Dear MURP students,

We are delighted that you have selected the Master of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP) degree to further your career, and we welcome you to our dynamic and motivated community of students and faculty in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. You will find that the MURP program is hands-on, oriented to the real world, and uses Colorado as our classroom.

The MURP program is a two-year, fully-accredited program that has graduated over 1,300 alumni since its founding in 1971. As the only accredited graduate planning program in Colorado and the preeminent program in the Rocky Mountain West, we have a proud history of training exceptionally qualified individuals who achieve success in a variety of positions and careers. Our AICP pass rates and job placement success are among the very top in the country.

Our presence in a College of Architecture and Planning ensures that all courses have a strong connection to the built environment, and our location in the heart of downtown Denver presents our students with opportunities to learn what it takes to create amazing cities. The University of Colorado Denver is one of four campuses in the prestigious CU system; during your time here you will have access to courses, libraries, and other resources available across these campuses.

Our students come from all over the world to enroll in a unique curriculum that emphasizes three issues at the forefront of planning practice: Healthy Communities, Urban Revitalization, and Regional Sustainability. Our self-directed curriculum allows students to understand the breadth of the planning field while gaining the technical expertise demanded by the profession.

Our world-class faculty includes some of the most respected researchers in the planning field, as well as award-winning planning practitioners that bring a wealth of experience to the classroom. All of our faculty members make teaching a top priority.

The MURP program is an exceptional program and we welcome you into a cohort that shares your enthusiasm for planning and its potential to build a better world. A full description of our innovative, hands-on program is available on our MURP Community website at [http://murp.cudenvercap.org](http://murp.cudenvercap.org) and for information about the application process, financial aid, etc., please visit the MURP page on the College website at [http://cap.ucdenver.edu/murp](http://cap.ucdenver.edu/murp).

Sincerely,

Austin Troy, PhD
Chair, Department of Urban and Regional Planning
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PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
Our vision is to be a national leader in educating skilled, engaged planners and creating vibrant, sustainable communities. Inspired by our setting in the downtown of a thriving urban center in the dynamic Rocky Mountain region, our mission is to:

**TEACH**
Teach our students the knowledge, skills, and values they need to be confident, principled, and visionary planners, using Colorado as our classroom to engage students in real-world, experiential learning.

**ADVANCE**
Advance the field of planning through insightful, relevant research that directly informs policy and improves our built, natural, and social environments.

**SERVE**
Serve as a vital resource for communities and professionals, and help develop sustainable solutions to our region’s complex planning challenges.

Several core values inspire all the work we do:

**ADVOCACY**
We believe planners must be visionary in their work, politically engaged, and articulate proponents for positive change.

**COLLABORATION**
We believe planners must understand and value the principles and perspectives of allied disciplines that participate in planning and city building.

**ENGAGEMENT**
We believe students should learn planning by interacting directly with professionals and the public to solve real-world planning challenges.

**INTERDEPENDENCY**
We believe cities are inextricably tied to each other and to their ecological, regional and global contexts.

**SERVICE**
We believe our program should serve as a resource for planning professionals and the public by offering ideas, solutions, research, advocacy, and inspiration.

**SUSTAINABILITY**
We believe planning must be based on the principles of economic viability, environmental resiliency, and social equity.

**URBANISM**
We believe in the potential of cities and towns to be the most efficient, equitable and inspiring forms of human settlement.
Our passion for teaching students the knowledge, skills and values they will need to be confident, principled, and visionary planners is reflected in the five key features we’ve integrated across our program and curriculum:

**PHYSICAL PLANNING AND DESIGN**
We emphasize physical planning and design throughout our curriculum. Housed within the College of Architecture and Planning, we work closely with the College’s Architecture, Urban Design, Landscape Architecture, and Historic Preservation programs to provide our students access to an expanded design-focused education.

**EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT**
Throughout the program we provide significant opportunities for students to gain hands-on planning experience and have direct interaction with Colorado’s planning professionals. We use Denver’s diverse urban landscape as a real-world classroom for students to experience and analyze the built, social, political, and economic environments.

**INTERNATIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**
We provide students the opportunity to study planning from an international perspective. By offering lecture courses that focus on global planning issues and studios that involve on-site coursework in other countries and collaborations with partner universities abroad, we help students expand their personal and educational worldview.

**INNOVATIVE PLANNING TECHNOLOGIES**
We integrate innovative planning technologies into many of our program’s courses and activities. We capitalize on the Denver region’s entrepreneurial spirit and tech-focused economy by providing access to state-of-the-art planning technologies and teaching students how these tools can support the planning process.

**SELF-DIRECTED CURRICULUM**
We offer our students the unique ability to craft an education suited to their career goals and personal interests. Students may choose any combination of elective courses, whether oriented towards one of our three Program Initiatives, a traditional specialization, or a generalist survey of the planning field.
We focus on teaching students how to address critical issues and complex problems facing cities and regions today. For planners to take the lead in the city-building process, they need to understand the breadth of their field and know how to work in cross-disciplinary teams. Therefore we have structured our whole program—research, curriculum, faculty and student efforts, etc.—around three issue areas, which we call Initiatives.

Our three Program Initiatives (Healthy Communities, Urban Revitalization, and Regional Sustainability) represent issues at the forefront of the planning profession today and are also prominent topics in Denver and Colorado.

The link between human health and the built environment has become a key factor in planning cities and regions. Colorado is known for its physically fit and active adult population, but many still face significant challenges such as childhood obesity, disconnected neighborhoods, and lack of access to healthy food. Colorado has become a national leader in finding ways to plan and design healthier environments, and the MURP program’s Healthy Communities Initiative is part of that effort. We work with partners at the local, state and federal levels, as well as the non-profit, educational and private sectors, to provide students comprehensive and interdisciplinary training in the tools, innovations and policies necessary for creating physically, socially, and economically healthy communities.

After decades of suburbanization, segregated land uses, and automobile-dependent development, the US is now experiencing a resurgence of traditional urbanism and a reorientation toward central cities. Nowhere else is that phenomenon more evident than in Denver, where infill and transit-oriented development, historic preservation, adaptive reuse, and multi-modal transport are transforming the urban landscape. The MURP program’s Urban Revitalization Initiative gives students opportunities to engage with local developers, planners, designers and policymakers to help revive and enhance established cities, retrofit the suburbs, and plan sustainable new developments.

Climate change, environmental degradation, resource scarcity, and sprawling development present critical challenges to planners worldwide. In the Rocky Mountain West, the impacts are evident in habitat loss, wildfire risk, and conflicts over water and energy resources. The MURP program’s Regional Sustainability Initiative explores ways that Colorado and its neighbors can tackle these issues together. At the metropolitan level, Denver and its adjacent communities already serve as a model for regional planning and cooperation, exemplified by the visionary FasTracks transit program. Our Initiative draws on Denver’s success in regional land use, transportation, economic development and resource planning to help students understand how built and natural environments can co-exist more sustainably at various regional scales.
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Patty McKissock serves as the MURP Academic Advisor and Course Coordinator on the College staff. She is the keeper of MURP student records and the person to ask about academic policies and which forms need to be filled out for different things. Patty can help you with registering for classes and graduation requirements. If your question or issue has to do with anything administrative relating to the MURP program, the College of Architecture and Planning, or the University of Colorado Denver, start with Patty. Contact Patty at patricia.mckissock@ucdenver.edu or 303-315-2535.

In addition to Patty, the Planning faculty are also an important advising resource for MURP students. The Planning faculty can help you with information about specific course content, career advice, and any other issues relating to the MURP curriculum, academic achievement, extracurricular activities, or urban and regional planning in general. At the start of the fall semester, you will select an initial faculty advisor from among the seven full-time Planning faculty and will be required to have an introductory meeting with that faculty member during the first two weeks of the fall semester. After that, we have an “open door” policy on advising, which means you may stick with that initial faculty advisor, choose a different faculty member to be your advisor, or have multiple faculty advisors. You may choose your faculty advisors based on their expertise in a particular area of interest (see list below) or based on whatever criteria is important to you. You are welcome to change faculty advisors at any point or seek advice from multiple faculty members. You may work with your faculty advisor as much or as little as you need.

