

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING MAJOR (B.S.)

<https://colsa.unh.edu/natural-resources-environment/program/bs/community-environmental-planning-major>

Description

The Community and Environmental Planning (CEP) program is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills to become effective community planners in the public or private sector. There are 16 courses required for the major. All of the courses are designed to give the student a diverse skill-set in planning for the sustainability of communities. CEP students are provided a solid planning background with planning courses covering local, state and regional planning topics and methods. CEP students also take foundational courses in natural resources, geographic information systems, economics, and statistics, as well as a political science course, and a social issues course. The internship requirement (CEP 794) allows the planning student to apply their knowledge in the real world for instrumental hands-on experience. Semester in the City is also an option for the internship experience. CEP students are encouraged to focus their remaining hours on skills that can enhance their CEP major such as a dual major, a minor, or study abroad.

Expected CEP Student Outcomes:

- The foundational education in planning, natural resources, economics and sustainability.
- The fundamental values of diversity, equity, justice, and protection of community and the environment.
- The ability to assess, discuss, and engage others in the problems and potential solutions associated with impacts of land use changes.
- The ability to work with community members and professionals in the design and implementation of community improvements in building and transportation while protecting natural and built resources.

Students may go on to work in the community development or community planning departments in local communities. They may also choose to work in regional planning agencies, or with a state or federal office. Other options include the private sector, such as architectural or development companies, or the non-profit sector, such as with community development corporations or conservation groups. The American Planning Association provides a certification process for the planning profession (American Institute of Certified Planners) after several years of planning experience. Students may also choose to go on to graduate studies in Community and Environmental Planning, Natural Resources Management, Public Administration, or a related field.

Requirements

Courses with the prefix CEP must be completed with a C- or above (6 courses total). In addition to the CEP degree requirements (below), students must complete the University Discovery Program and the University Writing Requirements.

Code	Title	Credits
Planning Courses:		
CEP 415 or TOUR 510	Community Development Perspectives (Discovery Course) Tourism and Global Understanding	4
CEP 508	Applied Community Development	4
CEP 614	Fundamentals of Planning	4
CEP 673 or CEP 672	Green Real Estate Fundamentals of Real Estate	4
CEP 794 or INCO 505I	Community and Environmental Planning Internship ¹ Semester in the City: Boston and SITC @ UNH Internship	4-12
CEP 777	Topics in Community Planning (Capstone for the major)	4
Natural Resources Courses:		
NR 435 or NR 502 or NR 507	Contemporary Conservation Issues and Environmental Awareness Forest Ecosystems and Environmental Change Introduction to our Energy System and Sustainable Energy	4
NR 602	Natural Resources and Environmental Policy	4
NR 658 or FORT 581	Introduction to Geographic Information Systems Applied Geospatial Techniques	4
NR 785 or NR 784	Systems Thinking for Sustainable Solutions Sustainable Living - Global Perspectives	4
TOUR 767 or NR 724	Social Impact Assessment Resolving Environmental Conflicts	4
Economics and Statistics Courses:		
EREC 411	Environmental and Resource Economics Perspectives	4
EREC 525 or BIOL 528	Statistical Methods and Applications Applied Biostatistics I	4
EREC 627	Community Economics	4
Political Science Course:		
POLT 502 or POLT 500 or POLT 523 or POLT 595	State and Local Government American Public Policy American Political Thought Smart Politics	4
Social Issues Course:		
SOC 450 or INCO 505B or SOC 565	Contemporary Social Problems Social Innovator's Toolbox Environment and Society	4
Total Credits		64-72

¹ INCO 505I Semester in the City: Boston and SITC @ UNH Internship and INCO 505A Semester in the City Becoming a Problem Solver are taken as a 12-credit internship along with INCO 505B Social Innovator's Toolbox, which fulfills the Social Issues course requirement.

