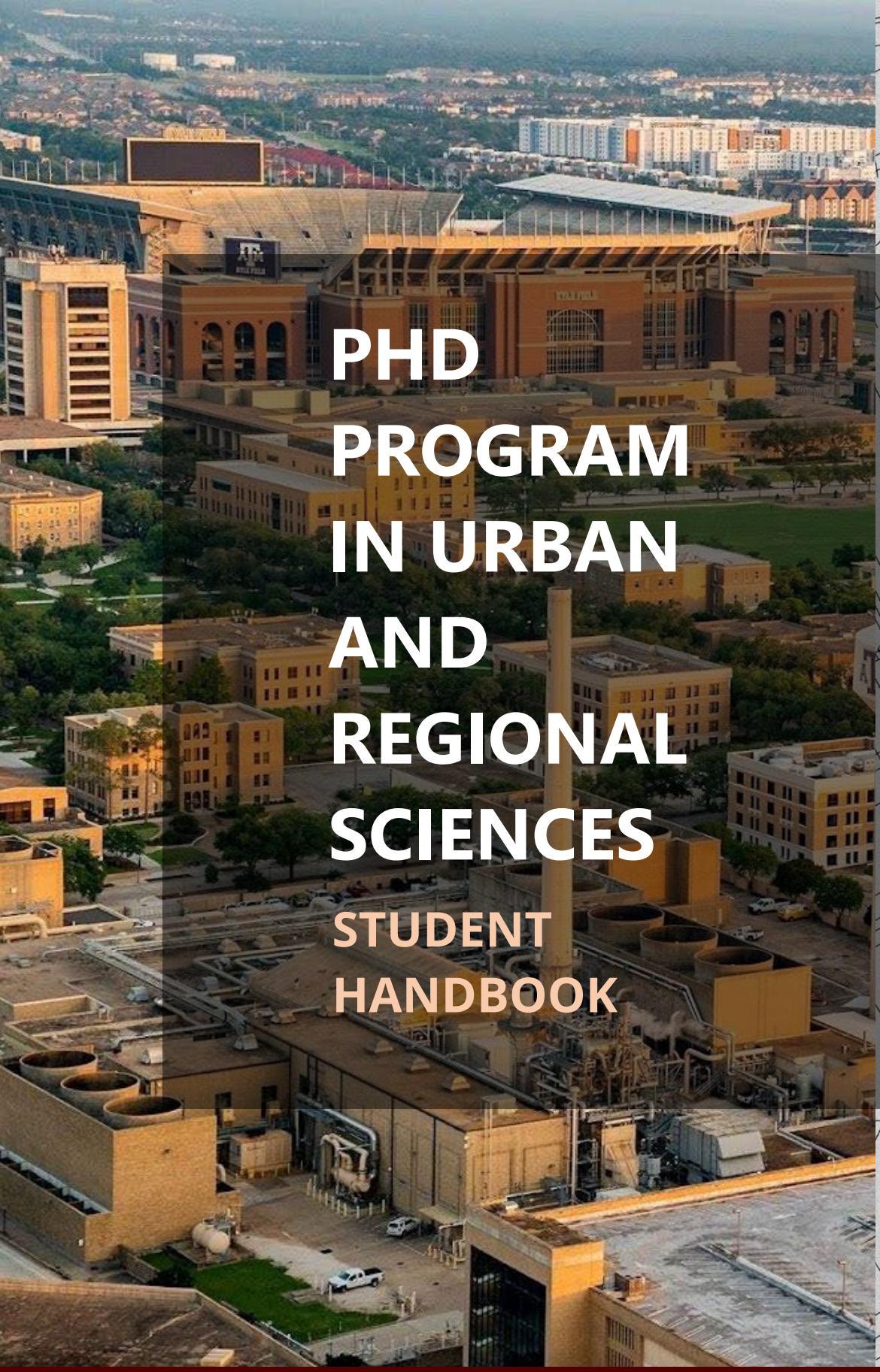


PHD PROGRAM IN URBAN AND REGIONAL SCIENCES

STUDENT HANDBOOK

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

CONTENTS

THE PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

The Urban & Regional Sciences (URSC) program is one of the six degree programs in the Department of Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning, which is one of three departments in the School of Architecture at Texas A&M University. The URSC program has about 50 years of history and continues to be one of the largest and reputable planning doctoral programs in the nation. The program is one of the 48 PhD programs associated with the 82 universities with planning programs accredited by the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning in North America. The program is the #1 Best Value of PhD programs in Urban Planning.

The URSC program is transdisciplinary with a focus on the interface of social systems with the natural and built environment. It seeks to produce graduates of distinguished excellence in planning, design, and development addressing problems of the community, regional, national, or international habitat systems. Our alumni have assumed positions at research-intensive universities, both as faculty and researchers, as well as in government agencies and in other sectors. Graduates have accepted tenure-track positions at University of Florida, University of Illinois, Virginia Tech, University of Washington, University of Maryland, University of Minnesota, University of Wisconsin—Madison, Auburn University, University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University, University of North Texas, as well as a long list of tenure-track positions in South Korean, Chinese, and Indonesian universities.

The URSC program is supported by a large number of faculty who are leaders in the field(s). They represent diverse areas of expertise around the social, built, and natural environments. Our core and affiliated faculty provide strong support for five emphasis areas including 1) environmental hazards and disasters, 2) health and wellbeing, 3) sustainability, 4) housing and community development, and 5) transportation. Our faculty's strong record of external funding provides many opportunities for students to engage in funded research as part of their training. In addition to their own dissertation research, many of the URSC students hold paid research assistantships to gain experience in the full spectrum of research activities including grant writing, project management, data collection, analysis, and dissemination. Nearly all students graduate with one or more publications, as well as teaching experience.

The URSC program requires a minimum of 64 credit hours, including 32 credits of core curriculum, and 32 or more credits of electives and research credits. Students are required to have a master's degree before beginning the PhD. The minimum duration is about 3.5 years, but the average duration is about 5 years. We aim for students to attain the degree in 4 years.

MISSION AND GOALS

The mission of the PhD program in Urban and Regional Science is to develop scholars of distinguishing excellence in landscape, urban, and environmental planning. The current goals of the URSC doctoral program are:

1. **Leading as the Flagship Doctoral Program**—Flagship doctoral program offering a unique opportunity of developing expertise in applied transdisciplinary research, with a curriculum tailored to students' areas of interest within landscape architecture, urban planning, and land development domains.
2. **Provide Emphasis Area Expertise**—Expertise in an area of specialization that applies to landscape architecture, urban planning, and land development problems of community, regional, national, and international habitats and systems.
3. **Provide Applied Research Expertise**—Expertise in research process and application to landscape architecture, urban planning, and land development problems.
4. **Foster Professional Communication**—Communication and dissemination of innovative research and projects that improve landscape architecture, urban planning, and land development professions.
5. **Grow Professional Education**—Education of professionals for research, education, and practice in the fields of landscape architecture, urban planning, and land development.
6. **Offer Service to Professions**—Service for landscape architecture, urban planning, and land development professional organizations, and general communities.
7. **Encourage Application of Knowledge**—Knowledge translation to guide evidence-based decision-making by landscape architecture, urban planning, and land development professionals and the public.

Contacts

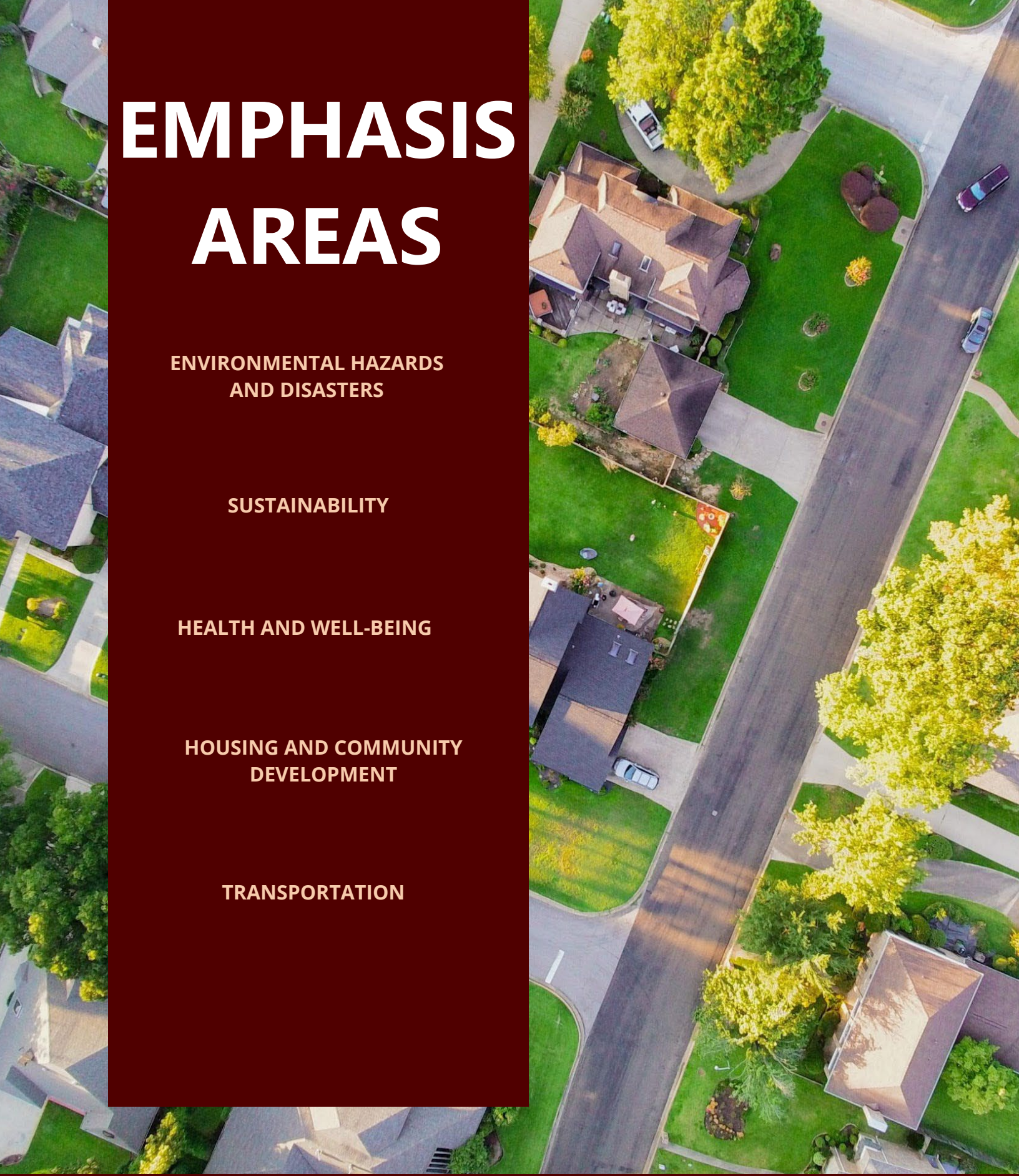
URSC Program Chair Dr. Shannon Van Zandt
svanzandt@arch.tamu.edu
Scoates 121

Contact Dr. Van Zandt for questions about mentoring, milestone guidelines, course selection, etc.