We recommend you use a MURP Program Planning Form to keep track of the courses you’ve taken and that you plan to take while you’re a MURP student. Planning forms are also available to help guide dual degree students. Dual degree students should have an advisor in each relevant department or college. Electronic Degree Auditing is available for all MURP students. This online system allows you to check which degree requirements you have personally satisfied and which ones remain. Instructions for accessing the degree audit are available in this Electronic Degree Auditing Info document.

The following list offers suggestions for which faculty members to consult with regarding different areas of interest or expertise:

- Carolyn McAndrews: Transportation planning, policy, and design, comparative international development and transportation, public participation, public health and safety, healthy communities, social determinants of health
- Carrie Makarewicz: Community development, sustainable economic development strategies, transport equity, regional planning, urban school reform, real estate development
- Jeremy Németh: Placemaking and urban design, urban politics, land use planning, land use conflict, politics of public space, environmental justice, thesis and research
- Andrew Rumbach: Disasters and climate change, environmental risk, urban resilience, international planning, small town and rural development
- Ken Schroeppe1: Urban development and revitalization, urban form, planning methods, planning history of Denver, professional engagement and networking, careers in planning
- Jennifer Steffel Johnson: Affordable housing, social justice, diverse communities, mixed-income housing, community development, internships and mentorships
- Austin Troy: Land use policy, environmental planning, GIS, spatial analysis, remote sensing, land use change modeling and simulation, regional sustainability
CURRICULUM
Program Requirements & Grading Policy

The following grading policy is effective as of August 17, 2015:

The total number of credit hours required to earn the Master of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP) degree is 54. To reach the 54 credit hour total, students must earn 36 credits by completing and passing the required core courses. Students must then earn an additional 18 credits by completing elective courses of their choice. Across those 54 credits, students must also meet final course grade minimums and cumulative grade point average requirements (described below) in order to earn the MURP degree. The required 54 credits may be reduced in some cases for students who meet the requirements for advanced standing or who have transfer credits (see the Course Substitution and Waivers section of this Handbook).

In order to receive the MURP degree, a student’s cumulative grade point average (GPA) for all courses that count toward the required 54 credit hours must be 3.00 or higher. A student’s cumulative GPA may drop below 3.00 during their time in the MURP program, but ultimately the student’s cumulative GPA must be 3.00 or higher in order to graduate with the MURP degree. Students who fail to meet a 3.00 cumulative GPA will be put on probation. After two semesters on probation a student will be subject to suspension.

For all courses taken as part of the MURP program, a student must receive a final grade of C minus (C-) or higher in order for that course to count toward the MURP 54 credit hour requirement. A student receiving a final grade in a core course below C- must retake the course in order to graduate.

It should be recognized that while students can get credit for courses where their grade is as low as a C-, each grade below a B (3.00) must be matched with a grade that is correspondingly higher than a B in another class to eventually meet the minimum 3.00 cumulative GPA threshold. As of the effective date of this policy, currently enrolled students who took a class under the previous grading policy and received a grade between C- and C+, thereby not obtaining credit for the class towards the degree, can now count that class towards the degree credit retroactively.

The MURP program uses the University’s standard 4.00 grading letter and point system:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>0.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These statements describe the expectations associated with letter grades awarded for MURP program assignments and courses:

“A” grade range: Exceptional scholarship and superior work products that significantly exceed stated requirements in scope and/or quality

“B” grade range: Commendable scholarship and accomplished work products that somewhat exceed stated requirements in scope and/or quality

“C” grade range: Satisfactory scholarship and work products that meet or almost meet stated requirements in scope and/or quality

“D” grade range: Inadequate scholarship and inferior work products that clearly fail to meet stated requirements in scope and/or quality

“F” grade: Unacceptable scholarship and work product
Table 1 lists the required core courses and the overall total credit hour requirements for completing the MURP degree.

**TABLE 1: CORE COURSES AND CREDIT HOUR REQUIREMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th># Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>URPL 5000</td>
<td>Planning History and Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 5010</td>
<td>Planning Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 5020</td>
<td>Planning Law and Institutions</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 5030</td>
<td>The Planning Profession</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 5040</td>
<td>Urban Sustainability</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 5050</td>
<td>Urban Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 5060</td>
<td>Planning Workshop</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6000</td>
<td>Planning Project Studio</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student’s choice of ONE of the following 6-credit courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th># Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6900</td>
<td>Planning Capstone</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6920 and 6925</td>
<td>Planning Thesis A and B</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Courses Total Credit Hours:</th>
<th>36</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elective Courses Credit Hours:</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required Total Credit Hours:</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The MURP program’s core courses provide students with a comprehensive survey of the planning field and the foundational knowledge, skills, and values important to the profession. The core courses have been carefully designed to fully comply with the Planning Accreditation Board’s required educational outcomes. Table 2 describes the MURP program’s core courses.

**TABLE 2: CORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Course Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>URPL 5000</td>
<td>Planning History and Theory</td>
<td>This course comprehensively reviews the major historical and theoretical developments in planning; the human aspects of planning as a social, political, and community-oriented process; public engagement; social justice; planning advocacy; and the future of planning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 5010</td>
<td>Planning Methods</td>
<td>This course focuses on the most commonly applied quantitative and qualitative methods used in planning; data organization and management principles; and various ways to collect, analyze, and communicate information as a fundamental component of the planning process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 5020</td>
<td>Planning Law and Institutions</td>
<td>This course covers the legal basis for planning; the evolution of planning law through a comprehensive review of landmark court decisions; and the types and hierarchies of governments, their powers and relationships, and how planning operates within various governmental contexts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 5030</td>
<td>The Planning Profession</td>
<td>This course offers a comprehensive survey of the planning profession; different types of planners and planning organizations; business aspects of planning; planning solicitation; planning ethics; career development in planning, plus introductory instruction in ArcView GIS and Adobe Creative Cloud.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 5040</td>
<td>Urban Sustainability</td>
<td>This course covers the fundamentals of environmental planning; urban sustainability; history of cities and the natural environment; natural systems/ecology; environmental regulation/policy; environmental justice; natural hazards and climate change; global dimensions of urban sustainability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 5050</td>
<td>Urban Development</td>
<td>This course explores how cities get built. Topics include an overview of the players, processes, politics and policies of real estate development; land division, entitlement, and regulation; site planning and development review; development finance; public infrastructure and finance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 5060</td>
<td>Planning Workshop</td>
<td>An introduction to the studio environment, this course provides students with hands-on knowledge and skills development in physical planning and design, the planning process, data collection and synthesis, plan making, and collaboration, plus introductory instruction in Trimble SketchUp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6000</td>
<td>Planning Project Studio</td>
<td>The program’s advanced studio, this course requires student teams to complete a substantial planning project for a real-world client. Sections are offered that emphasize a Healthy Communities, Urban Revitalization, Regional Sustainability, or International Opportunities perspective.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**TABLE 2: CORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS (continued)**

*Student’s choice of ONE of the following 6-credit courses:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Course Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6900</td>
<td>Planning Capstone</td>
<td>Planning Capstone requires students to plan and complete an independent or small group project of their choice for a real-world client. After identifying their project topic, methodology, work plan, and schedule, students will receive instruction in project management and methodologies from the Capstone faculty. Planning Capstone concludes with the completion of the independent or small group project and the presentation of all final deliverables.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6920</td>
<td>Planning Thesis A and B</td>
<td>Spanning two semesters, Planning Thesis requires students to plan and complete a research thesis of their choice. Planning Thesis Part A (3 credits) provides instruction for proper thesis research, analysis, and writing, while students develop a detailed work plan and begin their thesis research. Part B (3 credits) taken the semester following Part A includes the completion of the research and the thesis document, and presentation of the findings before the student’s thesis committee.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The 5000-series core courses should be completed first because they provide foundational knowledge, skills, and values that are important to successfully completing the 6000-series core courses. Table 3 shows the sequence in which courses should be taken, the semesters they are offered, and the prerequisites for the core courses. However, students should consider taking an elective course or two during their first year in the program if they desire.

