The Florida State University  
Department of Urban and Regional Planning  
http://www.coss.fsu.edu/durp/  
The Top Ten Reasons to Pursue a Master’s Degree in Urban & Regional Planning at FSU

1. **DURP allows students to develop a curriculum that fits each student’s interests.** The department’s program of study allows students to focus upon their areas of interest, with six specializations (Community Health, Environment, Housing/Community Development, Land Use/Comprehensive Planning, Planning for Developing Areas, Transportation), five joint degrees (with Demography, Public Health, Law, Public Administration, and International Affairs) and three advanced studies programs (Dispute Resolution, Real Estate, and Urban Design).

2. **The DURP curriculum provides a foundation from which to embark upon a successful career in planning.** The department prepares students to be successful planning professionals, developing their computer skills (such as GIS, visualization using computers, spreadsheets), planning skills (such as survey design, demographic analysis, land suitability analysis) and critical thinking skills. Employers report that DURP’s graduates are very well-prepared to undertake planning work the day they leave the program.

3. **DURP provides real world experience to students through group projects and a required internship with a planning agency or firm.** DURP’s program of study provides numerous opportunities for learning outside of the classroom. Many courses require students to undertake work in the community through employing tools like resident surveys, traffic analyses, and management of community meetings. Students are required to undertake an internship in one of the state’s many public planning agencies, non-profit organizations, or private planning firms.

4. **The DURP faculty is recognized as one of the nation’s strongest.** Faculty work and publish on issues at the cutting edge of the field, including growth management, transportation, community health, neighborhood development, hazards planning, and planning in the developing world. Current faculty have authored publications making a real impact on the profession and taken leadership roles in regional, state and national organizations.

5. **DURP’s students are widely recognized for their academic, professional, and service excellence.** DURP students are frequent recipients of national fellowships, state fellowships, state outstanding professional group project awards, and outstanding student awards. These student recognitions are an important part of our Tradition of Excellence.

6. **As one of the oldest and largest programs in the Nation, DURP’s alumni network is 1,500 strong.** DURP’s graduates work throughout Florida at all levels of government and in the private sector with development interests, law firms, and a variety of consulting agencies. The program also has graduates working in planning positions in almost all fifty states and almost thirty nations outside of the United States.

7. **The Department has a 90+% job placement rate of graduates with public planning agencies, private planning firms, or non-profit planning organizations.** Within the last ten years, many DURP graduates have been hired for post-graduation, full-time positions by government agencies or private firms while still in school. For DURP’s graduates finding a job is often not a problem, instead they can focus upon choosing the right job to further their professional goals.

8. **DURP is situated in a dynamic capital city in a fast-growing region of the country.** Located in Florida’s state capital, Tallahassee, and in a fast-growing region, Florida’s Great Northwest, DURP offers students a dynamic location, with opportunities to work with state government and private planning firms, enjoy beautiful rural and coastal areas, and experience a high quality of life in a vibrant southern city.

9. **Florida is a place where planning innovation is encouraged and rewarded.** The state of Florida is known nationally and internationally for its efforts to manage growth and protect the environment. Planning has been embraced as a fundamental activity of government and planning professionals are respected in Florida for their commitment to placemaking, community building, and environmental stewardship.

10. **The field of Urban Planning is a growing, desirable profession.** In December, 2010 *US News & World Report* ranked Urban Planning one of the nation’s “Best Careers”, noting that “urban planners [can] change the face of the city... but you'll need to be a bit of a diplomat to get all the stakeholders to agree to your plan.”

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