

**School of Planning
College of Design, Architecture, Art and Planning
University of Cincinnati**

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PH.D.)
IN
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

Program Overview

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Regional Development Planning focuses on economic development planning within a regional context: for local areas, neighborhoods and inner cities, and metropolitan areas. This program incorporates elements of economics, sustainable development, community development planning, political economy and social planning. It offers a comprehensive knowledge base to graduate students interested in the improvement of human conditions in cities, suburbs and metropolitan areas.

About the Program

The PhD in Regional Development Planning is a distinctive doctoral degree in planning. Most doctoral degrees in planning in the United States cover broad fields. The University of Cincinnati School of Planning program stresses the interdisciplinary analysis and solution to the economic development problems of inner cities and metropolitan areas. Moreover, the program approaches regional development planning using the principles of sustainable development, essential to sound management of the Earth's limited resources.

The purpose of this doctoral program is to educate and train regional development planning researchers, scholars and high-level practitioners and policy makers. Consequently, students will be able to contribute to the generation of new knowledge and the education of regional development planning professionals, as well as participate in the development and implementation of regional development policies and programs. Attention is focused on growth management, economic development opportunity enhancement, utilization of analytical tools for effective and efficient development programs and strategies, as well as the understanding and evaluation of federal and state and local policies aimed at improving the conditions of metropolitan areas through regional development planning.

Career Opportunities

Regional Development Planning is one of the most important emerging foci of the planning profession. All states, and most metropolitan areas, cities, and towns have adopted economic development programs, and, in most cases, have established an agency to coordinate and guide these programs. The State of Ohio has placed major emphasis on the economic development of its counties, townships, cities and villages and has been competing energetically with other states for the retention of business, the attraction and establishment within the state of new business, the improvement of employment opportunities for its labor force, and the creation of the conditions for a better quality of life for its citizens, both urban and rural, through economic growth and the expansion of economic opportunity. The doctoral program is focused on the needs, problems, priorities and potential for regional development. It is designed to assist the state and its political units (e.g., regions, counties, metropolitan areas and municipalities) in their regional development efforts by providing the professionals and scholars who will constitute the high level analysts, researchers and teachers.

Degree Requirements

Curriculum Overview

Obtaining a Ph.D. degree at the University of Cincinnati requires 135 quarter credit hours beyond Bachelor's degree or 90 quarter credit hours beyond Master's degree. At least 60 credit hours are devoted to course work and 10 credit hours are devoted to dissertation research.

The PhD degree in Regional Development Planning builds on the strengths of the School of Planning's existing graduate curriculum and the School's interdisciplinary research and graduate faculty. Regional development planning is a complex domain for doctoral study because of its synthesis of theoretical constructs from planning and economics; concepts and approaches from other social sciences; complex social, demographic and racial factors; land use issues; politics and policy formulation for development; and environmental sustainability concerns and protection. Because of this complexity, individual students narrow their program focus by choosing a Major Area of Specialization, which must be a variation of regional development planning. Some examples might be:

- Metropolitan development planning (including subjects such as the impact of sprawl on central city revitalization);
- Regional/national development planning, and
- Regional development, planning and management in developing countries.

Once a student in the program has chosen an area for his/her dissertation research, the student's Doctoral Advisor and other members of his/her Doctoral Committee will assist the student select appropriate courses. In addition, each student in the Ph.D. program selects one Minor Area of Specialization from areas within or related to planning. Faculty from within the School of Planning and from other departments and academic units on campus are identified to represent these Minors, depending on the subject matter. A representative list of Minor Areas of Specialization is found below.

In the School of Planning, they might include:

- Community development (including housing and poverty studies)
- Regional development methods (including data management, and GIS)
Note This Minor could be organized in collaboration with the Departments of Economics, Geography, and Operations Research.
- Environmental management
Note This Minor could be organized in collaboration with the Departments of Biology, Geology, Geography, and Civil/Environmental Engineering
- Regional theory (including regional science, regional economics, location theory and regional planning)
Note This Minor could be organized in collaboration with the Department of Geography

Elsewhere on campus, they could include:

- Urban and regional economics (Department of Economics)
- Real estate development (Program in Real Estate, College of Business Administration)
- Politics of development (Department of Political Science)
- Ethnic and gender studies in development
Note This Minor could be organized in collaboration with the Programs in African Studies, Asian Studies, Latin American Studies and Women's Studies, as well as the Department of Sociology

Program of Study

The program takes four years from first enrollment. The first two are in residence for course work; the third is for conducting field research; and the fourth is for dissertation preparation. Each student in the program develops, in consultation with her/his Doctoral Advisor and Doctoral Committee, a Study Plan. The Study Plan identifies the student's Major Area of Specialization and Minor Area of Specialization, and it details the course requirements for the individual student, as well as the credit hour requirements associated with the completion of the degree. This includes the following categories:

- Prerequisite courses;
- Foundation courses;
- Major Area of Specialization courses;
- Minor Area of Specialization courses;
- Methods courses, and
- Doctoral colloquiums.