### Table 3: Course Sequence and Prerequisites

#### Year 1 - Fall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th># Credits</th>
<th>Semester Offered</th>
<th>Prerequisite</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>URPL 5000</td>
<td>Planning History and Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fall only</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 5010</td>
<td>Planning Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fall only</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 5020</td>
<td>Planning Law and Institutions</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fall only</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 5030</td>
<td>The Planning Profession</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fall only</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credit Hours: 12

#### Year 1 - Spring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th># Credits</th>
<th>Semester Offered</th>
<th>Prerequisite</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>URPL 5040</td>
<td>Urban Sustainability</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Spring only</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 5050</td>
<td>Urban Development</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Spring only</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 5060</td>
<td>Planning Workshop</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Spring only</td>
<td>9 credits of 5000-series core courses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credit Hours: 12

#### After Year 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th># Credits</th>
<th>Semester Offered</th>
<th>Prerequisite</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Elective Courses</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Fall/Spring/Summer</td>
<td>See individual course descriptions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6000</td>
<td>Planning Project Studio</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Fall/Spring/Summer</td>
<td>URPL 5060 - Planning Workshop</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student’s choice of ONE of the following 6-credit courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th># Credits</th>
<th>Semester Offered</th>
<th>Prerequisite</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6900</td>
<td>Planning Capstone</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Fall/Spring</td>
<td>URPL 5060 - Planning Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6920</td>
<td>Planning Thesis A</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Fall/Spring/Summer</td>
<td>URPL 5060 - Planning Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6925</td>
<td>Planning Thesis B</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>URPL 5060 - Planning Workshop</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credit Hours: 30
Planning Workshop (URPL 5060) and Planning Project Studio (URPL 6000) are the two studio core courses. These courses are a key part of the hands-on, real-world focus of the MURP program.

**PLANNING WORKSHOP**

Planning Workshop is the introductory studio for MURP students. Planning Workshop provides students an opportunity to address actual planning problems, issues, and processes; apply previously acquired knowledge and skills; and develop new knowledge and practical skills in an applied context.

Students will develop basic competence in accessing existing information, generating new information, and performing planning analysis and synthesis. Students will also learn to enhance their graphic, written, and oral communication capabilities. Through the Planning Workshop experience, students will develop an understanding of the relationship between planning theory and practice, as well as gain the ability to formulate compelling planning arguments in applied settings.

Students will also receive introductory instruction in Trimble SketchUp, which complements the introductory instruction in Geographic Information Systems (ArcView GIS) and Adobe Creative Cloud (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign) students receive in The Planning Profession course. The integration and use of all of these common planning technology applications is a critical component of the Planning Workshop experience.

**PLANNING PROJECT STUDIO**

Planning Project Studio is the MURP program’s advanced studio course. This studio requires students to work together as a “planning consultant team” to complete a single planning project or study from beginning to end for a real-world client. It is expected that students enrolled in Planning Project Studio will have already gained the fundamental planning knowledge, skills, and values from their experience in Planning Workshop and other MURP courses. Consequently, the emphasis in Planning Project Studio is on putting everything together into a complete real-world planning project.

The studio will emulate the typical planning consultant/client experience, including: refining the project scope and schedule with the client; establishing guiding principles and expected outcomes; conducting case studies and existing plans background research; gathering and analyzing existing conditions data; formulating alternative plan concepts; assessing alternative concepts through specific criteria; identifying and refining the preferred alternative; and preparing and presenting the final plan deliverables to the client. Emphasis is also placed on professionalism, project management, team-building and collaboration, client management, public involvement, and other aspects of the real-world planning consultant realm.

Each Planning Project Studio course section will focus on a project generally associated with one of the MURP program’s three initiatives (Healthy Communities, Urban Revitalization, and Regional Sustainability). Typically three to five sections of Planning Project Studio are offered each academic year, thereby ensuring that students will have a chance to enroll in a Planning Project Studio section that is aligned with an initiative of interest to them. However, as each studio section is limited in size, there is no guarantee students will be able to enroll in their preferred section. A balloting process will be used when necessary.
The culminating component of the MURP curriculum is the Planning Capstone/Planning Thesis requirement, which challenges students to utilize to the fullest extent the planning knowledge, skills, and values gained during their MURP program experience. Students must choose which option to select—Planning Capstone or Planning Thesis—based on their career goals, personal interests and aptitudes, and the advice of their faculty advisor.

**PLANNING CAPSTONE**

Planning Capstone is a six-credit, project-oriented, one-semester course that results in a substantial deliverable upon completion. The Capstone option is best suited for students who wish to pursue a career as a professional planner after graduation. Within the Planning Capstone option are two alternatives: Independent Project and Small-Group Project.

If a student chooses the Planning Capstone > Independent Project path, he or she will work individually to complete a significant planning project or study for a real-world client. If a student chooses the Planning Capstone > Small-Group Project path, he or she must team up with one or two other students—forming a project team of no more than three people—to complete a significant planning project or study for a real-world client. However, each student must be individually responsible for a clearly defined component of the group project as each student will be graded independently for his or her work.

During the semester before enrolling in Planning Capstone, students will be required to: (a.) determine if they will be working independently or as part of a small group, (b.) identify their Capstone client and project topic, and (c.) begin preparing a detailed project prospectus (work plan, schedule, methodology, and deliverables). Also during the semester before Capstone, students must attend a mandatory Capstone Orientation to receive instruction and guidance on project planning and management. Students must have a completed and approved project prospectus by the second week of their Capstone semester. Students may identify their own Planning Capstone client and project topic or they may select from a list of Capstone clients/projects that have been pre-arranged and approved by the MURP faculty.

During the Planning Capstone semester, students complete their project work while maintaining regular contact with their Capstone faculty advisor and client to ensure sufficient progress and work quality, as well as periodically meeting with other Capstone students to discuss common issues and challenges, share experiences, and receive continued instruction and guidance from the Capstone faculty on project management and methodologies. The Planning Capstone semester concludes with the submission of all deliverables and a formal presentation to the client.

For more information about the Planning Capstone option, please visit the [Capstone webpage](#).

**PLANNING THESIS**

Planning Thesis comprises a pair of three-credit courses (A and B) taken over two semesters that together constitute a six-credit effort. The thesis option is most appropriate for outstanding MURP students who are considering pursuing a Ph.D. or a research-oriented career after graduation.
PLANNING CAPSTONE/PLANNING THESIS

While the thesis should address an aspect of urban and regional planning, it may be qualitative or quantitative in design, and directed toward the discovery of new facts, the development of theory or frameworks, or an investigation of an existing body of knowledge. The thesis document usually includes an abstract, a literature review that delineates the problem of interest or a gap in existing knowledge, a statement of research objectives, an explanation of the research design and methods, a report of the results of the research, and a discussion of the findings and their implications for planning. The thesis is undertaken with the guidance and approval of a three-person thesis committee, including a Thesis Advisor who must be a full-time member of the MURP faculty who holds a professional degree or Ph.D. Students interested in pursuing the thesis option must have their project approved prior to the course drop deadline in the Planning Thesis A semester. If the proposal is not approved, or the student’s prior academic performance is not deemed adequate for participation in the thesis option, the student would enroll in Planning Capstone instead.

During the Planning Thesis A semester, students identify their research question and study design, work on their literature review, and begin their research. If human subjects research is involved, e.g. through interviews, surveys, focus groups, etc., students should submit their application to the Colorado Multiple Institutions Review Board during Thesis A. During the Planning Thesis B (URPL 6925) semester, students complete their research and write the bulk of the thesis. Throughout, thesis students will meet regularly with their committee members to ensure sufficient progress and work quality. To graduate, the completed thesis must be successfully defended in an Oral Examination before the Thesis Committee, formatted according to CU Denver Graduate School guidelines, and submitted to the university by the official deadline. Thesis students should request a copy of the MURP Thesis Handbook from Jenny Steffel Johnson (jennifer.steffeljohnson@ucdenver.edu) and visit http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/Graduate-School/student-services/academic-resources/Pages/Masters.aspx for more information.

ELECTIVE COURSES

Whereas the MURP core courses offer a broad survey of related planning topics to provide foundational knowledge, skills, and values, the elective courses offer a more intensive investigation into a diverse array of planning and design topics.

Table 5 provides a brief description of the program’s elective courses that are regularly offered—usually once a year. Table 6 provides descriptions of the elective courses that are intermittently offered—usually once every two years. Please note: All courses listed are subject to change given student interest, faculty availability, and other considerations. Additional electives will also be periodically offered as Special Topics courses. Not counting cross-listed courses (those provided by a different program but assigned a URPL course number), students may take up to two elective courses from other CU Denver programs and departments. We recommend consulting with your faculty advisor about these course decisions.

