Master of Urban and Regional Planning Strategic Plan
Planning matters. Practice matters.
Adopted May 2014

College of Urban and Public Affairs
PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY
Nohad A. Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning
MURP MISSION AND VALUES STATEMENT

Our own planning practice advances inclusive participation in planning institutions and recognizes a diversity of needs and aspirations in communities.

We recognize that we practice locally, but not in isolation; our actions reverberate through ecological, economic, social, and political systems from the local to the regional to national and global scales. We likewise learn from practices in other regions of the country and the world.

Our MURP program enables students to be reflective, to build practical judgment and adaptive problem-solving skills through direct engagement with contemporary planning issues and practice. Our faculty and students actively participate in the development and dissemination of innovations in planning that advance our understanding of what planning is, how planning is practiced and taught, and why planning matters in the world. The MURP program embodies PSU’s motto to “let knowledge serve the city.”

DIRECTOR’S WELCOME

I am pleased to share with you our MURP Strategic Plan, which was developed through an extensive process that engaged planning practitioners, program alumni, current MURP students and Toulan School faculty in intense deliberations about the challenges and opportunities facing our communities and the role of planning education in meeting them. Portland’s track record of innovation in planning offers MURP students and faculty tremendous opportunities to utilize the urban environment as their laboratory. The strategic goals outlined here around curriculum, engagement, and diversity are designed to ensure that MURP students, as future planning professionals, will keep the Portland metropolitan region on the cutting edge in promoting just, sustainable and prosperous communities, and share and transmit those innovations to urban environments globally.
MURP PROGRAM GOALS
The Toulan School faculty have established the following goals for the MURP program:

**Goal 1: Educate reflective practitioners of planning.**
Program graduates will know how to effectively reflect-in-action in order to practice in flexible and innovative ways.

**Goal 2: Ground planning practice in place.**
We educate in the context of our place, and teach planning as a practice that engages issues confronting communities and ecosystems in specific places.

**Goal 3: Integrate the aspirations and principles expressed in the AICP Code of Ethics throughout our teaching, research, and outreach.**
We seek to integrate the three missions of our School — teaching, research and outreach—to understand and advance social justice, environmental sustainability, and economic opportunity.

STRATEGIC GOALS AND KEY ACTIONS
Through the strategic planning process, we identified the following four areas of strategic action toward our program goals:

1. **Assessment:** Fully develop and implement assessment metrics for all program goals.
   - Develop Outcomes Assessment Plan.
   - Develop and pilot Planning Workshop assessment tool.

2. **Curriculum:** Review and update curriculum related to program focus areas.
   - Reinforce concept of reflective practice throughout curriculum.
   - Strengthen communications and engagement skill building opportunities.

3. **Engagement:** Maintain and build relationships with external partners and stakeholders to achieve greater impact.
   - Establish Planning Education Roundtable to institutionalize feedback about the MURP program.
   - Build the School’s capacity for engaged research and practice.

4. **Diversity and Inclusion:** Sustain progress in diversity and inclusion in the program.
   - Build on recent progress in MURP student diversity.
   - Build on recent progress toward faculty diversity.
   - Enhance the focus on diversity, equity, inclusion in MURP curriculum.
ABOUT THE NOHAD A. TOULAN SCHOOL OF URBAN STUDIES AND PLANNING

The Nohad A. Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning is the nation’s oldest continuously operating instructional program in urban studies. Beginning with an undergraduate certificate in 1959, its academic programs focus on understanding metropolitan regions and their problems, and analyzing policies to shape their evolution and overcome obstacles. The School currently has 23 full-time faculty, and offers five degrees:

- Ph.D. in Urban Studies and Ph.D. in Urban Studies: Regional Science
- Master of Urban and Regional Planning
- Master of Urban Studies
- Master of Real Estate Development
- Bachelor of Arts in Community Development

ABOUT THE MURP PROGRAM

The Master of Urban and Regional Planning is a two-year, 72 credit professional degree accredited by the Planning Accreditation Board, for those interested in working as professional planners. The curriculum includes a 46-credit core that focuses on the history and theory of planning as a field, plan implementation, analytical methods, and the dynamics of metropolitan development. MURP students have the opportunity to customize their education to meet particular scholastic and professional objectives. MURP students may specialize in one of five fields: Community Development; Economic Development; Environment; Land Use; and Transportation.

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MURP PROGRAM: BY THE NUMBERS*

- Student – faculty ratio: 7.9:1
- Average cohort size: 40
- Share of MURP students who are:
  - Students of color (U.S. citizens or permanent residents): 17%
  - International students: 6%
  - Women: 52%

OUTCOMES

- Planetizen Ranking Among Graduate Planning Programs: 19th
- 4 year graduation rate (most recent cohorts): 87%
- AICP Exam Pass Rate: 100%
- Share of 2013 graduates in planning-related employment 1 year later: 97%

*Average for AY 2012-13 through 14-15

ADDRESS
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