

PLAN 799(60) –Planning Seminar (1 credit)

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Description

Applied work experience is increasingly important for graduates of professional programs. This seminar provides students in the Department of City and Regional Planning with the opportunity to conduct applied fieldwork and acquire valuable practical experience in their area of specialization. Students are expected to meet with the instructor at the beginning of the term to outline the goals of the fieldwork experience and how they will be achieved. A final report evaluating the usefulness of the fieldwork experience is expected by the end of the term.

Objectives

This seminar introduces students to practical aspects of city planning in the United States. From working with the government at the local, regional, and federal levels, to working with the private sector, the course attempts to provide hands-on planning experience for students. The instructor and the student will mutually agree on the topic for the fieldwork, which by necessity should correspond with the student's area of study at DCRP. Appropriate areas of study for this seminar include:

- Land use planning and land development
- Environmental planning
- Transportation planning
- Economic development planning
- Housing and community development
- Applied GIS analysis

Students are expected to find an institution (on or off-campus) or a firm that is willing to provide the opportunity to gain hands-on knowledge. Please note that signing up for this course is not a guarantee that you will be able to conduct the fieldwork. Other conditions, such as getting temporary work permits for international students if needed, should also be met.

Meeting Times

The first and last meetings for this course will take place by appointment, in Room 317, New East Hall. Please e-mail the instructor for available meeting times.

Assignments

There are two assignments for this seminar. For the first assignment, students should submit a short report identifying a work supervisor and describing the objectives to be attained with the fieldwork and how this will occur. The supervisor should review the first report before final submission. The second assignment is an evaluation of the fieldwork experience. It should answer questions such as: Where the objectives attained? Why or why not? What would you do differently next year? What changes do you recommend for your employer/supervisor in order to improve the quality of the fieldwork experience? As the first report, this final report should be submitted to "employers" and to the instructor.