Please note: Courses numbers and names listed in *italics* in Tables 5 and 6 are offered by other programs within the College or University, but are cross-listed with a URPL course number as MURP courses.
### TABLE 5: ELECTIVES REGULARLY OFFERED (USUALLY ONCE A YEAR)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Course Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6200</td>
<td>Land Development Regulations</td>
<td>This course provides a comprehensive exploration of municipal/county land development regulations, including preliminary plats; general/final development plans; zoning; PUDs; variances; site plan/development review; land use regulators; regulatory processes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6205</td>
<td>Plan Making</td>
<td>This course offers a broad overview of the various types of plans and the specific processes involved in their creation, including comprehensive plans; rural/small town plans; corridor plans; small area plans; campus/ institutional plans; special plans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6249</td>
<td>Project Management</td>
<td>This course introduces the knowledge and skills of Project Management. Emphasis is on the entire project life cycle, the project management process, and knowledge areas. Managerial aspects, quantitative tools and traditional techniques of Project Management will be covered. Cross-listed as BANA 6650.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6260</td>
<td>Advanced Geospatial Methods</td>
<td>Advanced techniques in geographic information systems, including interpolation and geostatistics, 3D rendering, terrain and viewshed analysis, spatial autocorrelation detection, site selection and prioritization, model building and automation, geodatabase design, network analysis, hydrology and watershed analysis, and public data integration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6300</td>
<td>Community and Environmental Health Planning</td>
<td>A place-based approach to understanding the social, economic, environmental, and political factors that influence individual and community health with a focus on reducing health disparities. Covers policies, practices, data, and methods for healthy communities planning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6350</td>
<td>Form and Formation of Cities</td>
<td>This course investigates the origins and types of human settlements; the history of cities and urbanization; urban morphology and the evolution of the built environment; urban form principles and theory; types of urbanisms, and the history of Denver’s built environment and planning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6355</td>
<td>Urban Redevelopment Strategies</td>
<td>This course focuses on the strategies used to help revitalize urban areas. Topics include urban infill development; TODs; adaptive reuse; historic preservation; design review; parking; public spaces; brownfields/grayfields redevelopment; culture/tourism; special districts; incentives/funding; and revitalization policies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6397</td>
<td>Design Policy and Regulation</td>
<td>This course investigates the role of urban designers in shaping the built environment through combination of physical intervention and policy development. Students review urban economic and real estate trends and assess zoning/land use regulations to understand impacts on built environment quality. Cross-listed as URBN 6642.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6398</td>
<td>Design Process and Practice</td>
<td>This course advances current practice by exploring innovative methods of design analysis, production, representation, and communication. Community participation are integral components of seminar, and students are introduced to business of design through contact with prominent urban design professionals. Cross-listed as URBN 6641.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6399</td>
<td>Sustainable Urban Infrastructure</td>
<td>This course focuses on developing uniform vocabulary on sustainable infrastructure across science, technology, architecture and planning, public policy, and health and behavioral sciences. Students learn concepts, principles, and evaluation techniques for promoting the diffusion of sustainable urban infrastructures. Cross-listed as CVEN 5460.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6400</td>
<td>Community Development</td>
<td>This course introduces community development, a field closely allied with planning, with an emphasis placed on understanding groups, organizations, and communities; and developing skills in such areas as community analysis, goal setting, group facilitation, and problem solving.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**ELECTIVE COURSES**

**TABLE 5: ELECTIVES REGULARLY OFFERED (USUALLY ONCE A YEAR)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Course Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6405</td>
<td>Urban Housing</td>
<td>This course examines the realm of urban housing, including housing trends and patterns; housing markets (supply/demand, finance, demographics); housing problems (substandard quality, inequitable distribution, special needs, segregation/discrimination); and the role of the planner and the public/private sectors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6449</td>
<td>Urban Social Problems</td>
<td>This course examines local government from the perspective of sociology and group dynamics, including neighborhoods and community groups, class and race relations, community crime, social service issues, immigration, the underclass in American society, and related urban social problems. Cross-listed as PUAD 5628.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6450</td>
<td>Urban Economic Analysis</td>
<td>This course offers an exploration into urban economic systems; local economies; urban economic development; urban market assessment; local job generation; local scenario planning; local taxes/spending; and urban fiscal/economic policies and impacts at the neighborhood and city scale.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6455</td>
<td>Real Estate Development and Finance</td>
<td>The course offers a detailed analysis of the real estate development process, its relationship to the planning/design profession, and financial aspects of real estate development including measures of value, capitalization rates, capital budgeting, debt and equity markets and taxation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6499</td>
<td>Preservation Theory and Practice</td>
<td>This course explores the practice of historic preservation and its evolution within a specific policy context. This introductory course introduces basic American institutions and laws associated with preservation as well as standards, definitions, and practices associated with these. Cross-listed as HIPR 6010.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6500</td>
<td>Environmental Planning and Management</td>
<td>This course provides a comprehensive investigation of environmental management topics, including natural hazards/disasters and mitigation planning; ecosystems; air/water quality; natural area conservation and management; habitat protection; and environmental planning organizations and their management policies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6555</td>
<td>Transportation, Land Use and the Environment</td>
<td>Students will learn how transportation shapes regions, how people decide where to live and how to travel, and how these dynamics are central to sustainable development. Topics include smart growth, climate change mitigation, livability, air quality, travel behavior, active transportation, and transit-oriented development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6600</td>
<td>Regional Planning and Economic Development</td>
<td>This course provides an overview of public processes and institutions for planning housing, transportation, infrastructure and jobs at a regional scale, as well as analytic techniques to study worker and commodity flows, industrial clusters, commuting patterns, and other data regarding regional economies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6645</td>
<td>Disaster and Climate Change Planning</td>
<td>This course introduces students to concepts and debates that shape disaster and climate change studies. Features case studies of disaster and climatic issues affecting Colorado and the Rocky Mountain region. Looks specifically at how planning can reduce risk and increase local resilience.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6650</td>
<td>Planning in the Developing World</td>
<td>This course introduces students to the histories, debates, actors and approaches that shape planning in much of the developing world. Topics include development history and theory; decentralization/privatization; urban informality; planning models; uneven provision of basic services/infrastructure; land tenure; and natural hazards/climate change.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6800</td>
<td>Introduction to GIS</td>
<td>This course introduces students to GIS (Geographic Information Systems) as a set of strategies, methods, and techniques used to facilitate the inventory and analysis of complex system. This course is cross-listed as LDAR 5540 as a multi-disciplinary learning environment with MLA and MURP students.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table 6: Electives Intermittently Offered (Usually Once Every Two Years)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Course Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6250</td>
<td>GIS Analysis</td>
<td>Students will be introduced to the hardware, software, theory, and skills required to use a Geographical Information System (GIS). In this course, students will learn how to use GIS software to manage, analyze, map, and present spatial data to support the planning and design processes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6365</td>
<td>Parks and Public Spaces</td>
<td>This course offers a focused look at the role of parks and public spaces in the development and activation of cities; their designs, qualities, and components; management/operations; funding; policies; equal access; role as community and economic development tool.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6370</td>
<td>Sprawl and Growth Management</td>
<td>This course addresses the causes of sprawl (large lot zoning, highway subsidies, suburban amenities, taxes and municipal services), social and environmental consequences of sprawl, anti-sprawl growth management policies, open space preservation methods, and retrofitting suburbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6410</td>
<td>Social Justice in Planning</td>
<td>This course investigates the various issues encountered in planning relating to social justice, including conflict resolution; advocacy; environmental justice; social equity; culture and diversity; disadvantaged populations; public engagement techniques; affordability; equal access; and policies and impacts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6550</td>
<td>Transportation Planning and Policy</td>
<td>This course examines policy issues in urban transportation planning: how system design and political/institutional contexts shape transportation decision-making; major modes of urban transportation; and the social, environmental, economic, energy, and health impacts of transportation systems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6560</td>
<td>Transit Planning</td>
<td>This course provides a comprehensive exploration of transit planning, including transit planning fundamentals; transit routes and systems; transit modes and technologies; ridership modeling; scheduling; operations; funding; policies and regulation; relationship to land use; and facilities/design requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6565</td>
<td>Pedestrian and Bicycle Planning</td>
<td>This course focuses on the unique planning issues and factors involved with bicycle and pedestrian modes of transportation, including pedestrian/bicycle planning fundamentals; routes and systems; facilities and design requirements; funding; maintenance and operations; policies; and best practices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6615</td>
<td>Small Town, Rural, and Resort Planning</td>
<td>This course investigates the unique characteristics, issues, and challenges associated with planning in small and/or rural communities, including agricultural issues and farmland conservation; growth management; rural economic development; and small downtown revitalization strategies.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COURSE SUBSTITUTIONS AND WAIVERS

