MISSION & GOAL
The UPEP Doctoral Program trains students to be academics, professional planners, environmental policy and community development specialists prepared to help solve the pressing urban and environmental problems of our city, the region, the nation, and the world. Our program is designed to foster competencies necessary for the critical examination of the nature of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy.

Offered by an interdisciplinary faculty, the program emphasizes preparation in research methods, spatial and regional analysis, development theory, historical processes, analytic and policy formulation skills, and the critical appraisal of alternative causes of change.

CONTACT US
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DEGREE REQUIREMENTS
A minimum of fifty-four (54) semester credit hours, comprising of:
- Twenty-one (21) credit hours of core courses
- Twelve (12) credit hours in specialization courses
- Nine (9) credit hours in electives
- Twelve (12) credit hours for dissertation research

Students with a Master’s degree in planning may apply up to 24 credit hours of Master’s coursework towards earning the PhD Degree. To graduate, students must successfully appear in a Qualifying Examination, a Comprehensive Examination and satisfactorily complete and defend a dissertation proposal and research.

CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS
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

Elective Courses
- UPEP 907: Environmental Legislation and Policy
- UPEP 908: Pollution Control
- UPEP 909: Population and Development Planning
- UPEP 910 - Comprehensive Planning and Growth Management
- UPEP 941: Research Colloquium
- UPEP 942: Dissertation

PROGRAM COORDINATOR
Dr. Jeffrey Lowe
Associate Professor, UPEP
Email: Lowejs@tsu.edu
Phone: 713.313.7304

A complete application package for the Doctoral Program of UPEP will contain:
- A departmental application supplement
- GPA of 3.2 or more in the Master’s coursework.
- GRE general test scores
- A score of at least 550 on the paper-based test, 213 on the computer-based test, or 79 on the internet-based test of the TOEFL if the applicant is an international student.
- Three letters of recommendation letters that attest to the student’s success as a graduate student and their professional capacity. At least two letters should be from faculty.
- A well-crafted, typed statement of purpose describing why you want to obtain a PhD (250-500 words), your specific research interests within the field of urban planning and environmental policy (500-750 words), why the UPEP Doctoral Program is appropriate for you (250-500 words), and other relevant information (250-500 words).
- A résumé
- A writing sample
- Personal meeting with the Program Coordinator.

Fall Application Deadline: February 15th