Graduate Coordinator Ms. Thena Morris
tmorris@arch.tamu.edu
LAUP Main Office

Contact Ms. Morris for questions about course registration, paperwork requirements, University rules, funding, etc.

EMPHASIS AREAS



ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS AND DISASTERS

SUSTAINABILITY

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

TRANSPORTATION

Texas A&M University
PhD Program in Urban and Regional Sciences

EMPHASIS AREAS

Emphasis areas are areas of study in which the program has a critical mass of faculty engaged in teaching and research activities. Most PhD students are conducting their own research in one of these emphasis areas. Current emphasis areas are:

Environmental Hazards and Disasters

Natural and technological hazards including climate change often impinge on human activity, damage the built environment, and affect ecosystem function. From hurricanes, floods, and heat waves to oil spills and chemical explosions, this emphasis area examines how people come to recognize, plan for, respond to, and recover from hazards and disasters that threaten human life, health, and property as well as ecosystem function. Students interested in environmental hazards and disasters at Texas A&M University take part in colloquia, internships, research, and other scholarly and applied practitioner activities in conjunction with the Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center as well as complete the Environmental Hazards Certificate.

Emphasis Area Chair: Dr. Michelle Meyer

Publications (Selected), student or former student co-authors marked with *

- Stanley, M.,* Hotard, A.,* Pilgreen, D.,* and Meyer, M.. (2023) Critical Review of National Flood Policy Outcomes" *Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management*. https://doi.org/10.1515/jhsem-2021-0059
- Li, D., Zhang, Y.*, Li, X.*, Meyer, M., Bazan, M. and Brown, R.D. (2023) "I didn't know what to expect or What to do": Impacts of a severe winter storm on residents of subsidized housing in Texas. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, *84*, p.103456.
- Lee, R.J.*, Newman, G. and Van Zandt, S. (2023) Using neighborhood characteristics to predict vacancy types: Comparing multi-scale conditions surrounding existing vacant lots. Environment and Planning B: Urban Analytics and City Science, p.23998083231160542.
- Meyer, M.A., Alexander-Hawk, M.*, Purdum, J.C., Yelle, H.*, Vick, J.*, Rodriguez, A.*, Romero, S.* and Taylor, K.A. (2023) Resilience in recovery? Understanding the extent, structure, and operations of nonprofits meant to address disaster survivors' unmet needs. *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, *52*(4), pp.979-1005.
- Casellas Connors, J. P., Safayet, M.*, Rosenheim, N., & Watson, M. (2023). Assessing changes in food pantry access after extreme events. *Agriculture and Human Values*, *40*(2), 619-634.
- García, I., Miller, S., & Holmes, T. (2023). Rural communities challenges and ResilientSEE: Case studies from disasters in Florida, Puerto Rico, and North Carolina. Social Sciences & Humanities Open, *7*(1), 100412.
- Mansury, Y., Ye, X., & Yoon, D*. (2021) Structural path analysis of extreme weather events: an application to Hurricane Katrina and Superstorm Sandy. *Applied Geography*. doi: 10.1016/j.apgeog.2021.102561
- Purdum, C., Henry, F.*, Rucker, S., Williams, D. A.*, Thomas, R., Dixon, B., & Jacobs, F. (2021). No justice, no resilience: Prison abolition as disaster mitigation in an era of climate change. *Environmental Justice*, 14(6), 418-425.

- Watson, M.*, Xiao, Y., Helgeson, J., & Dillard, M. (2020). Importance of Households in Business Disaster Recovery. *Natural Hazards Review*, 21(4), 05020008.
- Van De Lindt, J.W., Peacock, W.G., Mitrani-Reiser, J., Rosenheim, N., Deniz, D., Dillard, M., Tomiczek, T., Koliou, M., Graettinger, A., Crawford, P.S. and Harrison, K., 2020. Community resilience-focused technical investigation of the 2016 Lumberton, North Carolina, flood: An interdisciplinary approach. *Natural Hazards Review,* 21(3), p.04020029.
- Berke, P., Yu, S., Malecha, M.*, & Cooper, J. (2019). Plans that Disrupt Development: Equity Policies and Social Vulnerability in Six Coastal Cities. *Journal of Planning Education and Research*. 0739456X19861144.

Funded Research Projects (Selected)

- "CAREER: Estimating and Addressing Disaster Survivors' Unmet Needs: A Social Vulnerability and Social Infrastructure Approach" (2020-2025), National Science Foundation, PI: Michelle Meyer
- "Southeast Texas Urban Integrated Field Lab." (2022-2026), Department of Energy. TAMU PI: Michelle Meyer, Co-PIs: Nathanael Rosenheim, Dongying Li, Galen Newman, Texas Target Communities plus researchers at University of Texas at Austin, Lamar University, Prairie View A&M University, and Oak Ridge National Lab.
- "Center for Risk-Informed Community Resilience Planning." (2015-2025). National Institute of Standards and Technology. TAMU PI: Shannon Van Zandt, Co-PIs: Walt Peacock, Nathanael Rosenheim, Michelle Meyer plus researchers at 13 other universities and the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

Sustainability

The sustainability emphasis area draws on transdisciplinary research and methods to solve complex problems promoting the integrity of human and natural ecosystems, raising the quality of life in human settlements, building community resilience and sustaining equitable development. Students in this area often work closely with the College of Architecture's research centers and associated research units and can complete the Sustainable Urbanism Certificate.

Emphasis Area Chair: Dr. George Rogers

Publications (Selected) , student and former student co-authors marked with *

- Kim, T., & Noh, Y. (2023). Planning factors affecting carbon footprints of residents: Density, land use, and suburbanization. Environment and Planning B: Urban Analytics and City Science, 0(0). https://doi.org/10.1177/23998083231172990
- Kim, Se Woong*, Robert D. Brown, (2023). Development of a micro-scale heat island (MHI) model to assess the thermal environment in urban street canyons, Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews, Volume 184.
- Dvorak, B. (2021) *Ecoregional Green Roofs: Theory and Application in the Western USA and Canada*, Cities and Nature, Springer International, Cham, Switzerland
- Dvorak, B., Yang, S., Menotti, T.*, Pace, Z., Mehta, S., & Ali, A. K. (2021). Native Plant Establishment on a Custom Modular Living Wall System in a Humid Subtropical Climate. *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*, 127234.

- Sohn, W.*, Kim, J.H., Li, M.H., Brown, R.D. and Jaber, F.H., 2020. How does increasing impervious surfaces affect urban flooding in response to climate variability? *Ecological Indicators*, 118.
- Yu, S.*, Malecha, M.*, & Berke, P. (2021). Examining factors influencing plan integration for community resilience in six US coastal cities using Hierarchical Linear Modeling. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 215, 104224.
- Kim, G. & Newman, G. (2020). "Urban regeneration: Community engagement process for vacant land in declining cities." *Cities,* 102: 102730.
- Mowrer, J., Merrill, J., Conlee, D., Marble, J., & Dvorak, B. (2019). Rooftop urban agriculture for the small stakeholder. *Journal of Living Architecture*, 6(2), 1-16
- Berke, P., Malecha, M.*, Yu, S.*, Lee, J.*, & Masterson, J. (2019). Plan Integration for Resilience Scorecard: Evaluating Networks of Plans in Six US Coastal Cities. *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management,* 1-20.

Funded Research Projects (Selected)

- "Planning: FIRE-PLAN: Stakeholder-driven Challenges and Opportunities for Wildfire Mitigation and Preparedness." (2023-2025). National Science Foundation. PI: Yu, Siyu Co-PIs: James Tate, Jason Moats
- "Focused CoPe: Fundamental research to inform holistic decision-making for historically underrepresented communities impacted by coastal hazards" (2021-2026), National Science Foundation (NSF). PI: Maria Koliou, Co-PI: Yu, S.
- Comprehensive tools and models for addressing exposure to mixtures during environmental emergency-related contamination events" (2022-2027). National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences. PI Rusyn, I., Co-PIs include Newman, G., and Li, D in our department.
- "Towards Targeted Risk Mitigation: Community Engaged, Fast Impact Estimation of Extreme Weather using Big Social and Climate Data." (2023-2025). Texas OneGulf. PI: David Retchless, Co-PI: Xinyue Ye

Housing and Community Development

As human populations continue to grow and urban settlements shift geographically, community development and adequate housing needs to be enhanced. This emphasis area focuses on urban and regional planning and design, community and neighborhood physical and economic development, fair and equitable housing, infrastructure development and management, historic conservation, and land development. Students in this area often work closely with the Center for Housing and Urban Development and complete the Community Development Certificate.

Emphasis Area Chair: Dr. Shannon Van Zandt

Publications (Selected), student and former student co-authors marked with *

- Sanchez, Thomas W., Marc Brenman, and Xinyue Ye. 2024. The Ethical Concerns of Artificial Intelligence in Urban Planning. Journal of the American Planning Association, 0(0). https://doi.org/10.1080/01944363.2024.2355305
- Xinyu Fu, Thomas W. Sanchez, Chaosu Li and Juliana Reu Junqueira 2024. Deciphering Public Voices in the Digital Era, Journal of the American Planning Association, DOI: https://doi.org/10.1080/01944363.2024.2309259

- Wu, Y., Wei, Y. D., Liu, M.*, & García, I. (2023). Green infrastructure inequality in the context of COVID-19: Taking parks and trails as examples. Urban Forestry & Urban Greening, 86, 128027.
- García, I., & Hernandez, N. (2023). "They're just trying to survive": The relationship between social vulnerability, informal housing, and environmental risks in Loíza, Puerto Rico, USA. World Development Sustainability, 2, 100062.
- Ye, X., Du, J.*, Han, Y., Newman, G., Retchless, D., Zou, L., Ham, Y., & Cai, Z*. (2022) Developing human-centered urban digital twins for community infrastructure resilience: a research agenda. *Journal of Planning Literature*. doi: 10.1177/08854122221137861
- Song, Y., Ning, H., Ye, X., Chandana, D., & Wang, S. (2022). Analyze the usage of urban greenways through social media images and computer vision. Environment and Planning B: Urban Analytics and City Science, 49(6), 1682–1696. https://doi.org/10.1177/23998083211064624
- Newman, G., Lee, R.J.*, Qu, A. & Pu, C. (2021). "Design for the Depopulating Landscape: A Retrofit Approach to Urban Regeneration in Johnstown, PA, USA." *Landscape Architecture Frontiers*, 8(6):106-119
- Hamideh, S.*, Peacock, W.G., Van Zandt, S. (2021). Housing Type Matters for Pace of Recovery: Evidence from Hurricane Ike. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*. 57.
- Ye, X., Du, J.*, & Ye, Y. (2021). MasterplanGAN: Facilitating the smart rendering of urban master plans via generative adversarial networks. *Environment and Planning B: Urban Analytics and City Science*, doi: 10.1177/23998083211023516
- Roberts, A., & Matos, M.* (2020). Adaptive liminality: Bridging and bonding social capital between urban and rural Black meccas. *Journal of Urban Affairs*, 1-22.
- Newman G., Gu, D.W.*, Lee, R.J.*, Park, Y.M, Saginor, J. Van Zandt, S., & Li, W. (2019). 'Evaluating Drivers of Housing Vacancy: A Longitudinal Analysis of Large U.S. Cities from 1940-2010." *Journal of Housing and the Built Environment*. 34(3), 807-827.
- Rosenheim, N.*, R. Guidotti, P. Gardoni, and WG Peacock. (2019). Integration of Detailed Housing Unit Characteristic Data with Critical Infrastructure and Its Implementation to Post-Hazard Resilience Modeling. *Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure*, 1-17