Students with previous planning education or professional planning experience may be eligible to receive a Core Course Substitution or Advanced Standing Credit Waiver as described below:

1. Core Course Substitution: Students may substitute a MURP core course with an elective course of their choosing when at least one of the following conditions has been met: 1.) The student has significant professional planning work experience equivalent to the core course being substituted, or 2.) The student has completed an undergraduate or graduate planning course (minimum grade of B-) that substantially covered the equivalent material of the core course being substituted. A Core Course Substitution does not reduce the total number of credits required to receive the MURP degree, and no more than nine (9) credits of core courses may be substituted per student. To apply, complete the online Course Waiver Request Form. If you have any questions about the form, please contact Patty McKissock (patricia.mckissock@ucdenver.edu). If you propose to substitute a core course based on having previously completed an equivalent planning class, you must submit a syllabus for the course and a copy of your transcripts (unofficial is fine) showing that you received a B- or better in the course. If your core course substitution request is based on substantial professional planning work experience, you must submit your resume and a thorough description of the relevant job position and duties. All Core Course Substitutions must be approved by the Department Chair or Associate Chair. The core courses that are not eligible for substitution are Planning Project Studio and Planning Capstone/Thesis.

2. Advanced Standing Credit Waiver: Students may receive advanced standing and waive up to nine (9) credits of MURP core or elective courses if they have previously completed graduate-level planning courses (minimum grade of B-) that substantially covered the equivalent MURP course material. An Advanced Standing Credit Waiver does not require a substitute course and does reduce the number of total credits required to receive the MURP degree. To apply, complete the online Course Waiver Request Form. If you have any questions about the form, please contact Patty McKissock (patricia.mckissock@ucdenver.edu). To receive an Advanced Standing Credit Waiver for a MURP course, you must submit a syllabus for the previously completed graduate-level planning course and a copy of your transcripts showing that you received a grade of B- or better in the course. All Advanced Standing Credit Waivers must be approved by the Department Chair or Associate Chair. The core courses that not eligible for an Advanced Standing Credit Waiver are Planning Project Studio and Planning Capstone/Thesis.

SELF-DIRECTED CURRICULUM

Students have the ability to craft a MURP degree suited to their career goals and personal interests. Students may choose any combination of elective courses, whether oriented towards one of the three Program Initiatives (Healthy Communities, Urban Revitalization or Regional Sustainability), a traditional specialization such as “Transportation Planning” or “Community Development,” or a general survey of the planning field. Table 7 offers suggestions for matching elective courses to potential specializations to help students decide which electives to take. On the left are the program’s elective courses. The remaining columns represent our three Program Initiatives as well as potential specializations covering a broad spectrum of planning topics that may be of interest to planning students. The “X” marks represent the elective courses that are most closely aligned or supportive (in the opinion of the planning faculty) of each Initiative and potential specialization. Keep in mind that these are just suggestions, not a prescriptive list, and that students are not required to identify and pursue any type of planning concentration or specialization unless they want to. Ultimately, students may choose whichever combination of elective courses they desire.

Of course, the most helpful resource for assisting students in choosing their self-directed path through the MURP program is the planning faculty. Students should not hesitate to reach out to any faculty member for advice about which electives to take or any topic relating to the MURP program or careers in planning. For more information, see the Advising section of the Handbook.
### TABLE 7: SUGGESTED ELECTIVE COURSES FOR INITIATIVES AND SPECIALIZATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Initiatives</th>
<th>Potential Specializations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6200</td>
<td>Land Development Regulations</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6205</td>
<td>Plan Making</td>
<td>X X X X X X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6249</td>
<td>Project Management</td>
<td></td>
<td>X X X X X X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6250</td>
<td>GIS Analysis</td>
<td>X X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6260</td>
<td>Advanced Geospatial Methods</td>
<td>X X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6300</td>
<td>Community/Environmental Health Planning</td>
<td>X X X X X X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 6350</td>
<td>Form and Formation of Cities</td>
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<td>URPL 6355</td>
<td>Urban Redevelopment Strategies</td>
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<td>URPL 6365</td>
<td>Parks and Public Spaces</td>
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<td>URPL 6370</td>
<td>Sprawl and Growth Management</td>
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<td>URPL 6397</td>
<td>Design Policy and Regulation</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>URPL 6398</td>
<td>Design Process and Practice</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>URPL 6399</td>
<td>Sustainable Urban Infrastructure</td>
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<td>URPL 6400</td>
<td>Community Development</td>
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<td>URPL 6405</td>
<td>Urban Housing</td>
<td>X X X X X X</td>
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<td>URPL 6410</td>
<td>Social Justice in Planning</td>
<td>X X</td>
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<td>URPL 6449</td>
<td>Urban Social Problems</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>URPL 6450</td>
<td>Urban Economic Analysis</td>
<td>X X</td>
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<tr>
<td>URPL 6455</td>
<td>Real Estate Development and Finance</td>
<td>X X</td>
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<tr>
<td>URPL 6499</td>
<td>Preservation Theory and Practice</td>
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<td>URPL 6500</td>
<td>Environmental Planning and Management</td>
<td>X X X X</td>
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<tr>
<td>URPL 6550</td>
<td>Transportation Planning and Policy</td>
<td>X X</td>
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<tr>
<td>URPL 6555</td>
<td>Transportation, Land Use and Environment</td>
<td>X X X X X X</td>
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<td>URPL 6560</td>
<td>Transit Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>URPL 6565</td>
<td>Pedestrian and Bicycle Planning</td>
<td>X X</td>
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<tr>
<td>URPL 6600</td>
<td>Regional Planning and Economic Development</td>
<td>X X X X X X</td>
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<tr>
<td>URPL 6615</td>
<td>Small Town, Rural and Resort Planning</td>
<td>X X X</td>
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<td>URPL 6645</td>
<td>Disaster/Climate Change Planning</td>
<td>X X</td>
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<tr>
<td>URPL 6650</td>
<td>Planning in the Developing World</td>
<td>X X X X X</td>
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<tr>
<td>URPL 6800</td>
<td>Introduction to GIS</td>
<td>X X</td>
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Courses listed in italics are offered by other programs within the College or University but are cross-listed with a URPL course number as MURP courses.
The CU Denver MURP program believes that successful city-building requires expertise, breadth, interdisciplinary understanding, and creativity. Our program emphasizes thinking outside traditional professional silos and we encourage students to explore the planning profession by following a self-directed path and develop expertise in the areas that matter most to them.

In keeping with this spirit, the MURP program offers seven dual degree options, described below. In order to pursue a dual degree, you must be accepted into both programs separately. You may choose to apply to another program to pursue a dual degree after you have entered the MURP program. Once admitted, you must complete the work for both degrees before you can graduate from either. Pursuing a dual degree results in a significant reduction in the number of credits required than you would need if you earned each degree separately, saving both time and money.

**MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE (MARCH) + MURP**
The Master of Architecture is the college’s accredited professional degree for students intending to seek licensure as architects. The MArch program examines the interplay between architectural form and the complex cultural and technological context in which architects operate. CU Denver’s architecture and urban planning programs share a focus on cross-disciplinary interdependence, research orientation, and real-world relevance. Planners and architects each proceed by asking critical questions that encompass environmental, economic, social, cultural, aesthetic and ethical concerns, then answer them using an appropriate method. By conceiving of architecture and urban planning as an interdisciplinary partnership, MArch/MURP dual degree students develop the skills to create holistic, healthy, sustainable environments.

**MASTER OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE (MLA) + MURP**
The Master of Landscape Architecture is the college’s accredited professional degree for students intending to seek licensure as landscape architects. Landscape architects design physical spaces supporting healthy, ethical relationships between people, place, and resources while enhancing the inherent qualities of that place. Today, landscape architects are called upon to find design solutions that respond to the pressures of globalization, unprecedented growth, heritage loss, disconnection between people and the natural environment, and environmental degradation. These same concerns occupy urban and regional planners, who search for solutions through engaging communities, researching, analyzing qualitative and quantitative information, and creative planning and visioning. Students who pursue this dual degree will have the physical design and urban planning tools to connect people to place in ways that enhance well-being and environmental balance, foster community and equity, conserve and regenerate resources, and create places that hold value for current and future generations. Total credits: 105. For more information, view the [MLA-MURP Dual Degree Advising Form](#).

**MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (MBA) + MURP**
The Masters of Business Administration (MBA) is offered by the University of Colorado Denver Business School. Obtaining these two degrees will help planners understand not only the process of planning within the public sector, but also private enterprise. Having both degrees allows students to harness private initiatives as they plan land use, promote the economy, and maintain valued landscapes. At the same time, the dual degree will help business leaders function within the context of public fiscal, participatory, and regulatory constraints, and teach them how to place business decisions within the broad array of community interests and aspirations. Both programs emphasize active learning through the analysis of case studies and direct involvement in addressing both business and planning challenges within Denver and its larger region. In an era in which development strategy must enlist the combined energies of the public and private sectors, the student who has these two degrees will have a distinct advantage. Above all, the dual degree program aims to educate students in the practice of strategic planning in service to the community at large. Total credits: 78. For more information, view the [MBA-MURP Dual Degree Advising Form](#).
DUAL DEGREES

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MPA) + MURP
The Master of Public Administration (MPA) is offered by the School of Public Affairs at the University of Colorado Denver. Planners who obtain this dual degree will gain a broad appreciation for planning’s place within the wider array of governmental functions at the local, regional, state and federal levels. Grounding planning in public administration will encourage a firmer appreciation for institutional arrangements and processes, and for the strategic management of the regulatory and fiscal means for the implementation of plans and policies. At the same time, grounding public administration in the material presence of places emphasizes and encourages the role of the natural and built environment in shaping development capacities, opportunities and outcomes. This dual degree allows public administrators to better document and direct the course of physical, economic, fiscal and programmatic change within municipalities and larger regions. Graduates may pursue employment options in either field or fashion career tracks that bridge the two. Total credits: 66. For more information, view the MPA-MURP Dual Degree Advising Form.

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH (MPH) + MURP
The MPH is the primary professional degree in the field of public health. It prepares students for a variety of public health careers: epidemiological and health services research, community needs assessment, environmental and occupational health, health policy, health promotion, and administration of public health programs. The CU Denver MURP/MPH dual degree arises from the commonalities of perspective and purpose shared by its two constituents. Each focuses on populations rather than individuals, and each works to proactively improve the plight of those populations. A subset of public health addresses the health impacts caused by people’s environments—which is the domain of urban and regional planning. Planners recognize that policies, infrastructures, and social and economic conditions contribute to environmental conditions and thus can play a role in human health. For more information, view the MPH-MURP Dual Degree Advising Form.

JURIS DOCTORATE (JD) + MURP
The law degree Juris Doctor (JD) is administered by the Law School at the University of Colorado Boulder. The JD/MURP dual degree pairs two professions with complementary attentions. The focus of planning is public action centered on the natural and built environments, while the focus of law is the constitutional, statutory, and regulatory bases of the social order. Merged, these two fields enable dual degree holders to address issues at the interface of policy and law emphasizing the use of land and the management of the public lands and natural resources. Planning students who are interested in the tools and strategies of economic development will find in the study of law essential perspectives on private enterprise, corporate regulation, labor markets, poverty, and international relations. Dual degree graduates will find an abundance of career opportunities in public sector planning and administration at all levels of governance, and in the private practice of law and in private planning consulting firms. A student enrolled in the dual degree program may commence studies in either program, but is required by the Law School to take the first year of the JD curriculum as a unit exclusively in the Law School. Total credit hours: 125. For more information, view the JD-MURP Dual Degree Advising Form and the JD-MURP Dual Degree Memorandum of Understanding.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION (MSHP) + MURP
The Master of Science in Historic Preservation (MSHP) is offered by the College of Architecture and Planning. Historic preservation has become an integral part of many urban planning-related practices such as neighborhood planning, urban design, environmental permitting, real estate development, community development, and economic development. An increasing percentage of urban planning and design work is focused on infill projects, often in historic areas. And, it is widely recognized that reusing existing buildings is a more sustainable practice than tearing them down. The field of historic preservation encompasses architecture and planning, as well as cultural landscapes, project management, building technology, documentation, and representation. Students who can combine these skills with the breadth of urban and regional planning have a wide range of professional pathways from which to choose. Total credits: 75. For more information, view the MSHP-MURP Dual Degree Advising Form.
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Internships are an important way the MURP program helps students achieve hands-on, experiential learning. The difference between an internship and a part-time job is that an internship is specifically intended to be a *learning experience*. While getting academic credit for an internship is not required, it is highly recommended. Students earn three elective credits for enrolling in URPL 6805 but, more importantly, the coursework will enable students to maximize the personal and professional development their internship affords.

- Be aware that internships may be paid or unpaid. We actively encourage employers to pay students; however, a student should not discount the value of an unpaid internship. Students who are in internships that earn academic credit are covered by the University of Colorado’s Workers’ Compensation provisions.
- An internship that earns 3 hours of academic credit requires at least 135 hours of work during the semester (9 hours per week during the fall or spring semester; 17 hours per week during the summer semester).
- A student cannot enroll for more than 3 hours of internship credit in any semester, and URPL 6805 may not be taken for less than three credit hours. No more than 6 credit hours of internship may apply to the 54-credit degree requirement.
- Students may do an internship at any point in their MURP career, but it is recommended that students wait until after they have completed most of their core courses.
- Students may not get internship credit for an internship that was completed in the past, nor for prior work experience, volunteer activities, or life experience.

The MURP faculty will announce internship opportunities as they are received from employers in the area through group emails to all MURP students from Jodi Stock and posted to the MURP Jobs Portal. Students are also encouraged, however, not to rely solely on the MURP emails or the MURP Jobs Portal for planning internship leads, but to pursue internship opportunities on their own through networking with planning professionals and reaching out directly to planning-related organizations. To get credit for an internship, you must first talk with Jenny Steffel Johnson, the MURP Internship Advisor and Course Instructor. Following your meeting with Jenny, you must enroll in the Internship Course:

- Required item #1 is to complete the [Special Processing Form](#) and get it signed by Jenny, who will give it to Patty McKissock, who will give you permission to enroll in URPL 6805.
- Required item #2 is the [Internship Contract](#). On this form you will list the factual information about your internship: contact information for you and your supervisor, job description, pay rate, etc. Part of the Internship Contract is item #3, the Learning Agreement.
- Required item #3 is the [Internship Learning Agreement](#). This document is written by you, but must be agreed to and signed by both your internship supervisor and Jenny (so multiple drafts may be necessary.) The Learning Agreement MUST be finalized and signed within two weeks of the start of the internship course.

After completing the internship course assignments, have your internship supervisor complete a final evaluation of your work and submit it to the course instructor. For more information about MURP internships, see the [MURP Internship Guide](#).
Teaching assistants help professors prepare and manage course materials, grade student work, and lead discussion sessions. Teaching assistants typically work 5-10 hours per week. To be qualified as a teaching assistant, the student needs to have taken the course, mastered the material, and have skill and enthusiasm for training fellow students.

Students who are interested in teaching assistantships should express their interest to their course instructor, and discuss opportunities with the Department Chair.

Research assistants help professors with research, and the specific activities can include data collection and entry, reviewing literature, conducting analysis and fieldwork, statistical programming, writing and editing manuscripts, and presenting research findings. The appointments carry a workload from about 5-20 hours per week.

Qualifications for research assistantships include academic merit, interest and enthusiasm for doing research, and any specific skill sets required for the project. Students who are interested in a research assistantship should discuss opportunities with their advisor and/or the Department Chair. The availability and nature of research assistantships depends on current faculty work and interests.

The CAP GIS certificate program is intended for motivated people with a strong interest in the application of GIS to the design and planning professions. It is targeted both at students currently enrolled in a University of Colorado degree program who wish to add a credential to their degree, and working professionals who do not wish to enroll as degree students, but who wish to pursue a certificate to improve their job skills. Students who earn this Certificate through the College of Architecture and Planning at the University of Colorado Denver will exit the program with the following:

1. An understanding of GIS theory and concepts
2. Technical mastery of general GIS methods using ArcGIS as well as familiarity with remote sensing
3. Familiarity with common public geospatial data sources, as well as metadata standards
4. Knowledge of data interoperability, including how to move data and maps from one software platform to another; examples of software includes Adobe Creative Cloud, 3D Studio Max, SketchUp, RhinoTerrain, ArcMap, and Quantum GIS
5. Specialized skills in geospatial technologies and methods related to the design and planning professions, including rendering and visualizations, infrastructure and transportation network analysis, cadastral mapping, site selection and analysis, geodesign, and many others.