CEP students are encouraged to have a study away/abroad experience, a dual degree, a minor, or focused area of study which add value to the CEP degree. Consider the following to complete the minimum of 128 credits:

- Semester in the City (if you have not done this in the CEP major)
- EcoQuest New Zealand (16 credits in electives - must qualify with EcoQuest)
- Study Away
- Study Abroad
- Minor as approved by the minor program
- Courses to round out a focus area. *It is recommended that you choose upper level courses in NR and EREC.*

Degree Plan

Sample Course Sequence for Community and Environmental Planning

Course	Title	Credits
First Year		
Fall		
CEP 415 or TOUR 510	Community Development Perspectives (Also counts as Discovery Social Science or Tourism and Global Understanding)	4
NR 435 or NR 502 or NR 507	Contemporary Conservation Issues and Environmental Awareness or Forest Ecosystems and Environmental Change or Introduction to our Energy System and Sustainable Energy	4
EREC 411	Environmental and Resource Economics Perspectives	4
ENGL 401	First-Year Writing (Counts as Discovery Writing)	4
Credits		16
Spring		
Choose any Discovery courses. Here are some suggestions:		
Discovery Biological Science with Lab (Consider BIOL 430 or NR 433)		4
Discovery Historical Perspectives (Consider ARTS 574)		4
Discovery Humanities (Consider PHIL 430)		4
Inquiry Course (Choose any)		4
Credits		16
Second Year		
Fall		
EREC 525	Statistical Methods and Applications (Also counts as Discovery Quantitative)	4
POLT 502 or POLT 500 or POLT 523 or POLT 595	State and Local Government or American Public Policy or American Political Thought or Smart Politics	4
Choose any Discovery course. Here are some suggestions:		
Discovery Physical Science (Consider ESCI 409, ESCI 405, or NR 504)		4
Discovery Fine and Performing Arts (Choose any)		4
Credits		16
Spring		
CEP 508	Applied Community Development	4
SOC 450 or SOC 565 or INCO 505B	Contemporary Social Problems or Environment and Society or Social Innovator's Toolbox	4
NR 602	Natural Resources and Environmental Policy	4
Discovery World Cultures (Choose any)		4
Credits		16
Third Year		
Fall		
CEP 614	Fundamentals of Planning	4
CEP 673 or CEP 672	Green Real Estate or Fundamentals of Real Estate	4
EREC 627	Community Economics	4
TOUR 767	Social Impact Assessment (Or NR 724 in Spring)	4

May consider CEP 794, Semester in the City, study away, or courses toward a minor.

Credits		16
Spring		
NR 658 or FORT 581	Introduction to Geographic Information Systems or Applied Geospatial Techniques	4
NR 724	Resolving Environmental Conflicts (or TOUR 767 in the fall)	4
Elective		4
Elective		4
May consider CEP 794, Semester in the City, study away, or courses toward a minor.		
Credits		16
Fourth Year		
Fall		
Elective		4
Elective		4
Elective		4
Elective		4
May consider CEP 794, Semester in the City, study away, or courses toward a minor.		
Credits		16
Spring		
CEP 777	Topics in Community Planning	4
NR 785 or NR 784	Systems Thinking for Sustainable Solutions or Sustainable Living - Global Perspectives	4
CEP 794	Community and Environmental Planning Internship	4-12
Elective		4
Credits		16-24
Total Credits		128-136

Student Learning Outcomes

- Functional fluency in the use of traditional and contemporary planning tools, methods, projects, programs, and regulatory tools.
- Analysis and articulation of social and environmental problems through the use of reliable and valid sources.
- Inventory, assessment, and documentation techniques of existing resources in the built and natural environment.
- Assessment methods of the consequences of proposed changes to the landscape at different scales, from local to regional.
- Communication strategies for a diverse population regarding social and environmental issues related to community planning and development.
- Engagement strategies for various stakeholders in the planning process through a variety of public engagement techniques.
- Development of the comprehensive master planning process and documentation with lay and professional planners.
- Skilled writing and public speaking in order to engage all stakeholders in the planning process.

- Creative thinking and scenario design development and use regarding possible futures.
- Networking with a variety of stakeholders for building a strong social network within and between communities and organizations.
- Ability to work with the various scales of planning – federal, state, regional, local, neighborhood, and site levels.
- Awareness of the opportunities for planning work in government, non-government, non-profit, Cooperative Extension, and the private sector in planning, environmental conservation, architecture, construction, and others.
- Advocacy focus for all residents, businesses, organizations and visitors regardless of income, gender, race, ethnicity, religion or other stratifications within society.
- Applied application of planning education and tangible experience through a community planning internship.