Funded Research Projects (Selected)

- "Center for Hispanic Housing Studies, Center of Research Excellence for Hispanic Serving Institutions (2023-2026), U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), PI Shannon Van Zandt, Co-PIs Ivis Garcia, Genny Carillo, Robert Halket, Xinyue Ye, Jaimie Masterson.
- "A spatial decision support system for identifying heat vulnerability based on a comprehensive energy budget model and multi-criteria decision analysis in Oklahoma City, OK"(2022-2024). National Aeronautics and Space Administration (21-EEJ21-0044). PI: Cheng, W., and Co-PIs: Zhang, Z., Li, D., Yang, A., Cai, C.
- "Convergence Accelerator Track I: OpenMatFlo: A Platform for Designing, Producing, and Supplying Greener Inks for Additive Construction under Uncertainties." (2022-2024). National Science Foundation PI: Chaofeng Wang, Co-PIs: Xinyue Ye, My Thai, Robert Ries, Hongyu Zhou

- "Advanced Technologies and Workforce Development for Coastal Adaptation and Resilience in Texas." (2023-2024). Department of Commerce and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. PI: Debalina Sengupta, Co-PI: Xinyue Ye, Mahmoud El-Halwagi, Vijaykumar Panchang

Health and Well-Being

As global climate change and urbanization continue, designers and planners should be engaged in creating communities that improve the health and well-being of residents. This emphasis area addresses how the places we live, work, play, and learn influence our health and well-being. Students interested in the interaction between place and health will have opportunities to participate in research groups such as Design Research for Active Living and Microclimatic Design Research Group. Students in this emphasis work closely with the Center for Health Systems & Design and complete the Health Systems and Design Certificate.

Emphasis Area Chair: Dr. Chanam Lee

Publications (Selected), student and former student co-authors marked with *

- YouJoung Kim*, Dongying Li, Yangyang Xu, Yue Zhang*, Xiaoyu Li*, Lexi Muhlenforth, Shengliang Xue*, Robert Brown, (2023). Heat vulnerability and street-level outdoor thermal comfort in the city of Houston: Application of google street view image derived SVFs, Urban Climate, Volume 51.
- Song, Y., Lee, C., Tao, Z*., Lee, R. J.*, Newman, G., Ding, Y.*, Fernandez, J. & Sohn, W. (2023). COVID-19 and campus users: A longitudinal and place-based study of university mobilities in Texas. *Sustainable Cities and Society*, *96*, 104656.
- Kim, S. W.*, & Brown, R. D. (2023). Development of a micro-scale heat island (MHI) model to assess the thermal environment in urban street canyons. *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*, *184*, 113598.
- Li, D., Zhang, Y.*, Li, X.*, Zhang, K., Lu, Y., & Brown, R. (2023). Climatic and meteorological exposure and mental and behavioral health: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Science of The Total Environment*, 164435.
- Se Woong Kim,* Robert D. Brown & Jane Futrell Winslow (2023) Urban green and blue infrastructure effect on the micro-scale thermal environment in a residential neighborhood: Mueller, Austin, TX, International Journal of Sustainable Development & World Ecology, DOI: 10.1080/13504509.2023.2222686
- Wang, H., & Li, D. (2023). Emergency department visits for mental disorders and the built environment: Residential greenspace and historical redlining. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 230, 104568.
- Lee, C., Zhong, S.*, Lee, S. and Ndubisi, F. (2023) Designing for Health in Healthcare Deserts: A Medical City Master Planning Project in Nigeria. *HERD: Health Environments Research & Design Journal*, p.19375867231181344.
- Zhong, S.*, Lee, C., & Lee, H. (2020). Community environments that promote intergenerational interactions vs. walking among older adults. *Frontiers in public health*, *8*, 587363.
- Lee, S., Lee, C., Nam, J. W.*, Abbey-Lambertz, M., & Mendoza, J. A. (2020). School walkability index: Application of environmental audit tool and GIS. *Journal of Transport & Health*, 18, 100880.

Funded Research Projects (Selected)

- "Heat-related health risk assessment and mitigation for aging populations in public housing: A community-individual environment-health nexus" (2023-2028) National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (R01MD016587). PI: Li, D., Co-PIs: Brown, R., Lee, C., Maddock, J., Sang, H., Sullivan, W.
- "Ultra Wideband Fall Detection and Prediction Solution for People Living with Dementia" (2023-2026) National Institute of Health. PI: Marcia Ory, Co-PI: Xinyue Ye
- "Fighting Obesity by Reinventing Public Transportation: A Natural Experiment." (2018 – 2023), National Institute of Health, multi-PI: Chanam Lee, Wei Li, Marcia Ory
- "Nature-based therapy: A socioecological and RE-AIM approach to treating disaster-related PTSD in flood-vulnerable communities". (2022-2025). National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (2000013443). PI: Li, D., and Co-PIs Newman, G., Davis, D., Mathur, V., Gordon, J.
- "Investigating the Combined Impact of Spatial Social Networks and Environmental Exposure on Minority Youths' Mental Health" (2022-2024). Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. PI: Iyanda, A., and Co-PIs: Ye, X., Li, D., Salami, T., Huang, X.

Transportation

Transportation comprises one of the largest segments of urban and regional infrastructure. This emphasis area focuses on understanding the transportation policies and processes of the cities and regions of today, while providing opportunities for students to conduct cutting-edge research about the cities and regions of the future. Particular strengths of the transportation emphasis area are multimodal transportation, equity and justice in transportation planning, autonomous vehicles, smart cities, travel behavior, and safety. In addition to opportunities with department faculty, students work or collaborate with researchers at the Texas A&M Transportation Institute, the largest research institution of its kind in the U.S. and complete the Transportation Planning Certificate.

Emphasis Area Chair: Dr. Xinyue Ye

Publications (Selected), student and former student co-authors marked with *

- Zhu, C.*, Brown, C., Dadashova, B., Ye, X., Sohrabi, S., & Potts, I. Investigation on the Driver-Victim Pairs in Pedestrian and Bicyclist Crashes by Latent Class Clustering and Random Forest Algorithm. Accident Analysis and Prevention. doi: 10.1016/j.aap.2023.106964
- Song, Y., Lee, S., Park, A.H.* and Lee, C. (2023) COVID-19 impacts on non-work travel patterns: A place-based investigation using smartphone mobility data. *Environment and Planning B: Urban Analytics and City Science*, *50*(3), pp.642-659.
- Song, Y., Zhong, S., Lee, C., & Xu, M. (2023). Causal Effect of New Bus Rapid Transit on Non-Work-Related Activities. Journal of Planning Education and Research, 0(0). https://doi.org/10.1177/0739456X231192022

- Canham, S. L., Donovan, M.*, Rose, J., Jones, S., & Garcia, I. (2023). Transportation needs and mobility patterns of persons experiencing homelessness following shelter decentralization. Evaluation and Program Planning, 99, 102306.
- Noh, Y., & Li, W. (2022). Impact of Light Rail: A Spatial-Temporal Assessment of Neighboring Residential Property Values in Los Angeles. Journal of Planning Education and Research, 0739456X221100502.
- Ralph, K., Goddard, T., Thigpen, C., & Davis, R. (2022) "Intervening at the blotter, not the broadcast: Improving crash coverage by targeting police press releases." *Transportation Research Interdisciplinary Perspectives*, *15*, 100669.
- Kim, A.J., Alambeigi, H., Goddard, T., McDonald, A.D., & Anderson, B.A.* (2021) "Bicyclist-evoked arousal and greater attention to bicyclists independently promote safer driving. *Cognitive Research: Principles and Implications,* 6**,** 66.
- Ning, H.*, Ye, X., Chen, Z.*, Liu, T., & Cao, T.* (2021) Sidewalk Extraction Using Aerial and Street View Images. *Environment and Planning B*. doi: 10.1177/2399808321995817
- Ye, X., Du, J.*, Gong, X., Zhao, Y., Shamal, A. D., & Kamw, F. (2021). SparseTrajAnalytics: an Interactive Visual Analytics System for Sparse Trajectory Data. *Journal of Geovisualization and Spatial Analysis*, *5*(1), 1-11.
- Goddard, T., McDonald, A.D., Alambeigi*, H., Kim*, A.J., & Anderson, B.A.* (2020) "Unsafe bicyclist overtaking behavior in a simulated driving task: the role of implicit and explicit attitudes." *Accident Analysis & Prevention*, *144*, 105595. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aap.2020.105595
- Zhong, H., Li, W., Burris, M. W., Talebpour, A., & Sinha, K. C. (2020). Will autonomous vehicles change auto commuters' value of travel time?. *Transportation Research Part D: Transport and Environment*, 83, 102303.