For more information, please visit the GIS Certificate web page at:

http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/ArchitecturePlanning/Academics/SignaturePrograms/GIS/Pages/GIS.aspx
EXTRA-CURRICULAR ENRICHMENT
Students are strongly encouraged to become active with APAS, the CU Denver student chapter of the American Planning Association, which promotes the involvement of student planners in local, regional, and national planning activities and provides a mechanism through which students can interact with professionals, address common concerns, and receive support in their endeavors in the field of planning. APAS's goals are:

- Bridge the gap between the students of the Master of Urban and Regional Planning program at CU Denver with State APA Chapter (APA Colorado) and National APA organizations.
- Promote the involvement of student planners in the affairs and activities of the American Planning Association.
- Provide the mechanism whereby student planners can influence the development of the planning profession.
- Serve as a social network for the Student APA members.
- Voice the concerns and needs of the students of the MURP program to Planning faculty and have better communication among faculty and students.
- Focus on fundraising to sponsor as many students as possible to be able to attend the APA conferences, both state and national.
- Implement a mentorship program.
- Coordinate monthly meetings with students to maintain communication and to encourage proactive suggestions and involvement among students.
- Work together as a team and establish criteria for sending students to all conferences.

APAS generates funds to help with student scholarships to the State and National conference. They host educational events such as “Breakfast with Professionals” to allow students an opportunity to engage professional planners in an informal setting. They also engage in fund-raising activities to generate revenue in order to put on additional events or provide learning opportunities for students and professional alike. Each spring and fall APAS hosts picnics for students to connect with one another outside of the classroom setting. All MURP students are welcome to participate in APAS; there’s no official “joining” necessary and there are no dues or specific commitments required. All MURP students will receive communications from APAS.

Visit APAS's Facebook Page at https://www.facebook.com/pages/UC-Denver-APAS/253862371298404

**CAP LECTURE SERIES**

The College puts on an exciting lecture series each year, bringing ground-breaking practitioners and academics to the campus to talk about their work and the future of our disciplines with a focus on a particular theme. Many of these speakers are from the planning and design fields. Check the CAP website and the bulletin boards around the building for lecture series event information.
BROWN BAG LUNCHTIME FORUM

Planning faculty and students regularly organize lunchtime forums to foster conversation, debate, and learning about current issues that we face in the region. The aim of the lunchtime forums is to contribute to building a community of practice that includes students, faculty, professionals, local organizations, and community residents.

Each semester, the planning faculty and/or our student organizations host several events to which we invite leaders in local planning, design, and policy to discuss a specific topic. Keep an eye out for email messages and social media posts for these lunchtime events!

SUMMER READING LISTS

Ann Forsyth’s List of “Plans You Should Know” ([http://www.planetizen.com/node/45168](http://www.planetizen.com/node/45168))

Ann Forsyth’s “Summer Readings that Help You Think” ([http://www.planetizen.com/node/33755](http://www.planetizen.com/node/33755))

Ann Forsyth’s “Summer Reading About Planning: The Basics” ([http://www.planetizen.com/node/31384](http://www.planetizen.com/node/31384))

*The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, Jane Jacobs

*Building Suburbia*, Dolores Hayden

*The Urban Villagers*, Herbert Gans

*City of Quartz*, Mike Davis

*American Apartheid*, Douglas Massey and Nancy Denton

*The Power Broker*, Robert Caro

*Urban Fortunes*, John Logan and Harvey Molotch

*Nature’s Metropolis*, Bill Cronon

*The Production of Space*, Henri Lefebvre

*Silent Spring*, Rachel Carson

*A Sand County Almanac*, Aldo Leopold

*Cadillac Desert*, Mark Reisner

*The Image of the City*, Kevin Lynch

SUCCEEDING IN GRADUATE SCHOOL

Ann Forsyth’s Blog ([http://www.planetizen.com/blog/10386](http://www.planetizen.com/blog/10386))


*Getting What You Came For*, Robert Peters
TUITION AND SCHOLARSHIPS
Please visit [http://www.ucdenver.edu/student-services/resources/CostsAndFinancing/StudentBilling/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.ucdenver.edu/student-services/resources/CostsAndFinancing/StudentBilling/Pages/default.aspx) for information about tuition and fees.

Scholarships are awarded on the basis of merit, academic achievement, financial need, or a combination of the three. Financial need is rarely the primary factor considered, but it is often used to make a decision among equally qualified finalists. The eligibility criteria for each scholarship depend on the values or goals of the group offering the scholarship.

While you do not have to be admitted to the College in order to apply for financial aid or scholarships, you must be admitted at the time scholarship decisions are made to be considered. For more information, visit the College's scholarships website, [http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/ArchitecturePlanning/Admissions/FinancialAidScholarships/Pages/Scholarships.aspx](http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/ArchitecturePlanning/Admissions/FinancialAidScholarships/Pages/Scholarships.aspx).

The CU Denver Scholarship Resource Office provides assistance and support to students applying for institutional, state, and national scholarships. Located in the Tivoli Student Union, Room 259. Phone: 303-352-3608, Email: scholarship@ucdenver.edu.

**MURP DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP**

The MURP program is committed to fostering and supporting a diverse student body. We believe that through embracing shared and divergent perspectives we enrich our students’ classroom work and professional careers, and prepare students for leadership in our diverse society. Our Diversity Scholarships award up to $5,000 to qualified entering students and are one way we seek to engage excellent students from a range of racial and ethnic backgrounds that are traditionally underrepresented in graduate planning education. For more information, view the [MURP Diversity Scholarship Application](http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/ArchitecturePlanning/Admissions/FinancialAidScholarships/Pages/Scholarships.aspx).

**IN-STATE RESIDENCY**

After one year of Colorado residency, students may be eligible for in-state tuition. Please visit the Registrar’s residency page for more information on how to establish residency:

[http://www.ucdenver.edu/student-services/resources/Registrar-dev/StudentServices/Residency/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.ucdenver.edu/student-services/resources/Registrar-dev/StudentServices/Residency/Pages/default.aspx)

Domestic students who wish to establish Colorado residency should obtain a Colorado driver’s license or ID card and register their car in Colorado as soon as possible, ideally before the first day of classes. However, just registering a car and obtaining a Colorado ID is not sufficient to establish residency, but are items that students sometimes tend to put off. To learn everything you need to know about establishing Colorado residency, please make sure you carefully review the information available on the Registrar’s web page linked to above, and follow up with them if you have any questions. It’s important to accurately establish your residency because it impacts students in a number of ways.
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
The Graduate School Handbook is an excellent source of important information, policies, procedures, regulations related to all graduate students at CU Denver. Unless stated otherwise, the College of Architecture and Planning and the MURP program follow the policies outlined in the Graduate School Handbook, which is available at the following link:


In addition to general university policies (e.g., anti-violence, drugs and alcohol, sexual harassment), the handbook includes, information about:

- Code of Student Conduct and Academic Honor Code
- Academic Probation and Suspension
- Course Drop/Add Guidelines
- Definition of Full-Time and Part-Time Status
- Withdrawal from the University
- Transcripts
- And MORE!

**APPEALING A GRADE**

The College of Architecture and Planning grade appeal policy is available here:

http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/ArchitecturePlanning/StudentResources/Documents/Policy-Student%20Grade%20Appeals%2012_15.pdf

**GETTING AN “INCOMPLETE” GRADE**

To receive a grade of “Incomplete” in a course, the faculty member teaching the course and the student must together fill out an Incomplete Grade Report that will be kept in the student’s academic file. The report will outline what work the student needs to complete in order to receive a grade and the timeline in which the student needs to complete the work. The form is available from Patty McKissock (patricia.mckissock@ucdenver.edu).
## GRADUATION

During your last semester in the MURP program, you must apply to graduate. The deadline to apply for graduation is the Census Date of your last semester. You can apply online through your student center in UCDAccess. Once you have applied for graduation you will receive information about registering for the Commencement ceremony. If you have any questions about the process please contact Patty McKissock ([patricia.mckissock@ucdenver.edu](mailto:patricia.mckissock@ucdenver.edu)).

