HOW TO APPLY to Become an URBAN PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT MAJOR

APPLICATION CONTENT

Students applying to the Urban Planning major must submit a narrative statement of purpose and, optionally, additional supporting materials, as an attachment to the Huxley College application form. Applications to the UPSD major are accepted in Spring Quarter.

1. HUXLEY COLLEGE APPLICATION FORM (REQUIRED)

Go to: https://huxley.wwu.edu/applying-huxley

2. NARRATIVE STATEMENT (REQUIRED)

A written statement of purpose, not to exceed 3 pages, discussing:

a) Your educational goals and your expectations of the urban planning major
b) Your vision of yourself as a practicing urban planner – i.e. what you hope to accomplish in your working career, AND

c) Past and current activities, interests, employment, or experiences that led you to choose Western’s urban planning major, and how you believe those experiences will help you to succeed in a planning career.

3. ADDITIONAL ATTACHMENTS: PORTFOLIO (OPTIONAL)

To strengthen your application, we strongly encourage you to attach a Portfolio of Work as additional supporting materials (maximum 10 pages), such as:

a) Your best writing example: i.e.: an academic or research paper
b) Examples of your graphic design, mapping, or drawing skills
c) A list of inspiring readings, relevant to the degree program
d) Creative projects or activities that show evidence of your interests relating to the field of urban planning and sustainable development.

For further information, questions, or application forms, please visit the Huxley website at http://www.wwu.edu/huxley.
Consider a major in Urban Planning and Sustainable Development

Huxley’s Urban Planning and Sustainable Development (UPSD) major emphasizes an interdisciplinary approach to solving complex problems that face communities. The program emphasizes a concern for progressive change that is needed in the design of equitable, healthful, livable, diverse and sustainable communities for present and future generations. The curriculum combines urban planning, sustainable design, policy and environmental science to provide students with an understanding of the multidimensional issues in urban development. Our program aspires to serve diverse communities and we encourage students with a breadth of backgrounds and life experiences to apply.

The program prepares students with the knowledge and skills that are necessary to make positive changes towards sustainability in an increasingly complex world. Graduates are prepared for professional careers in planning agencies, consulting firms, and non profit organizations at the local, state, and federal levels of government, as well as advanced graduate study.

For more information on the program and next steps to preparing your application, please visit our program website at:
https://huxley.wwu.edu/urban-planning-and-sustainable-developmen-program

Huxley College of the Environment | Western Washington University

Urban Planning and Sustainable Development Major (UPSD)
Huxley College of the Environment | Western Washington University

Vision
The program envisions a society where individuals and groups can fully participate in the planning and development of their communities such that basic needs of safety, shelter, livelihoods and opportunity for self-realization and participation are met for all. Community aspirations are discussed freely and form the foundation of planning for a more sustainable future, with special consideration for those who are most marginalized and for the ecological systems that sustain and inspire us.

Mission
The mission of the Urban Planning and Sustainable Development Program is to cultivate students to become future planning leaders who are ethical, knowledgeable, and technically capable to assist communities as they plan more sustainable futures. The Urban Planning program’s mission affirms and works within the broader mission of Huxley College to integrate an outstanding urban planning educational program through faculty-student collaboration, applied research, and professional and community service.

Many of our graduates go on to professional careers in urban planning, while others continue their graduate studies in urban planning, law, natural resource management, architecture, and public policy fields. Our curriculum is designed to help students make the intellectual connections and gain the practical skills necessary for building socially and environmentally sustainable community futures. Through the integration of urban planning with the natural and social sciences, and allied fields, the Urban Planning program at Huxley College endeavors to educate problem solvers who are able to meet the environmental challenges of our times.

Huxley’s Urban Planning program’s mission emphasizes an interdisciplinary approach to solving complex problems that face communities from the local to the global level. The curriculum provides students with a solid core understanding of the linkages between urban and natural systems and the multi-dimensional problems faced in urban development. The program prepares students with the knowledge and skills necessary to make positive changes towards sustainability in an increasingly complex world.

Recommended Sequence of Classes for the Urban Planning Major
URBAN PLANNING and SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CORE REQUIREMENTS

FALL
- ENVS 303 Human Ecology/Ethics*
- ENVS 360 Plan Graphics*
- ENVS 361 Intro Planning*

WINTER
- ENVS 303 Human Ecology/Ethics*
- ENVS 305 History/Policy*
- ENVS 374 Land Use Regs
- ENVS 473 Transp Planning Electives / Specializations

SPRING
- ENVS 305 History/Policy*
- ENVS 343 Urbanization
- ENVS 360 Plan Graphics*
- ENVS 361 Intro Planning*
- ENVS 370 Plan History Electives / Specializations

Plus the following (in any quarter / year available):
- UPSD Foundation courses;
- 1 course from Planning Quantitative Methods course list

Elective Specializations: Select minimum 20 credits from the following categories:

1. Geographic information systems. ENVS 320 - GIS I (4); ENVS 321 - GIS II (3); ENVS 420 - GIS III (4); ENVS 423 - GIS IV (4); ENVS 422 - Advanced Spatial Analysis (4); ENVS 423 - GIS Processes and Analysis (3); ESCI 442 - Introduction to Remote Sensing (5); and ENVS 499Q - Topics in GIS (1) (repeatable up to 4 credits)
2. Sustainable design. ENVS 310 - Sustainable Design (6); ENVS 410 - Agroecology and Sustainable Agriculture (4); ENVS 411 - Agroecology and Planning Practicum (4); ENVS 498Q - Topics in Agroecology (7)
3. Community resilience. ENVS 362 Theory & Practice of Emergency Planning (4); ENVS 372 - Natural Hazards Planning (5); ENVS 465 - Disaster Risk Reduction (4); ENVS 476 - Disaster Risk Reduction Studio (4); ENVS 375 Community Development and Participatory Methods (3)
4. Food security. ENVS 410 - Agroecology and Sustainable (4); ENVS 411 - Agroecology Planning and Practicum (4); ENVS 498 - Florence (8) or Mexico (8); ENVS 4xx - Food Security and Justice Planning Studio (4)
5. Environmental policy. ENVS 350 - Environmental Policy and Politics (4); ENVS 355 - Environmental Law and Policy (4); ENVS 383 - Environmental Economics (4); ENVS 452 - International Environmental Policy (4); ENVS 454 - Environment Policy Analysis (4)
6. Energy and climate policy. ENVS 392 - Intro to Global Change (4); ENVS 350 - Energy Policy and Politics (4); ENVS 484 - Economics of Alternative Energy (4); ENVS 440 - Public and Stakeholder Engagement (4); ENVS 344 - Community Solutions to Climate Change (4)
7. Student Designed Elective Specialization. Requires Advisor Approval

Note: Verify course availability, scheduling, and prerequisites in the WWU Course Catalog