Funded Research Projects (Selected)

- "Inclusive Evacuation: Transit and Paratransit During the Caldor Fire." PI: Tara Goddard. (2023) Natural Hazards Center and NOAA: Weather Ready Research Award Program: Wildfire Ready Research, Tier One.
- "International Active Travel Attitudes." (2023-2024) Co-PI: Tara Goddard, Co-PI: Ian Walker. UK Research and Innovation and the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), International Strategic Partnership Seedcorn Funds, UK Government.
- "Critical Areas in Advanced Driver Assistance Systems Safety: Point of Sale and Crash Reporting." PI: Tara Goddard. Co-PI: Anthony McDonald. (2021-2023) U.S. Department of Transportation, University Transportation Centers Program to the Safety through Disruption University Transportation Center.
- "Fighting Obesity by Reinventing Public Transportation: A Natural Experiment." (2018 – 2023), National Institute of Health, multi-PI: Chanam Lee, Wei Li, Marcia Ory

CERTIFICATES

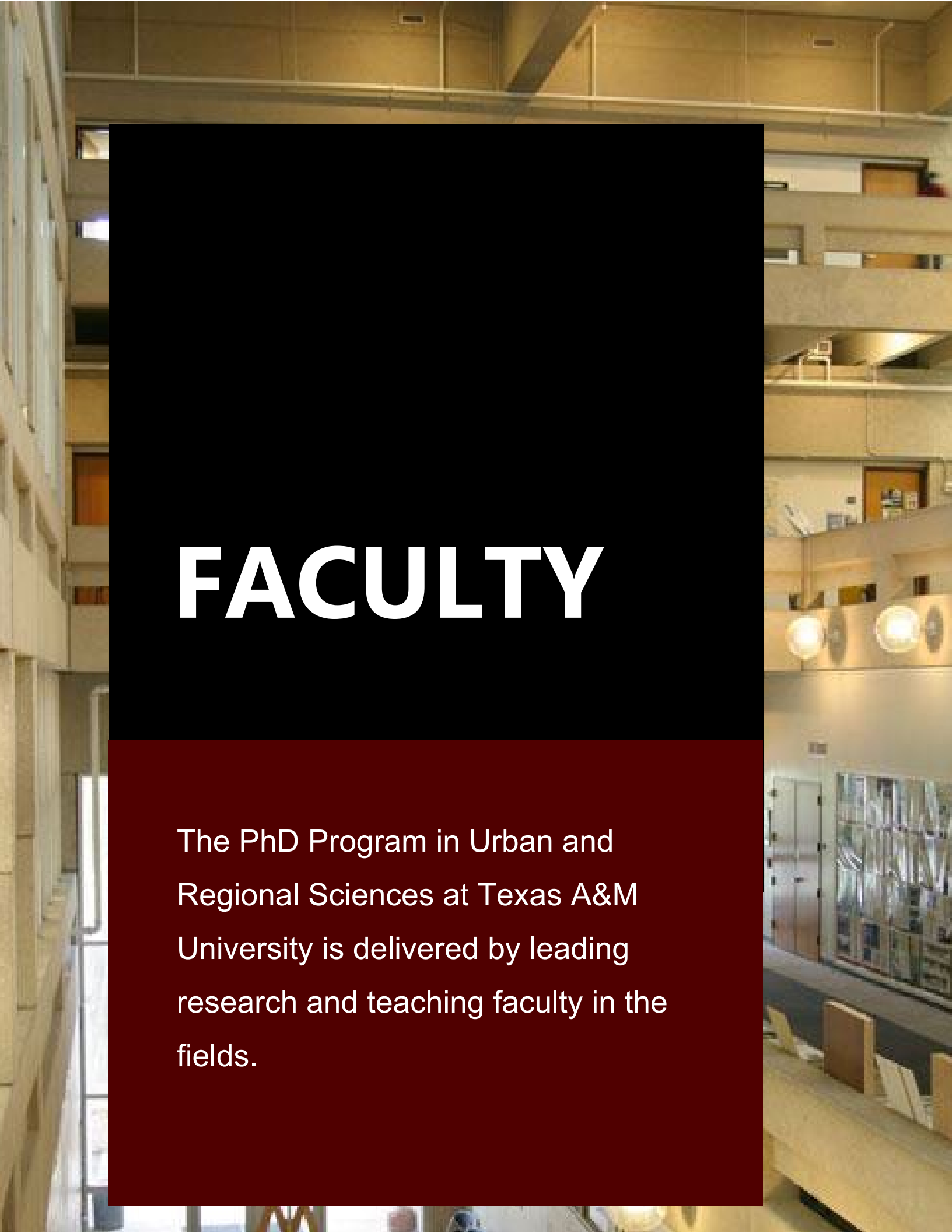
The School of Architecture offers seven graduate certificates. These certificates are formal awards granted by the school with approval of Texas A&M University and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Certificates consist of 12–15 credit hours of courses in a concentrated area. When a student meets all the requirements of the certificate, the credential will appear on their transcript. Students must be currently enrolled in a Texas A&M graduate degree program to be eligible for a certificate.

Certificates commonly awarded to URSC students include the Environmental Hazard Management Certificate, Sustainable Urbanism Certificate, Community Development Certificate, Health Systems and Design Certificate, Historic Preservation Certificate, and the Transportation Planning Certificate.

Students should apply early in their graduate program so that they can select elective courses to fulfill the Certificate requirements. Questions can be addressed to the Faculty Coordinator of each Certificate or Dr. Katie Reed (katiereed@tamu.edu)

Graduate Certificates



FACULTY

The PhD Program in Urban and Regional Sciences at Texas A&M University is delivered by leading research and teaching faculty in the fields.

FACULTY ELIGIBILITY FOR COMMITTEE AND EMPHASIS AREAS

Doctoral students may work with any member of the department's graduate faculty, which include all tenure track and tenured faculty, as well as a selected non-tenure track faculty who have petitioned and been added to the graduate faculty. It is the policy of the program that only tenured/tenure-track faculty members holding a PhD can chair doctoral committees. These faculty are considered "core" faculty (Table below). All tenure-track and professional-track faculty in the department, as well as affiliate faculty who are members of graduate faculty, may serve on doctoral committees as either internal, or in some cases, external members (if they have primary appointments in other departments) (those in the Affiliate Faculty Table below).

Our faculty often lead their respective fields nationally and internationally. These scholars provide the foundation for endeavors in the URSC program, and are listed by their research interests alignment with the program's emphasis areas.

Core Faculty

Last name	First name	Environment Hazards & Disasters	Sustainability	Housing & Community Development	Health & Well-being	Transport
Brown	Robert	✓			✓	
Garcia	Ivis	✓		✓		
Giusti	Cecilia	✓		✓		
Goddard	Tara	✓	✓			✓
Huang	Chang Shan			✓	✓	
Lee	Chanam				✓	✓
Lee	Sungmin	✓			✓	✓
Li	Dongying	✓	✓		✓	
Li	Wei		✓		✓	✓
McNair	Michael "Ernie"	✓	✓			
Meyer	Michelle	✓	✓	✓		
Newman	Galen	✓		✓		

Last name	First name	Environment Hazards & Disasters	Sustainability	Housing & Community Development	Health & Well-being	Transport
Peacock	Walt	✓	✓	✓		
Rogers	George	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Sanchez	Tom			✓		✓
Song	Yang			✓	✓	
Van Zandt	Shannon	✓	✓	✓		
Xu	Boqian "Bo"		✓			
Ye	Xinyue	✓			✓	✓
Yu	Siyu	✓	✓			
Zhong	Sinan				✓	

Affiliate Faculty

Last name	First name	Environment Hazards & Disasters	Sustainability	Housing & Community Development	Health & Well-being	Transport
Cooper	John	✓	✓	✓		
Dvorak	Bruce		✓			
Ellis	David					✓
Golbabai	Justin			✓		
Highfield*	Wesley	✓				
Hurst	Kenneth				✓	
Lomax	Tim					✓
Malecha	Matthew	✓	✓			
Rosenheim	Nathanael	✓		✓		
Turnbull	Katie					✓
Wunneburger	Douglas	✓				✓

Note: * indicates the faculty members who are based at the Texas A&M Galveston Campus.

Faculty Bios

Dr. Robert D. Brown
Department of Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning
Microclimatic-Design Research Group
https://research.arch.tamu.edu/microclimatic-design/
Center for Health Systems and Design https://chsd.arch.tamu.edu/

PhD, Micrometeorology, University of Guelph, 1985; MLA, Landscape Architecture, University of Guelph, 1982; BSc, Geography, University of Saskatchewan, 1979

Interests: Dr. Brown studies how the urban landscape modifies the microclimate, and how microclimates affect the health and well-being of people.
Google scholar link: https://goo.gl/r92Hd

Dr. John Thomas Cooper
Texas Target Communities https://ttc.arch.tamu.edu/
Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center https://hrrc.arch.tamu.edu/
Center for Housing and Urban Development
http://chud.arch.tamu.edu/
Department of Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning

PhD City & Regional Planning, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, 2004; MUP Texas A&M University, 1994; BA Economics, Texas A&M University, 1992

Interests: Dr. Cooper's areas of interest include principles of inclusive planning and plan quality. He has a deep commitment to working with planners to transform communities from high risk and low opportunity to equitable, resilient, and adaptive by mitigating the threats to the economy, environment, and culture.

Prof. Bruce Dvorak
PI, Interdisciplinary Green Roof Research Group
http://people.tamu.edu/~bdvorak/
Department of Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning

MLA, University of Illinois, 1994; B.L.A., University of Minnesota, 1988

Interests: Professor Bruce Dvorak teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in Landscape Architecture. His areas of interest include sustainable design, planning, and construction. His areas of research include green roof and wall technology.
Google scholar link:
https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=h3jUS-EAAAAJ

Dr. Ivis Garcia
Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center https://hrrc.arch.tamu.edu/
Department of Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning

PhD Urban Planning and Policy, University of Illinois at Chicago, 2015; Master of Community and Regional Planning, University of New Mexico, 2009; MA Latin American Studies, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 2009; BS Environmental Sciences, Inter-American University, Puerto Rico, 2003

Interests: Dr. Garcia is interested in public participation, asset-based community development, affordable housing and disaster recovery
Google scholar link:
https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=tNEDCE4AAAAJ&hl=en

Dr. Cecilia Giusti
Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center https://hrrc.arch.tamu.edu/
Department of Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning

PhD University of Texas at Austin, 2001; MA Regional Development and Planning, Institute of Social Studies, Holland; Bachelor and professional degrees in economics, Catholic University, Lima, Peru

Interests: Dr. Giusti is interested in economic development and planning, community engagement, "informal" practices, microbusinesses, diversity and inclusion, and Latinx and Latin American urban issues.
Google scholar link:
https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=4cbGdAoAAAAJ

Dr. Tara Goddard
Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center https://hrrc.arch.tamu.edu
Department of Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning

PhD Portland State University, Urban Studies 2017; MS University of California, Davis, Civil Engineering 2005; BS University of California, Santa Barbara, Mechanical Engineering 2002

Interests: Dr. Goddard is interested in transportation safety, particularly for people who walk, wheel, and use transit; driver attitudes and behavior; road safety culture; transportation planning in the era of rapid climate change; and inclusive disaster evacuation.
Google scholar link:
https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=McofhAwAAAAJ

Prof. Justin Golbabai
Texas Target Communities https://ttc.arch.tamu.edu/
Department of Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning

MPA Public Administration, University of Kansas, 2006; BA Economics & Sociology, University of Notre Dame, 2004

Interests: Prof. Golbabai is interested in how urban design can bring people together and build community, people-oriented local economic development, placemaking, sustainability, urban agriculture, and the implementation processes that make plans happen.