## STUDENT PRIVACY

Student privacy requirements are delineated in the Federal Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974. FERPA sets guidelines for higher education institutions that protect students’ rights with respect to their educational records and other personally identifiable information. Violations of student rights can lead to serious consequences, such as lawsuits and/or withholding of federal funds to the University.

Circulation or posting of class/grade rosters that display students’ names and ID numbers is a FERPA violation. Faculty may display a roster of students’ names in a section of a course on a protected website or slide that is available to students in that section only, but may not create a public posting identifying students enrolled in a section of a course. Faculty must collect assignments directly from students and return graded assignments directly to students. Staff may not be used to collect or return assignments. Assignments may not be left in boxes outside of offices or in the mail room. Staff will not receive or return student assignments. FERPA does not allow any public posting of student information with any part of the name, student identification number, or any other personally identifiable information. Students’ grades may be posted without written permission, if they are not posted in a personally identifiable manner. FERPA Guidelines can be found at [http://www.ucdenver.edu/student-services/resources/Registrar-dev/StudentServices/Policies/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.ucdenver.edu/student-services/resources/Registrar-dev/StudentServices/Policies/Pages/default.aspx).

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities should be accommodated in all classes. The University’s Office of Disability Resources and Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability, please contact the Disability Services office and ask them to submit a letter describing your needs to each of your course instructors by the second week of the semester. Also, provide a copy of the letter to Patty McKissock for assistance in case of safety or fire emergency. For information, contact the Office of Disability Resources and Services, located at North Classroom 2514, Phone: 303-556-3450 - TTY 303-556-4766, Email: [disabilityresources@ucdenver.edu](mailto:disabilityresources@ucdenver.edu)

Website: [http://www.ucdenver.edu/student-services/resources/disability-resources-services/Pages/disability-resources-services.aspx](http://www.ucdenver.edu/student-services/resources/disability-resources-services/Pages/disability-resources-services.aspx)
HELPFUL CAMPUS RESOURCES

AMERICAN INDIAN STUDENT SERVICES
The office provides access and educational opportunities to American Indian students through academic advising, scholarship information, cultural programs, advocacy, student organization sponsorship and other supportive services tailored to the specific needs of the students. Located in Student Commons Room 2007-C. Phone: (303) 315-1882. Web: http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/departments/odi/EOP/AISS/Pages/default.aspx

ASIAN AMERICAN STUDENT SERVICES
The office provides academic advising, scholarship information, cultural programs, advocacy, resource referral, student organization sponsorship and other supportive services tailored to the specific needs of Asian American students. Located in Student Commons Room 2007-E. Phone: (303) 315-1879. Web: http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/departments/odi/EOP/AASS/Pages/default.aspx

BLACK STUDENT SERVICES
In an effort to promote and maintain quality higher education for students of African descent, the office assists undergraduate and graduate students in all phases of their educational career through admissions services, academic counseling and peer support. Located in Student Commons Room 2007-F. Phone: (303) 315-1881. Web: http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/departments/odi/EOP/BSS/Pages/default.aspx

CAREER CENTER
Offers a full array of services to prepare students for the transition from school to career. Graduate students are welcome and encouraged to utilize these resources. Located at Tivoli Student Union Suite 267. Phone: (303) 556-2250. Web: http://www.ucdenver.edu/life/services/careercenter/Pages/default.aspx

CARE TEAM
The Campus Assessment, Response & Evaluation (CARE) Team addresses the health and safety needs of students. The team assess whether individuals pose a risk to themselves or others and to intervene when necessary, and more generally, to identify and provide assistance to those in need. The CARE team takes a preventative approach to risk assessment by offering resources, referrals, and support to both the concerning individual and those impacted by their behavior. Phone: (303) 352-3579. Web: http://www.ucdenver.edu/life/services/care/Pages/default.aspx

CHILD CARE—AURARIA EARLY LEARNING CENTER
Provides high-quality early childhood care and educational programs to children 12 months through 8 years old. The programs are utilized by the children of students, staff, faculty working on the Auraria Campus. Web: https://www.ahec.edu/for-campus-faculty-staff/early-learning-center/

DISABILITY RESOURCES AND SERVICES
The Office of Disability Resources and Services produces assistance and arrangements for accommodations to provide equal opportunities to foster the personal growth and development of students with disabilities. Located in Student Commons Room 2116. Phone: (303) 315-3510. Web: http://www.ucdenver.edu/student-services/resources/disability-resources-services/Pages/disability-resources-services.aspx

GLBT STUDENT SERVICES
Open to all students as a resource for exploring sexual orientation/gender identification. Located in Tivoli Room 213. Phone: (303) 556-6333. Web: http://www.ucdenver.edu/life/services/glbtss/services/Pages/default.aspx

HEALTH CENTER AT AURARIA
All Downtown Campus students have access to medical services at the Health Center at Auraria, and student health insurance is NOT required to use this facility. Location: Plaza Building Suite 150. Phone: (303) 556-2525. Web: http://www.ucdenver.edu/life/services/health-center/Pages/default.aspx
HELPFUL CAMPUS RESOURCES

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND SCHOLAR SERVICES
The office offers immigration services, programming and advising to enhance the experiences of international students. Location: 1380 Lawrence Suite 932. Phone: (303) 315-2230. Web: http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/InternationalPrograms/OIA/ISSS/Pages/default.aspx

LATIN@ STUDENT SERVICES
The mission of Latin@ Student Services is to provide an inclusive environment that supports the intersectional experiences, diverse cultures and educational goals of Latin@ students at CU Denver. Located in Student Commons 2007-H. Phone: (303) 315-1878. Web: http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/departments/odi/CII/LSS/Pages/default.aspx

LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER
Promotes student success, retention, and graduation and is available to graduate students. Services include tutoring, supplemental instructions study skills workshops, and ESL support. Location: Student Commons Room 2105. Phone: (303) 315-3531. Web: http://www.ucdenver.edu/life/services/LRC/OurServices/Pages/default.aspx

OFFICE OF EQUITY
Provides integrated assistance for complaints of protected characteristic harassment and/or discrimination or sexual misconduct. Location: Lawrence Street Center, 12th Floor. Phone: (303) 315-2567. Email: equity@ucdenver.edu. Web: https://equity.ucdenver.edu/

OMBUDS OFFICE
Assists students in resolving CU Denver conflicts, complaints, and disputes. Services are free and confidential. Examples of concerns may include: the actions of faculty, staff, or other students; denials of petitions; harassment of any kind; administrative decisions; grading disputes. Location: 1380 Lawrence Suite 1003. Phone: (303) 315-0046. Web: http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/departments/OmbudsOffice/Pages/OmbudsOffice.aspx

PHOENIX CENTER AT AURARIA
The Phoenix Center provides confidential help for survivors of interpersonal violence, and their friends and family. All services are confidential. Phone: (303) 556-CALL. Web: www.thepca.org

STUDENT AND COMMUNITY COUNSELING CENTER
A campus counseling center that serves UC Denver students, who receive up to 10 counseling sessions at no cost per year as part of student fees. One can make an appointment or simply walk in. All information is confidential (except cases of abuse or neglect of children, harm to self or others, or when reporting is required by law). Location: Tivoli Suite 454. Phone: (303) 556-4372. Web: http://www.ucdenver.edu/life/services/counseling-center/Pages/default.aspx

VETERANS STUDENT SERVICES
An initial contact point for eligible veterans and dependent students attending CU Denver. Location: Tivoli Suite 124. Phone: (303) 556-2745. Web: http://www.ucdenver.edu/life/services/Veteran/Pages/home.aspx

WOMEN’S RESOURCE CENTER
Newly created and open to all genders, the center helps women gain equity and the ability to advocate for themselves. Located in Tivoli 259. Phone: (303) 352.3470. Web: http://www.ucdenver.edu/life/services/studentlife/WRC/Pages/WRC.aspx

WRITING CENTER
The CU Denver Writing Center provides one-on-one consultations and workshops about writing and composition. This is not a copyediting service. Location: North Classroom Room 4014. Phone: (303) 556-4845. Web: http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/CLAS/Centers/writing/Pages/TheWritingCenter.aspx