

2021-2028 Strategic Plan

Masters in Urban and Regional Planning Program

Humphrey School of Public Affairs

University of Minnesota

May 26, 2021

Mission

The University of Minnesota's Master of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP) program promotes equitable, racially just, inclusive and ethical planning through education and research to advance the common good in a diverse world.

Vision

We aspire for the MURP program to be a leader in the advancement of planning education and research that contributes to improved human well-being, ecological health and community-driven action that yields resilient and just communities. Acting from within a school of public affairs and rooted in a set of values that prioritizes equity, racial and social justice, sustainability, inclusion, community engagement, and ethical practice, we expect students and faculty members to participate in tackling the most urgent planning challenges faced by cities and regions.

Goals

Goal 1

The MURP program matriculates a student body that reflects the racial and ethnic diversity of the U.S. and includes a robust population of international students.

Strategies

Strategy 1.1: Eliminate the GRE as a component of the application for prospective students to the MURP program. (Faculty)

Strategy 1.2: Work with staff in admissions and communications to use the Krusell Fellowship as the centerpiece of an advertising and recruitment campaign to attract a larger number of applicants of color to the MURP program. (Director)

Strategy 1.3: Explore a partnership with Youth Engagement in Planning (K-12 planning group) that prioritizes engagement with students of color to give faculty and students an opportunity to introduce planning concepts to K-12 students. (Director & Planning Student Organization leadership)

Strategy 1.4: Convene a subcommittee of MURP faculty members to explore feasibility and desirability of creating a certificate program in urban planning to create a better pipeline of working professionals into the MURP program. (Subcommittee)

Performance Measures

Performance Measure 1a: Proportion of non-white domestic MURP students in a given year (Benchmark: 40% of matriculated students are students of color (ACS 2019, U.S.))

Performance Measure 1b: Proportion of admitted non-white domestic MURP students who enroll in the MURP program (Benchmark: 50% of admitted non-white domestic applicants to the MURP program choose to enroll)

Performance Measure 1c: Proportion of students applying to the MURP program who also submit applications for the Krusell Fellowship. (Benchmark: 10% of applicants to the MURP program also apply for the Krusell Fellowship [note: only BIPOC students are eligible to apply for the Krusell Fellowship])

Performance Measure 1d: Proportion of international MURP students in a given year (Benchmark: 10% of matriculated students are international students)

Goal 2

Students graduate from the MURP program with the skills and knowledge necessary to address planning challenges.

Strategies

Strategy 2.1: Create a new required three-credit core course that focuses on race and urban planning, with an emphasis on anti-racism and various forms of intersectionality. (Faculty)

Strategy 2.2: Incorporate essential training in qualitative research methods in an existing core course. (Subcommittee)

Strategy 2.3: Work across degree programs in the Humphrey School to improve resources for students available from within the Humphrey School to improve their writing. (Director)

Strategy 2.4: Regularly survey MURP alumni about the skills they consider vital for being successful in their jobs and use results to inform MURP curriculum. (Director of Alumni Relations)

Strategy 2.5: Regularly survey MURP students about the skills they consider vital for being successful in their future jobs and use results to inform MURP curriculum. (Director)

Strategy 2.6: Create a permanent elective that focuses on rural/regional planning issues. (Faculty)

Performance Measures

Performance Measure 2a: Proportion of MURP alumni graduating five years ago that agree or strongly agree with the statement: “The MURP program gave me practical skills for urban planning practice.” (Benchmark: 80% of MURP alumni agree or strongly agree)

Performance Measure 2b: Proportion of MURP alumni graduating five years ago that agree or strongly agree with the statement: “The MURP program improved my ability to address racial and social justice challenges.” (Benchmark: 80% of MURP alumni agree or strongly agree)

Performance Measure 2c: Proportion of MURP alumni graduating five years ago that report professional or volunteer activities that directly or indirectly improve community life. (Benchmark: 50% of MURP alumni report at least substantial amount of activities to improve community life [very few, some, substantial amount, or most of my activities]).

Performance Measure 2c: Proportion of MURP land use planning teams judged to have performed “exceptionally” in incorporating planning solutions into their land use planning projects. (Benchmark: 33% of land use planning project jurors awarded an “exceptional” score to MURP land use planning projects)

Performance Measure 2d: Proportion of MURP capstone teams judged to have performed “exceptionally” in incorporating planning solutions into the capstone projects. (Benchmark: 33% of capstone project jurors awarded an “exceptional” score to MURP capstone projects)

Goal 3

Scholars in the MURP program produce high quality, visible research that influences planning theory, policymaking and practice.