Dr. Wesley Highfield
Department of Marine Sciences, TAMU-Galveston

PhD Urban and Regional Sciences, Texas A&M University, 2008;
MS Urban Planning, Texas A&M University, 2004;
BS Renewable Natural Resources, Texas A&M University, 2001

Interests: Dr. Highfield specializes in data analysis related to environmental planning, flood and natural hazard mitigation, and risk planning, communication and recovery.

Google scholar link:
https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=9HoOfeQAAAAJ

Dr. Chang-Shan Huang
Department of Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning
Center for Health Systems & Design https://chsd.arch.tamu.edu/

PhD City and Regional Planning, University of Pennsylvania, 1995; MFA, University of Pennsylvania, 1995; MLA, The Pennsylvania State University, 1992; BArch, Tsinghua University, 1983

Interests: Dr. Huang's areas of interest lie in design programming and methodology, urban and community design, therapeutic garden design, design communication, and interdisciplinary design education. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and a registered Landscape Architect in the State of Texas.

Dr. Chanam Lee
Department of Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning
Center for Health Systems & Design https://chsd.arch.tamu.edu/

PhD Urban Design and Planning, University of Washington, 2004; MLA, Texas A&M University, 1999; BA Kyungpook National University, 1996

Interests: Dr. Lee's areas of interest are active living research and healthy community design.
Personal Website: http://research.arch.tamu.edu/activeliving/
Google scholar link:
https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=B-H2Wq0AAAAJ

Dr. Sungmin Lee
Department of Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning

PhD Urban and Regional Science, Texas A&M University, 2018; MLA Landscape Architecture, Seoul National University, South Korea, 2009; BS Landscape Architecture and Rural Systems Engineering, Seoul National University, South Korea

Interests: Dr. Lee's interest areas include healthy community planning and design, neighborhood safety, active aging, and spatial analysis.
Google scholar link:
https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=Mq-u-9MAAAAJ

Dr. Dongying Li
Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center https://hrrc.arch.tamu.edu/
Department of Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning

PhD in Landscape Architecture, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2016; MLA, Tongji University, China, 2011; BLA, Tongji University, China, 2008

Interests: Dr. Li's research examines the relationship between the physical environment and community health and health equity. Specific topics include environmental health, environmental psychology, nature and children's development, environmental justice and health disparities, and geospatial data science.
Google scholar link:
https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=ccTwEaMAAAAJ

Dr. Wei Li
Department of Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning

PhD Planning, Policy and Design, University of California, Irvine; MA Planning, University of Waterloo; BA Business Administration, Renmin University of China

Interests: Dr. Li's interest areas include sustainable and active transportation, environmental economics, and socio-economic and health impacts of emerging transportation technologies (e.g., autonomous vehicles).
Google scholar link: https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=-1mV8HcAAAAJ

Dr. Tim Lomax
Research Fellow for Texas A&M Transportation Institute
https://tti.tamu.edu/
Department of Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning

PhD Civil Engineering, Texas A&M University, 1987; ME Civil Engineering, 1982; BS Civil Engineering, 1979

Interests: Dr. Lomax's scholarly interest involves transportation planning, and performance measurement.

Dr. Matthew Malecha
Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center https://hrrc.arch.tamu.edu/
Department of Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning

PhD Urban and Regional Sciences, 2019; MUP University of Minnesota 2012; BA Geography and History, Macalester College, 2006

Interests: His research focuses on community resilience to natural hazards—especially the roles of plans, policies, and regulations, and their interactions with underlying social and spatial characteristics.
Google scholar link:
https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=HbcK5IAAAAAJ

Dr. Michael (Ernie) McNair
Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning

PHD, Environmental Design and Planning, Kansas State University, 2023; MA, City and Regional Planning, Clemson University, 2018; BLA, Landscape Architecture, Mississippi State University, 1998

Interests: Dr. McNair's interests include effects of land use change on river geomorphology, river restoration, natural channel design, and the use of LiDAR and Structure-from-Motion Photogrammetry to monitor river geomorphology.

Dr. Michelle Meyer
Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center https://hrrc.arch.tamu.edu/
Department of Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning

PhD, Sociology, Colorado State University, 2013; MA, Sociology, Colorado State University, 2010; BA, Sociology, Murray State University, 2003

Interests: Dr. Meyer's interests include environmental sociology, sociology of disasters, social stratification, community Sociology, green energy and sustainability, and environmental migration.
Google scholar link:
https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=tvPBT_MAAAAJ

Dr. Galen Newman
Department of Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning
Center for Housing and Urban Development
http://chud.arch.tamu.edu/

PhD of Planning, Design, and the Built Environment, Clemson University, 2010; MS Community Planning, Auburn University, 2006; MS Landscape Architecture, Auburn University, 2006; BS Environmental Design, Auburn University, 2003

Interests: Dr. Newman's interests include urban regeneration, land use, spatial analytics, flood resilience, and community-scaled design.
Google scholar link:
https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=NWRrbEoAAAAJ

Dr. Walter Peacock
Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center https://hrrc.arch.tamu.edu/
Department of Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning
Texas Target Communities https://ttc.arch.tamu.edu/

PhD Sociology, University of Georgia, 1986; MA Sociology, University of Georgia, 1982; BA Sociology, Columbus State University, 1978

Interests: Dr. Peacock is interested in urban planning, sustainability and resiliency issues, natural hazard, hazard mitigation and adaptation, long-term disaster recovery, and quantitative methods.
Google scholar link:
https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=5Jjuc0gAAAAJ&hl=en

Dr. Nathanael Rosenheim
Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center https://hrrc.arch.tamu.edu/
Department of Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning

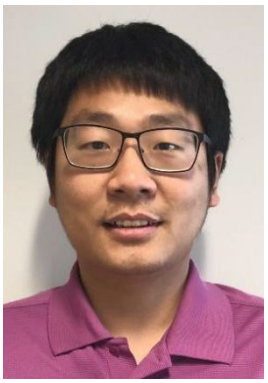
PhD, Urban and Regional Science, Texas A&M University, 2015; MUP, Urban Planning, Texas A&M University, 2009; BS, Electrical Engineering, Texas A&M University, 2000

Interests: Dr. Rosenheim's research focuses on community resilience modeling, food access, and data analytics, using reproducible research methods to provide communities with resources to make fact-based planning decisions.
Google scholar link:
https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=FVX6818AAAAJ

Dr. Thomas. W. Sanchez
Department of Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning

PhD, City Planning, Georgia Tech, 1996; MCRP, City and Regional Planning, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, 1986; BA, Environmental Studies, UC Santa Barbara, 1984

Interests: Dr. Sanchez's research focuses on cities, technology, transportation, and scholarly impact.
Emphasis areas: housing/community development, transportation
Google Scholar link:
https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=UGzbgaIAAAAJ



Dr. Yang Song
Department of Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning

Ph.D in Environmental Design and Planning, Clemson University; Master of Landscape Architecture, Clemson University; BS in Landscape Gardening, Beijing Forestry University, China

Interests: Dr. Song's research focuses on the intersection between placemaking, community planning, and urban design, using the human-centered approach such as social media to understand build environments and urban issues.
Google scholar link:
https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=I-h_YWoAAAAJ

Dr. Katherine Turnbull
Texas Transportation Institute https://tti.tamu.edu/
Department of Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning

PhD Urban and Regional Science, Texas A&M University, 1993; MS Urban Studies, University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, 1976; BS Political Science and History, University of Minnesota at Duluth, 1975

Interests: Dr. Turnbull's interests include transportation planning, public transportation, high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) facilities, and transportation policy.

Dr. Shannon Van Zandt
Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center https://hrrc.arch.tamu.edu/
Department of Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning
Center for Housing and Urban Development
http://chud.arch.tamu.edu/

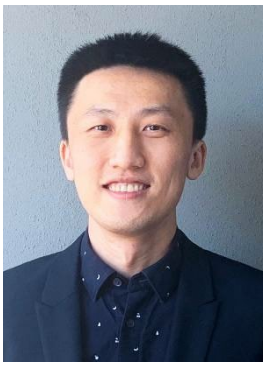
PhD, City & Regional Planning, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2004; MUP, Texas A&M University, 1997; BED, Texas A&M University, 1993

Interests: Dr. Van Zandt's research addresses equity related to the spatial distribution of housing opportunities for low-income and minority groups.
Google scholar link:
https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=hILMtUQAAAAJ

Dr. Douglas Wunneburger
Department of Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning

PhD, Remote Sensing/GIS, Texas A&M University, 1992; M.F. Forestry, Stephen F. Austin State University, 1981; BA Economics, University of Texas, 1977

Interests: Dr. Wunneburger's primary research interests include studies of social impacts due to interactions of demographics and spatially explicit policies and laws.
Google scholar link:
https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=SutkLecAAAAJ



Dr. Boqian Xu
Department of Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning

PhD, City and Regional Planning, University of Pennsylvania, 2023; MLA, University of Pennsylvania, 2016; BS, Landscape Gardening, Beijing Forestry University, 2013

Interests: Dr. Xu's interests include Ecocity, ecological footprint, and geodesign.
Google scholar link: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=U-Y_y5gAAAAJ&hl=en

Dr. Xinyue Ye
Department of Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning

PhD, Geography, University of California at Santa Barbara and San Diego State University, 2010; MS, Geographic Information Systems, Eastern Michigan University, 2004; MA, Geography, University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, 2002

Interests: Dr. Ye's interest areas include big data analytics, geographic information science, geospatial artificial intelligence, network science, spatial econometrics, urban simulation, visual analytics.
Google scholar link:
https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=Uy76pMcAAAAJ

Dr. Siyu Yu
Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center https://hrrc.arch.tamu.edu/
Department of Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning

PhD Urban and Regional Science, Texas A&M University, 2019; Master of Urban Planning, Huazhong University of Science & Technology, China, 2013; MS in Architecture, University of Florida, 2012

Interests: Dr. Yu's interest areas include community resilience, plan integration, land use and environmental planning, social vulnerability, hazard mitigation.
Google scholar link:
https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=XvwWvVMAAAAJ

Dr. Sinan Zhong
Department of Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning

PhD, Urban & Regional Sciences, Texas A&M University; MLA, Landscape Architecture, Texas A&M University

Interests: Dr. Zhong's research interests lie at the intersection between healthy aging and community design. Her research centers on exploring how community environments influence the health, physical activities, and intergenerational interactions of its residents.
Google scholar link:
https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=6E0GShcAAAAJ&hl=en&inst=14379318592444324147&oi=ao

STUDENTS

Our current students are diverse and pursue diverse research topics. Most of them are affiliated with an interdisciplinary research center. The majority of our recent graduates are employed in academic jobs in the US.

