Degree Requirements

The overall requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy in Urban Planning and Environmental Policy are summarized as follows:

1. Satisfactory performance on qualifying examinations.
2. Completion of a total of fifty-four (54) credit hours. Of the 54 credit hours, twenty-one (21) credit hours are required core courses. In addition to the core requirements, students are required to take twelve (12) hours in specialization courses and (nine) 9 hours of elective coursework with the remaining twelve (12) credit hours as dissertation credits.
3. Of the total 54 credit hours, not more than nine (9) (not including the dissertation) can be transferred into the program from another University. Such transferred credits must have been earned in a doctoral program and must be of grade B (3.0) or better.
5. Completion of residency requirement.
7. Completion of the research for an acceptable dissertation.
9. Publication of at least one article in a refereed journal.

Qualifying Examination

The purpose of the qualifying examination will be to test the student’s level of understanding of basic concepts in the area of urban and regional theory, planning theory, quantitative methods, and environmental planning and policy. This examination is designed to evaluate the student’s technical, diagnostic, and evaluative abilities within selected areas related to planning. Students are assigned to take the examination after the completion of twelve (12) credit hours. Any student who fails the qualifying examination will have only one (1) chance for a retake.

Core Curriculum Requirements

All doctoral students in Urban Planning and Environmental Policy will be required to take twenty-one (21) semester credit hours or core courses in three (3) areas (Planning Theory, Methods and Planning, and Environmental Policy) and participate in the doctoral research curriculum.

The core curriculum is designed to provide all students with a general introduction to planning through analytical methods, planning techniques and environmental issues and policies.

The core curriculum will consists of twenty-one hours as follows:

Planning Theory Requirements
- UPEP 900 Advanced Planning Theory and Practice
- UPEP 901 Advanced Urban Theory

Methods and Planning Requirements
- UPEP 902 Advanced Planning Analysis (I)
- UPEP 903 Advanced Planning Analysis (II)

Environmental Policy Requirements
- UPEP 904 Environmental Planning and Policy
- UPEP 905 Environmental Planning and Natural Resources Management
- UPEP 906 Air Environmental Monitoring and Analysis