BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)
URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

Professional planners create a vision of how cities, towns, and regions should develop in the future. Planners seek to ensure that built environments in rural and urban areas are developed in ways that promote sustainability, prosperity, and a better quality of life for all.

What can I do with a planning degree?

I could... work as a professional planner for a municipality, private consulting or development firms, or with other levels of government.
Or... take a position related to planning in government, non-profit, business, or community sectors.

Top 5 reasons to study planning

1. Become trained in a recognized profession, leading to Registered Professional Planner (RPP) and Member of the Canadian Institute of Planners (MCIP) status.
2. Study the world around you in a manner that integrates the social and natural sciences.
3. Work on real-world projects in planning studio courses that provide valuable experience for entering the planning profession.
4. Learn skills to help communities transition to more economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable futures.
5. Explore the diversity of the planning profession and the types of careers it offers.

OFFERS COURSES IN...
- Land use
- Urban design
- Community engagement
- Planning law
- Municipal finance and economics
- Environmental planning
- Geographical Information Science
- Transportation planning
- Professional practice

Course requirements for your major

Complete your major requirements and test out different classes. Design your academic plan — you’re in control!

Planning major course requirements:

- The core planning courses provide students with the skills, knowledge and ethical values in preparation for becoming a professional planning practitioner. Other core courses contribute to these competencies.
- Students in the BA program are able to utilize existing minors, certificates and optional courses to target their program toward an ancillary focus related to planning. This allows students to develop expertise targeted toward specific planning careers.

To verify your Major and BA Common Requirements, check the University Calendar and speak to an advisor.

Student supports

These are services that enable you to pursue academic and personal success.

- Academic advising
- Student Ombuds
- Indigenous Student supports
- Academic support
- Health & Wellness
- Campus Food Bank
- Libraries
- International Student supports
- Accessibility Resources
- Financial Aid & Awards
- Professional & Career Development
- Mental Health Supports

We are all treaty people

The University of Alberta respectfully acknowledges that we are situated on Treaty 6 territory, traditional lands of First Nations and Métis people.

Enhance your degree

Add a certificate in:

Connect to experiential learning:
- Arts Work Experience, Community Service-Learning, Study Abroad, Research.

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Look for related summer volunteer or employment opportunities.

Look at third and fourth year topics courses and start to enrol in them. Topics are not offered each year.

Meet your Undergraduate Student Services advisor and plan your degree path.

Consider signing up for a Certificate in Sustainability or a Certificate in International Learning.

Travel to the National Student Planning Conference.

Start attending professional planning and development events in the area.

Apply to Arts Work Experience and gain full-time, paid work experience.

Ask professors to be academic references.

Ready to toss your cap in the air? Apply to graduate!

Plan to take the Field School course which travels to other cities within and outside of Canada.

Let the Career Centre support you in communicating your skills and experience to prepare for your next steps!