Texas A&M University

PhD Program in Urban and Regional Sciences

CURRENT STUDENTS

Mason Alexander-Hawk
Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center https://hrrc.arch.tamu.edu/

BS in Biology, Texas A&M International University, 2015; MPA, Texas A&M-Bush School of Government and Public Service, 2020

Interests: Equitable housing, neighborhood revitalization, community empowerment, disaster recovery

Emphasis areas: Housing and community development; environmental hazards

Contact: Masonrhawk@tamu.edu

Bradley Anderson
Microclimatic design and research group
http://www.designwithmicroclimate.com/

BS Environmental Design, University of Oklahoma, 2019; MLA, University of Oklahoma, 2022

Interests: Microclimate design; thermal comfort; evidence-based health planning and design

Emphasis areas: Health and wellbeing

Contact: banderson@tamu.edu

Jinhyun Bae

Bachelor of Urban Planning and Engineering, Yonsie University, South Korea, 2015; Master of Urban Planning and Engineering, Yonsei University, South Korea, 2017

Interests: Hazard mitigation, urban vacant land, neighborhood change, Spatial and statistical analysis

Emphasis areas: Housing and community development; environmental hazards

Contact: jinhyun2009@tamu.edu

Weishan Bai
Urban data science lab https://urbands.github.io/

BS, Guangzhou University, China, 2018; MS GIS, University at Buffalo, U.S. 2022

Interests: Urban Science, Urban Planning, GIS, Remote Sensing

Contact: weishanb@tamu.edu

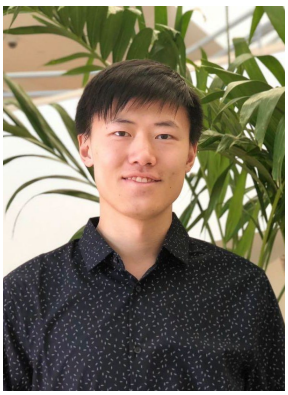
Zhenhang Cai
Center for Housing and Urban Development http://chud.arch.tamu.edu/

BLA, Tunghai University, Taiwan, 2018; MLA, Texas A&M University, 2021

Interests: Environmental hazards and housing & community development

Emphasis areas: Environmental hazards; Housing and community development

Contact: emma_panda2@tamu.edu



Andong Chen

Tianjin University, China, 2016; University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA, 2017

Interests: Accessibility policy, smart mobility, autonomous vehicle, urban informatics

Emphasis areas: Transportation

Contact: andongch@tamu.edu

Wayne Day
Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center https://hrrc.arch.tamu.edu/

Bachelor of Business, University of North Texas; Master of Real Estate, Texas A&M University

Interests: Multifamily housing recovery and other housing- and disaster-related issues

Emphasis areas: Housing and community development; environmental Hazards; sustainability

Contact: waynecday@tamu.edu

Breiana Degrate
Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center https://hrrc.arch.tamu.edu/

BS Human Resource Development, Texas A&M University, 2020; MPA, Texas A&M Bush School of Government and Public Service, 2022

Interests: Equitable housing, community empowerment, disaster recovery, hazard mitigation, low-income housing, displacement, and post-disaster recovery

Emphasis areas: Housing and community development; environmental hazards

Contact: bdegrate@tamu.edu

Li Deng

B.Eng. in Landscape Architecture, Sichuan Agricultural University, China, 2017; M.Eng. in Landscape Architecture, Sichuan Agricultural University, China, 2020

Interests: Urban built environments and human health; restorative environments; landscape perception and preference

Emphasis areas: Health and wellbeing

Contact: lideng@tamu.edu

Yizhen Ding

BSc Landscape gardening, Southwest University & Beijing Forestry University, China; MLA, University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign

Interests: Urban forest and human health, spatial analysis and public health, urban park and children's health, logistic landscape, urban forest and micro-climate

Emphasis areas: Health and wellbeing

Contact: yizhend2@tamu.edu

Brittany Gick
Texas A&M Transportation Institute https://tti.tamu.edu/

BA, Political Science, Manchester University, North Manchester, Indiana, 2009; MA, Transportation Policy, Operations, and Logistics, George Mason University, Arlington, Virginia, 2018

Interests: Freight, Truck Parking, Supply Chain, Electric Buses, Women and Gender Issues, Equity, Transportation Planning

Emphasis areas: Transportation

Contact: b-gick@tamu.edu

Wenjing Gong

B.E., Architecture, Shandong University of Science & Technology, China, 2019; M.E., Architecture (Urban Study), Tongji University, China, 2022

Interests: Urban Analytics, GIScience, Transportation, Human Mobility, Climate Resilience, Digital Twin

Emphasis areas: Transportation; Health and Wellbeing

Contact: wenjinggong@tamu.edu

Zipeng Guo

B.S. in Landscape Architecture, University of Idaho,2019. MLA, University of Idaho, 2022.

Interests: Low-impact design, Place mobility, Big data, Landscape performance, Green infrastructure

Emphasis Areas: Sustainability; Housing and community development

Contact: guo7501@tamu.edu

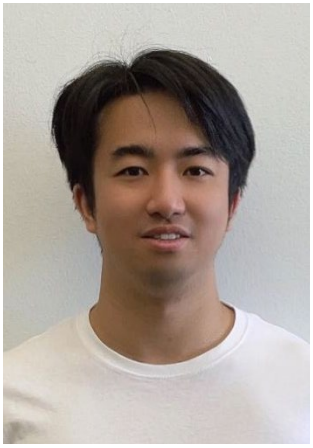
Yeankyoung Hahm

BS Landscape Architecture and Rural Systems Engineering, Seoul National University, South Korea, 2016; MLA, Seoul National University, South Korea, 2018

Interests: Walkability; built environment and human behavior; evidence-based urban design

Emphasis areas: Health and wellbeing; housing and community development

Contact: yeankyoung@tamu.edu



Zhiheng Hu

BS in Electrical Engineering, University of California, Davis, 2019
MUP, Texas A&M University, 2021

Interests: Urban computation, transportation, smart city

Emphasis areas: Transportation

Contact: u62912352@tamu.edu

Tianchen Huang

B.Eng. Urban Planning, Anhui Agricultural University, China, 2018; MLA, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 2021

Interests: Computational urban design, urban digital twin, intelligent transportation systems

Emphasis areas: Environmental hazards; transportation

Contact: th20@tamu.edu

Najmeh Jahani

BSc, Natural Resources and Environmental Engineering at Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Iran, 2011; MSc, Environmental Science and Landscape Planning at Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran, Iran, 2017.

Interests: Urban Landscape and Ecosystem Services, Urban Climate Change, Built/Natural Environment—Public Health

Emphasis areas: Sustainability, Health

Contact: Najmehjahani@tamu.edu

Seonju Jang
Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center https://hrrc.arch.tamu.edu/

BS in Urban and Regional Planning, Pusan National University, 2012;
MS Urban and Regional Planning, Pusan National University, South Korea, 2014.

Interests: Hazard mitigation, community capacity, community resilience, post-disaster recovery

Emphasis areas: Environmental hazards; sustainability; housing and community development

Contact: s.jang@tamu.edu

Jiwoon Jeong

Bachelor of Engineering, Gachon University, South Korea, 2017; Master of City Planning, Seoul National University, South Korea; 2019

Interests: Active living, transportation, traffic safety, travel behavior

Emphasis areas: Sustainability; transportation

Contact: dolcejw324@gmail.com

Sungju Jung

Bachelor of Architecture, Seoul National University, South Korea, 2022; BA Geography, Seoul National University, South Korea, 2022; MLA, Seoul National University, South Korea, 2024

Interests: Public spaces, community engagement, urban design, social and environmental justice

Emphasis areas: Health and wellbeing; housing and community development

Contact: luke9241@tamu.edu

Erika Koeniger

BA in Human Services and International Affairs, Northeastern University, 2017; MPA, Texas A&M University, 2020

Interests: Emergency Management and Community Development

Emphasis areas: Environmental hazards; sustainability; housing and community development

Contact: koeniger.e@tamu.edu

Judanne Lennox-Morrison

BSc Urban & Regional Planning; University of Technology, Jamaica, Masters of Urban Planning; Texas A&M University, College Station

Interests: rural preparedness, participatory planning, cultural competence, spatial geographies of race

Emphasis areas: Environmental Hazards; Housing and Community Development

Contact: j_lennox.morrison@tamu.edu

Muyang Li

B.E., Urban and Rural Planning, Tianjin Chengjian University, China, 2020
MUP, Texas A&M University, USA, 2023

Interests: Older Adults, Autonomous Public Transit, Safety, Outdoor Mobility, Healthy Aging

Emphasis areas: Transportation

Contact: lmy2020@tamu.edu

Xiaoyu Li
Microclimate Design & Research Group
https://research.arch.tamu.edu/microclimatic-design/members/index.html

BEng. Landscape Architecture, Southwest University, 2018; MLA, 2022, Texas A&M University

Interests: landscape architecture, nature and health, thermal comfort, urban microclimate

Contact: lxy819457986@tamu.edu

Shoujia Li

B.Eng. Surveying and Mapping, 2018, Shenyang Jianzhu University, China; M.Eng. Remote Sensing, 2022, Shenyang Jianzhu University, China

Interests: GIS, urban disease prevention, and urban planning

Contact: shoujiali@tamu.edu

Yining Liu

BEng. Landscape Architecture, Beijing University of Civil Engineering and Architecture, 2021; Master of Landscape Architecture, Beijing Forestry University, 2024

Interests: landscape architecture, built environment and well-being, nature and health

Emphasis area: Health and wellbeing

Contact: yiningliu610@tamu.edu

Leslie Lutz
Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center https://hrrc.arch.tamu.edu

BS Renewable Natural Resources, Texas A&M University, 2002; MUP, Texas A&M University, 2007

Interests: Emergency planning and response, hazard mitigation, community resiliency, risk assessment and communication, team processes

Emphasis areas: Environmental Hazards

Contact: leslielutz@tamu.edu

Jessica Lee
Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center https://hrrc.arch.tamu.edu/

B. Arch., Ewha Womans University, South Korea, 2011; MS in Urban Design, Seoul National University, South Korea, 2013

Interests: Hazard mitigation, stormwater management, social and environmental equity, affordable housing, urban design and urban form

Emphasis areas: Environmental hazards; housing and community development; sustainability

Contact: jjlee8605@tamu.edu

Leslie M. Martínez Román
Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center https://hrrc.arch.tamu.edu/

BA in Social Sciences – Criminal Justice, University of Puerto Rico, Carolina Campus, 2016; Master of Planning, University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus, 2022.

Interests: Disaster Research & Housing, especially in Puerto Rico; Informal/Affordable Housing; Relocation with and within socially vulnerable populations; Disaster Induced Relocation; Environmental Inequalities; Gender inequalities before, during and after environmental hazards; Community Engagement/Community Development in underserved areas; Evacuation.