It is expected that the Study Plan for each student will be individualized. Changes in the Study Plan can be made at any time before the comprehensive exam, with the consent of the student's Doctoral Advisor, her/his individual Doctoral Committee, and the Doctoral Program Committee.

During the comprehensive written and oral examination, students will be examined on theory, the Major and Minor Areas of Specialization, and methodology.

The five Major Area of Specialization courses, all of which are offered in the second year, establish a common research language for all the students. These include:

- **Theories and Models of Regional Development at the Global Level.** Fall Quarter. Examines theories of regional organization, the relationships among regions at various hierarchical levels, and growth and development as interpreted by several schools of thought. Emphasis is given to the new economics shaped by global forces in the industrialized world through market treaties and in the developing world through information and industrial technology, labor mobility, and outsourcing.
- **Economy, Environment and Sustainable Development.** Fall Quarter. Examines the economic development aspects of environmental policies, the literature and politics of cost/benefit and other methods of analysis of environmental implications, the global dimensions of environmental problems, and the economic growth/environmental protection and conservation synergy promoted by the principles and objectives of sustainable development.
- **Seminar on the Implementation and Management of Regional Development Plans and Programs.** Winter Quarter. Focuses on implementation aspects of regional development plans and programs. Beginning with the examination of regional development policies and their implementation, the seminar proceeds to review the institutional, budgetary, and political sides of the implementation effort at the regional level. Special attention is given to case studies of successful and failing examples of regional governance and metropolitan cooperation efforts.
- **Metropolitan and Regional Structure and Dynamics.** Spring Quarter. Examines the economic, social, political and environmental factors, which help shape the structure and the spatial configuration of regions. At the metropolitan level, it examines the dynamics of multiple political jurisdictions, the phenomena of suburbanization, sprawl and urban/suburban polarization, and the efforts of metropolitan regions to impose growth management schemes via political or planning devices and tools.
- **Regional Political Economy.** Winter Quarter. Examines how we talk about public policy, planning, political economy, and development and explores the ways that talk shapes our understandings of the interplay of state, economy, space, and society.

Admission Information

Admission to the Ph.D. program is determined by the Doctoral Program Committee on the basis of an applicant's academic record, commitment to scholarly study, and potential for creative research. Applicants generally hold, or are in the process of completing, a Master's degree in Planning or a closely related academic discipline. Qualified applicants in other academic areas are also considered for admission to the Ph.D. program, with the understanding that they may have to take a number of planning foundation courses in order to acquire the necessary background for the pursuit of doctoral studies at the University of Cincinnati.

In truly exceptional cases, involving appropriate combinations of scholarship and experience, students may be accepted into the Ph.D. program with only a Bachelor's degree. In such cases, entering students will be required to enroll in and complete the course of study leading towards the professional Master of Community Planning (MCP) program, minus the writing of a Master's thesis. While such students may proceed directly to the doctoral program, they will only receive the MCP if they fulfill the internship and thesis requirements of that program.

At a minimum, a successful applicant for admission into the Ph.D. program is expected to have completed a number of other courses in his or her undergraduate and/or graduate preparation totaling:

- 3 quarter credit hours of calculus;
- 3 quarter credit hours of natural sciences;
- 3 quarter credit hours of environmental studies, and
- 20 quarter credit hours of humanities and social sciences (including economics)

A full application must include the supporting documents listed below, which should be forwarded as noted:

- Official University of Cincinnati application and application fee
- The completed PhD Application to the School of Planning

- Official college and university transcripts or, for international students, official records of prior academic study in English
Note Admission to the School of Planning is contingent upon receipt of the final official transcript stating the date the degree was conferred.
- Official scores for the aptitude portion of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).
Note The School normally expects successful applicants to exceed the median test scores on the GRE.
- 3 reference letters from persons (including faculty) familiar with your potential to complete doctoral study
Note At least two should be academic recommendations. All letters should be on the referee's letterhead.
- For international applicants, a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) minimum score of 600 paper-based or 250 computer-based, is required

Application Deadline

Applications and all supporting materials should be received prior to March 1 to assure first consideration for a graduate award from the School of Planning. Those seeking an Albert C. Yates Scholarship/Fellowship should apply by February 1. Accordingly, the GRE and TOEFL should be taken at an early date to ensure timely receipt of scores.

Additional Information

The Official University of Cincinnati application should be completed online.

The School of Planning application and all other materials should be sent to the School of Planning at the address below:

School of Planning
College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning
6210 DAAP
University of Cincinnati
PO Box 210016-0016
Cincinnati, OH 45221-0016

Financial Assistance

The doctoral program accepts a small number of highly motivated and well qualified students each year. All students, both domestic and international, are supported financially by the School of Planning, the University of Cincinnati or through external financial support. School of Planning-supported students receive funding for three years. It is the responsibility of the students to support themselves during the dissertation year when tuition is not paid. Most are supported that year through proposals they have written or through research projects of the faculty.

International students can learn about additional scholarships available to them at the University of Cincinnati International Services website.

For further information, contact the Director, Ph.D. Program in Regional Development Planning, at:

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Last revised on March 17, 2008