



The Ph.D. in Urban & Regional Sciences program at Texas A&M forms knowledge about some of the most pressing issues our society faces. In this program, you will become a social scientist rooted in the theoretical bases of urban, city, and community planning.

The Ph.D. program provides expertise in the research process and its application to planning, design, and/or land development issues. Using rigorous quantitative and qualitative methodologies, you'll examine the interactions among social-ecological systems and the built environment.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Our Ph.D. program is one of the largest in the country, with the most diverse range of research topics available. Because of our size, you'll work with a cohort of students working on similar projects. At the same time, you'll get to mentor undergraduate students by teaching courses or supervising research projects.

You'll be mentored by a faculty member from the start of your program. Paired based on similar research interests, you'll work closely with your mentor throughout your program. Our faculty undertake research funded by federal agencies as well as activist research, where they engage directly with the communities they are studying.

CAREERS

Graduates of our program go on to become tenure-track professors in research-intensive universities; analysts in high-level think tanks or government agencies; or leaders in private sector organizations that serve cities, communities, or the development industry.

AREAS OF EMPHASIS

- Environmental hazards
- Sustainability
- Housing and community development
- Health and wellbeing
- Transportation

CURRICULUM

The Ph.D. takes a minimum of 3.5 years to complete and requires 64 credit hours, including:

- 29 credits of core courses in research approaches, analytic methods, and theory
- 3 credits of professional development via teaching practicum
- 9–12 credits of electives in an emphasis area, advised by a committee chair
- 23+ credits in variable research courses while working on your dissertation

We expect students to complete the degree in 4 years. Students taking longer than 4 years are no longer eligible for departmental funding. Credit hours beyond 99 are charged out-of-state rates.

CENTERED ON RESEARCH

At Texas A&M, you'll have access to active research communities housed in centers and institutes across the university. These research hubs unite students and faculty, introducing the next generation of researchers to researchers around the world.

- Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center
- Center for Housing and Urban Development
- Center for Health Systems and Design
- Center for Heritage Conservation
- Institute for Sustainable Communities
- Texas A&M Transportation Institute
- Center for Infrastructure Renewal
- Institute of Data Science