Emphasis areas: Environmental Hazards

Contact: lmartinezroman@tamu.edu

Madison Metsker-Galarza
Texas A&M Transportation Services

BS in Environmental Geosciences, Texas A&M University, 2016; MUP, Texas A&M University, 2018

Interests: Public engagement, communication, town and gown relationships

Emphasis areas: Housing and community development

Contact: m-metsker-galarza@tamu.edu

Tarlan Pourmostaghimi

B.L.A., Urban Development, Tabriz University, Iran, 2014; MS in Urban Design, IAU Science and Research Branch, Iran, 2016

Interests: Urban sustainability, Sustainable Communities, Gentrification

Contact: tarlanpm@tamu.edu

Dingding Ren
Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center http://hrrc.arch.tamu.edu/

BA, urban planning, University of Yunnan, China, 2011; MLA, Texas A&M University, 2018

Interests: Green infrastructure, flooding mitigation, sustainability, water-resilient

Emphasis areas: Environmental hazards; sustainability

Contact: dingding1987@tamu.edu

Carlos Santos-Rivera

Bachelor's in Political Science, Iowa State University; Master of City & Metropolitan Planning, University of Utah.

Interests: Encompasses various topics from federal to local issues, disaster and crisis management, community/economic development, climate resilience and adaptation, housing, and urban politics.

Emphasis areas: Environmental hazards.

Email: csantos@tamu.edu

Jiyeon Shin

BS, Architectural and Urban Systems Engineering, Ewha Womans University, South Korea, 2021; MS, Architectural and Urban Systems Engineering, Ewha Womans University, South Korea, 2023

Interests: Urban Climate Resilience, Urban Spatial Analytics, Urban Climate Vulnerabilities, Urban Regeneration, Urban Equity, and Land Use Science

Emphasis areas: Environmental hazards, sustainability

Contact: jiyeonshin_98@tamu.edu

Michelle Stanley
Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center https://hrrc.arch.tamu.edu/

BS Environmental Engineering, University of Miami, 2017; MS Environmental Engineering, University of Miami, 2018

Interests: Hazards mitigation, disaster recovery, flood mitigation, climate adaptation planning

Emphasis areas: Environmental hazards

Contact: mcstanley@tamu.edu

Quan Sun

B.Eng. Urban Planning, Tianjin University, 2015; MCP City Planning, UC Berkeley, 2017

Interests: Active Transportation, autonomous driving, smart city

Emphasis areas: Transportation; environmental hazards

Contact: sunquan@tamu.edu

Emily Tedford
Center for Health Systems and Design https://chsd.arch.tamu.edu/

BS-URPN and MUP Planning from Texas A&M University, 2015

Interests: Planning for youth, community engagement, built environment and child development

Emphasis areas: Health and Wellbeing; housing and community development

Contact: etedford@tamu.edu

Muhammad Usman
ENDEAVR Group http://endeavr.city/

B.E. Civil Engineering, National University of Science and Technology, Pakistan, 2008; MUP Urban Planning, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2019

Interests: Future transportation technologies, smart city, smart growth, land use and transportation planning

Emphasis areas: Transportation; sustainability

Contact: usman2@tamu.edu

Heather Wade
Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center https://hrrc.arch.tamu.edu/
Oregon Coastal Management Program, Oregon

BS Environmental Studies, 2009; MUP, Graduate Certificate in Environmental Hazards Management, 2011

Interests: Hazard mitigation, coastal management, coastal planning, land use and environmental planning, coastal governance, community resilience, post-disaster recovery, environmental policy

Emphasis areas: Environmental hazards; sustainability; housing and community development

Contact: hwade@tamu.edu

Jason Wallis

BA Music Production and Management; University of Northern Colorado; BA Geographic Information Systems; University of Northern Colorado; MS Transportation Management, University of Denver

Interests: Urban goods movement

Emphasis areas: Transportation; housing and community development

Contact: j-wallis@tti.tamu.edu

Jyun Yi Wang
Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center https://hrrc.arch.tamu.edu/

BS, Fire Science, Central Police University, Taiwan, 2012; MS, Disaster Management, Central Police University, Taiwan, 2018

Interests: Risk Perception, Social Vulnerability, Organizational Behavior, Multi-agency Coordination, Exercise Design and Development, Incident Command System, Emergency Operations Planning, Virtual Reality Simulation Training, and Education and Training of Emergency Managers.

Emphasis areas: Environmental hazards

Contact: jyun@tamu.edu

Haider Waseem Anwar
Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center https://hrrc.arch.tamu.edu/

B.Sc. Political Science from Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), Pakistan, 2015; MA International Relations Central European University, Budapest, Hungary, 2019

Interests: Disaster risk reduction, climate change induced risks, flood risk, social stress and inequality, community resilience

Emphasis areas: Environmental hazards

Contact: anwar_haider@tamu.edu

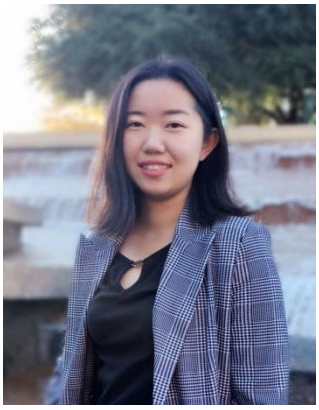
Shenliang Xue
Microclimatic Design Research Group
http://www.designwithmicroclimate.com/

BLA, Nanjing Forestry University, China, 2014; MLA, Tongji University, China, 2018

Interests: microclimate design, thermal comfort, health and well-being

Emphasis areas: Health and Wellbeing; environmental hazards

Contact: simonxue92@tamu.edu



Haoyue Yang

Bachelor of Engineering in Landscape Architecture, Northeastern Forestry University, China, 2017; MLA, Texas A&M University, 2020

Interests: Active Living, evidence-based health planning and design; therapeutic landscapes

Emphasis areas: Health and wellbeing; sustainability

Contact: momoyizan@tamu.edu

Yuning Ye

Bachelor of Management, Urban Management, Nankai University, China, 2020; MUEP, Urban and Environmental Planning, University of Virginia, USA, 2022

Interests: Urban climate change, urban digital twins and public health.

Emphasis area: Sustainability

Contact: yuning.ye@tamu.edu

Subin Yee

BS, Urban and Regional Planning/Real Estate (Dual Degree), Dankook University, Republic of Korea, 2022; MUP, Texas A&M University, 2024

Interests: Disaster Recovery and Hazard Mitigation, Environmental Planning, Social Vulnerability, GIS, Remote Sensing, Deep Learning

Emphasis area: Environmental hazards

Contact: yee0333@tamu.edu

Hyewon Yoon

Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center https://hrrc.arch.tamu.edu

BS, Earth Science Education, Pusan National University, KOR, 2020; MS, Urban Planning and Engineering, Yonsei University, KOR, 2023

Interests: Built Environment, Green inequality, Urban Segregation, Resilient city. Examining the relationship between Urban built environment characteristics and vulnerable population

Emphasis areas: Environmental hazards

Contact: hw.yoon@tamu.edu

Yue Zhang
Microclimatic Design Research Group
http://www.designwithmicroclimate.com/

B.Eng. Landscape Architecture, Nanjing Agricultural University, China, 2017; MLA, Texas A&M University, 2021

Interests: Environmental justice and health equity; urban nature and children's health; microclimatic design and public health

Emphasis areas: Health and Wellbeing; sustainability

Contact: yz94@tamu.edu

Yunpei 'Rainia' Zhang
BS, Urban Planning, Arizona State University, 2018; MS Urban and Environmental Planning, Arizona State University, 2021

Interests: Equitable Planning, Transportation Planning, Hazard Recovery, Open Space Design, Health and Wellbeing, Intelligent Transportation System, Youth Engagement, Revitalization Planning.

Emphasis areas: Environmental hazards, health and wellbeing

Contact: yzhan694@tamu.edu

Kelly Zhang

BS, Urban and Regional Planning, Wuhan University, China, 2015-2020; MS, Urban Planning, Wuhan University, China, 2021-2024.

Interests: Urban geography, Built Environment and Social Environment, Job-housing Balance, Well-being, Migration, Non-linear Effect.

Emphasis areas: Sustainability

Contact: kelly_zhang@tamu.edu

Wenyu Zhang

BSc, GIS, Central China Normal University, China, 2023; MSc, Applied GIS, National University of Singapore, Singapore, 2024

Research interests: Urban informatics, Urban sensing, GeoAI

Contact : wenyu.zhang@tamu.edu

Jiang Zheng
Texas A&M Superfund Research Center https://superfund.tamu.edu

B.L.A., Huazhong Agricultural University, China, 2017; MLA, Texas A&M University, USA, 2023

Interests: Urban regeneration, spatial analytics, flood resilience, and health design.

Emphasis areas: Environmental hazards, sustainability

Contact: jiangzla@tamu.edu

Sarah Zaerpour

BSc, Urban Planning, University of Tehran, Iran, 2019; MSc, Regional Planning, Shahid Beheshti University, Iran, 2022

Interests: Land use and Environmental Planning, Disaster Risk Management and Community Resilience, Climate Adaptation Planning

Emphasis areas: Environmental hazards

Contact: sarah_zaerpour@tamu.edu

Chunwu Zhu

Bachelor of Management, Renmin University of China, 2017; Master of Management, Renmin University of China, 2021

Interests: Disaster simulation; Urban digital twin; Environmental criminology

Emphasis areas: Environmental hazards; transportation

Contact: chunwu.zhu@tamu.edu

Home countries of current students

FORMER STUDENTS (Recent Graduates)

Employment

Employment outcomes for our recent graduates are listed below. Many of our students take one to three years to find their first academic job. When possible, we support these recent graduates in post-doctoral research/teaching positions for up to three years.