Strategies

Strategy 3.1: Work with staff in communications to publish a periodic newsletter highlighting research achievements. (Director)

Strategy 3.2: Ensure that faculty members associated with the MURP program highlight recently published research on their Humphrey faculty websites and update their CVs at least annually. (MURP Coordinator)

Strategy 3.3: Work with staff in communications to publish op-ed articles in major periodicals that highlight or build upon recently published research by faculty members and students. (Faculty)

Strategy 3.4: As a degree program, work to nominate academic products emerging from student and faculty research for awards given by the American Planning Association, the American Planning Association-Minnesota Chapter, and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning. (Subcommittee)

Strategy 3.5: Encourage tenured and non-tenured faculty members to develop co-authored pieces of research where practical and appropriate to provide mentorship around the writing and publishing process.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure 3a: Number of peer-reviewed journal articles, peer-reviewed book chapters and peer-reviewed books published by faculty members or doctoral students affiliated with the MURP program. (Benchmark: 35 peer-reviewed publications per calendar year, reported by publication type)

Performance Measure 3b: Proportion of peer-reviewed journal articles, peer-reviewed book chapters and peer-reviewed books that include co-authorship between tenured and non-tenured faculty members affiliated with the MURP program. (Benchmark: 5% of total peer-reviewed publications involve tenure and non-tenured faculty co-authorship).

Performance Measure 3c: Proportion of peer-reviewed journal articles, peer-reviewed book chapters and peer-reviewed books that include co-authorship between faculty members and doctoral students affiliated with the MURP program. (Benchmark: 5% of total peer-reviewed publications involve co-authorship between faculty members and doctoral students).

Goal 4

Faculty members and students in the MURP program participate in meaningful collaborations with public and nonprofit organizations and community-based groups to address planning challenges.

Strategies

Strategy 4.1: Develop resources to fund unpaid internships offered by non-profit or community-based organizations engaged in urban planning work, prioritizing BIPOC-led organizations. (Director)

Strategy 4.2: Create and convene a subcommittee of faculty and students in the MURP program to consider and make recommendations on the types of community collaborations the program should support (e.g., deep vs. broad, short-term vs. long-

term), what level of formality we should incorporate into collaborations (e.g., MOUs). (Subcommittee)

Strategy 4.3: Explore the potential for more formal partnerships with the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA), the University Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC) and other institutions with a community engagement focus at the University of Minnesota to facilitate and focus future research and pedagogical collaborations for the MURP program. (Subcommittee)

Performance Measures

Performance Measure 4a: Number and proportion of annual internships supported by financial resources at the Humphrey School (academic year). (Benchmark: 15% of internships supported by financial resources at the Humphrey School [note: the majority of internships secured by MURP students are paid]).

Performance Measure 4b: Number of unique organizations that faculty members collaborate with in their research (academic year). (Benchmark: 10 unique organizations).

Performance Measure 4c: Number of unique organizations that MURP students collaborate with in community-based course projects (academic year). (Benchmark: 15 organizations).

Goal 5

The research and teaching in the MURP program is integrated where appropriate with other degree programs at the Humphrey School and other areas of the University of Minnesota.

Strategies

Strategy 5.1: Pursue a joint seminar series with other degree programs (e.g., STEP and/or MDP) or research centers (e.g., CURA, CTS, and/or IonE). (Director & Planning Student Organization leadership)

Strategy 5.2: As registration is underway for the next semester, create a MURP-specific listing of non-MURP Humphrey courses that would be of interest to MURP students. (MURP Coordinator)

Strategy 5.3: Advertise and advise students on available graduate minors (STEP, MDP (coming soon), Landscape Architecture, etc.) and certificate programs (Human Services Leadership, Nonprofit Management, Policy Issues on Work and Pay, Metropolitan Design, etc.) that could compliment their MURP degree. (MURP Coordinator & Faculty)

Strategy 5.4: Plan one faculty mixer each semester with faculty from other departments to spark new ideas about research and potential collaborations. (Faculty)

Performance Measures

Performance Measure 5a: Number and proportion of MURP students pursuing a joint degree. (Benchmark: 10% of MURP students)

Performance Measure 5b: Number and proportion of MURP students pursuing a graduate minor or certificate program. (Benchmark: 10% of MURP students)

Performance Measure 5c: Number and proportion of publications by MURP faculty that include co-authors who are not full-time MURP faculty. (Benchmark: 30% of publications include co-authors who are not full-time MURP faculty).