circulate your announcement to our students, and then you will make the selection of the intern(s) based on the materials they send you. That’s it, no other hoops to jump through.

8) **Can I submit a request for interns whenever I like? A:** Absolutely! We look forward to receiving your requests any time, any season, and day of the week. Just send it in and we’ll get the wheels turning.

9) **Questions?** Andree Tremoulet (atrem@pdx.edu) or Tracy Braden (bradent@pdx.edu). Many thanks! We value our relationship with the planning community and look forward to working with you in the years ahead.