Grad. Year	Name	Employment	Type
2024	Jiaxin Du	[2024-Present] Grand Valley State University, Michigan	University
	Chandler Wilkins	[2024-Present] The Urban Institute, Washington, DC	Research Institute
	Joy Semien	[2024-Present] EPA Region 6, Dallas, Texas	Government Agency
	Jennifer Blanks	[2024-Present] USGS, Houston, Texas	Government Agency
2023	Jiahe Bian	[2023 – Present] University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio	University
	Zhihan Tao	[2024 - Present] University of Illinois	University
	Rui Zhu	[2023 - Present] Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas	University
	Malini Roy	[2023 - Present] University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona	University
	Melina Matos	[2023 - Present] Florida Atlantic University	University
	Amaryllis Park	[2022 - Present] Penn State University, University Park, Pennsylvania	University
2022	Alexander Abuabara	[2022 - Present] Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas	University
	Tho Ngo Duc Tran	[2022 - Present] Vietnam Initiative Institute, Hanoi, Vietnam	Research Institute
	Se Woong Kim	[2023 - Present] Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York	University
2021	Clare Losey	[2021 – Present] Texas Real Estate Research Center, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas	Research Institute
	Donghwan Gu	[2021 – Present] The Community Resilience Group, Engineering Laboratory | National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD	Research Institute
	Margit Pap	[2021 – Present] Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas	University

	Kanghyun Lee	[2023 – Present] University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho	University
	Kijin Seong	[2022 - Present] The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas	University
	Jacqueline Kuzio	[2021 - Present] Texas A&M Transportation Institute, College Station, Texas	Research Institute
	Jayton Rainey	[2021 - Present] Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas, Galveston, Texas	Research Institute
2020	Haotian Zhong	[2020 – Present] School of Public Administration and Policy, Renmin University, Beijing, China	University
	Wenwen Cheng	[2020 – Present] University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma	University
	Sinan Zhong	[2020 – Present] Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas	University
	Jinuk Hwang	[2022 - Present] Department of Urban Planning and Engineering, Pusan National University, Busan, South Korea [2021 – 2022] Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements	University
	Maria Perez	[2020 - Present] Hobby School of Public Affairs, University of Houston, Houston, Texas	University
2019	Maria Watson	[2021 – Present] M.E. Rinker School of Construction Management & Shimberg, Center for Housing Studies, College of Design, Construction, & Planning, University of Florida. Gainesville, Florida.	University
	Matthew Malecha	[2019 – Present] Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas	University
	Won Min Sohn	[2019 – Present] School of Planning, Design and Construction, Michigan State University	University
	Siyu Yu	[2019 – Present] Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas	University
	Youjung Kim	[2022 - Present] School of Architecture, Planning, and Landscape, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada	University
2018	Fayola Jacobs	[2019 - Present] University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN	University
	Kayode Atoba	[2020 - Present] Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas, Galveston, Texas	Research Institute
	Ryun Jung Lee	[2022 - Present] the University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas	University
	Sungmin Lee	[2020 - Present] Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas [2018 – 2020] Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture, College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Science, University of Connecticut, Connecticut	University

2017	Han John Park	[2022 - Present] Tulane School of Architecture, Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana	University
	Jaekyung Lee	[2017 – Present] Hongik University, Seoul, Korea	University
	Jeongjae Yoon	[2019 – Present] Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements	Research Institute
	Marccus D. Hendricks	[2017 – Present] University of Maryland, College Park, MD	University
	Philip Lasley	[2017 - Present] Texas A&M Transportation Institute, College Station, Texas	Research Institute
	Russell Blessing	[2019 - Present] Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas, Galveston, Texas	Research Institute
	Tara Ramani	[2017 – Present] Texas A&M Transportation Institute , College Station, Texas	Research Institute
	William Mobley	[2022 - Present] Texas Advanced Computing Center, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas	University

Selected Publications by Recent Graduates

2024	**Du, J**., Ye, X., Jankowski, P., Sanchez, T. W., & Mai, G. (2024). Artificial intelligence enabled participatory planning: a review. *International Journal of Urban Sciences*, *28*(2), 183-210. **Bian, J**., Li, W., Chen, A., Usman, M., Ye, X., Li, X., ... & Ory, M. G. (2024). Smartphone usage and daily trips: an empirical study of small and rural communities in Texas. *Transportation Planning and Technology*, 1-20. **Zhu, R**., Newman, G., & Li, D. (2024). The spatial relationship between long-term vacant housing and non-communicable diseases in US shrinking and growing metropolitan areas. *Cities*, *145*, 104718. **Roy, M.**, Woodruff, S., Meerow, S., Hannibal, B., Matos, M., & Gilbertson, P. (2024). Quality of Cities' Networks of Plans and Prospects for Flood Resilience. *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, 0739456X241236486. **Kim, S. W**., & Brown, R. D. (2023). Development of a micro-scale heat island (MHI) model to assess the thermal environment in urban street canyons. *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*, *184*, 113598. **Seong, K**., & Jiao, J. (2024). Is a Smart City Framework the Key to Disaster Resilience? A Systematic Review. *Journal of Planning Literature*, *39*(1), 62-78. **Zhong, H**., Wang, K., Li, W., Burris, M. W., & Sinha, K. C. (2024). An urban-rural divide? Preferences for autonomous vehicles in small and med-sized metropolitan areas. *Applied Geography*, *169*, 103324.
2023	**Seong, K**., Jiao, J., & Mandalapu, A. (2023). Evaluating the effects of heat vulnerability on heat-related emergency medical service incidents: Lessons from Austin, Texas. *Environment and Planning B: Urban Analytics and City Science*, *50*(3), 776-795. **Bian, J.,** Li, W. and Lee, C. (2023) Current practices and emerging trends of transit apps for fixed-route bus services in the US. *Journal of Public Transportation*, *25*, p.100052. **Kim, S. W.,** Brown, R. D., & Winslow, J. F. (2023). Urban green and blue infrastructure effect on the micro-scale thermal environment in a residential neighborhood: Mueller, Austin, TX. *International Journal of Sustainable Development & World Ecology*, 1-15. **Watson, M**., Brown, C., Handmer, J., Kroll, C., Wein, A., Helgeson, J., Rose, A., Dormady, N. and Kim, J., 2023. Methods and lessons for business resilience and recovery surveys. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, *93*, p.103743. **Gu, D.,** Dillard, M., Gerst, M., & Loerzel, J. (2023). Validating Commonly Used Indicators for Community Resilience Measurement. *Natural Hazards Review*, *24*(2), 04023008. **Sohn, W.,** & Kotval-Karamchandani, Z. (2023). Risk perception of compound emergencies: a household survey on flood evacuation and sheltering behavior during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Sustainable cities and society*, *94*, 104553. **Atoba, K.,** Newman, G., & Sansom, G. (2023). Multi-Hazard property buyouts: Making a case

	for the acquisition of flood and contaminant-prone residential properties in Galena Park, TX. *Climate Risk Management*, *41*, 100529. **Matos, M**., Gilbertson, P., Woodruff, S., Meerow, S., Roy, M., & Hannibal, B. (2023). Comparing hazard mitigation and climate change adaptation planning approaches. *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*, 66(14), 2922-2942.
2022	**Hwang, J.** (2022). A factor analysis for identifying people with disabilities' mobility issues in built environments. *Transportation Research Part F: Traffic Psychology and Behaviour*, 88, 122-131. **Kim, S. W.,** & Brown, R. D. (2022). Pedestrians' behavior based on outdoor thermal comfort and micro-scale thermal environments, Austin, TX. *Science of the total environment*, 808, 152143. **Seong, K., Losey, C., & Gu, D.** (2022). Naturally Resilient to Natural Hazards? Urban–Rural Disparities in Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Assistance. *Housing Policy Debate*, 32(1), 190-210. **Watson, M.** (2022). Disaster Assistance Winners and Losers: Do Small Businesses Benefit?. *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 88(3), 305-318. **Zhong, S.,** & Lee, C. (2022). Developing the Intergenerational Community Survey for older adults: Assessing neighborhood environments, social and physical activities, and health. *Health & Place*, 77, 102901. **Matos, M**., Gilbertson, P., Woodruff, S., Meerow, S., **Roy, M**., & Hannibal, B. (2022). Comparing hazard mitigation and climate change adaptation planning approaches. Journal of Environmental Planning and Management, 1-21. **Mobley, W., & Blessing, R.** (2022). Using machine learning to predict flood hazards based on historic damage. In *Coastal Flood Risk Reduction* (pp. 61-75). Elsevier.
2021	**Cheng, W.,** Li, D., Liu, Z., & Brown, R. D. (2021). Approaches for identifying heat-vulnerable populations and locations: A systematic review. *Science of The Total Environment*, 799, 149417. **Hwang, J.,** Li, W., Stough, L. M., Lee, C., & Turnbull, K. (2021). People with disabilities' perceptions of autonomous vehicles as a viable transportation option to improve mobility: An exploratory study using mixed methods. *International Journal of Sustainable Transportation*, 15(12), 924-942. **Rainey, J. L.,** Brody, S. D., Galloway, G. E., & Highfield, W. E. (2021). Assessment of the growing threat of urban flooding: a case study of a national survey. *Urban Water Journal*, 18(5), 375-381. **Seong, K., Losey, C.,** & Van Zandt, S. (2021). To Rebuild or Relocate? Long-Term Mobility Decisions of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Recipients. *Sustainability*, 13(16), 8754. **Sohn, W.,** Bae, J., & Newman, G. (2021). Green infrastructure for coastal flood protection: The longitudinal impacts of green infrastructure patterns on flood damage. *Applied Geography*, 135, 102565. **Hendricks, M. D.,** & Van Zandt, S. (2021). Unequal protection revisited: Planning for environmental justice, hazard vulnerability, and critical infrastructure in communities of color. *Environmental justice*, *14*(2), 87-97. **Watson, M.** (2021). The role of SBA loans in small *business survival after disaster events. Journal of Planning Education and Research*, 0739456X211028291.

	Zhong, H., Li, W., & Boarnet, M. G. (2021). A two-dimensional propensity score matching method for longitudinal quasi-experimental studies: A focus on travel behavior and the built environment. *Environment and Planning B: Urban Analytics and City Science*, 48(7), 2110-2122. **Park, H. J.,** & Choi, K. (2021). Affordable housing program tenants and their access to public transportation and employment. *Journal of Housing and the Built Environment*, *36*, 1119-1139. **Hung-Lung Wei,** Michael K. Lindell, Carla S. Prater, Jiuchang Wei & Fei Wang (2021) Texas households' expected responses to seasonal influenza, Journal of Risk Research, 24:11, 1405-1425, DOI: 10.1080/13669877.2020.1863847 **Jacobs, F.** (2021). Beyond social vulnerability: COVID-19 as a disaster of racial capitalism. *Sociologica*, *15*(1), 55-65.
2020	**Lee, S.**, Lee, C., Nam, J. W., Abbey-Lambertz, M., & Mendoza, J. A. (2020). School walkability index: Application of environmental audit tool and GIS. *Journal of Transport & Health*, *18*, 100880. **Yu, S.**, Brand, A.D., Berke, P. (2020). Making Room for the River: Applying a Plan Integration for Resilience Scorecard to a Network of Plans in Nijmegen, Netherlands. *Journal of the American Planning Association (Conditionally Accepted)*. **Zhong, S.**, Lee, C., Foster, M., and **Bian, J.** (2020). Intergenerational Communities: A Systematic Literature Review of Intergenerational Interactions and Older Adults' Health-Related Outcomes. *Social Science & Medicine*. In Press.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The URSC program requires a minimum of 64 credit hours, including 32 credits of core curriculum and 32 or more credits of electives and research credits.

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

The URSC requires a minimum of 64 credit hours, including 32 credits of core curriculum, and 32 or more credits of electives and research credits. All credit hours beyond 99 are charged out-of-state rates. The minimum duration is about 3.5 years, but students are told to expect the program to take four years. Students are required to have a master's degree before beginning the PhD The curriculum is structured as follows:

1. **Core Curriculum** (32 Credits)
   a. Research Approaches (9 credits)
      - CARC 601 - Foundation of Research in Planning and Design
      - CARC 602 - Research Methods in Planning and Design
      - One Specialty Research Methods Course (3 credits): e.g. ECON 655, EDAD 690, GEOG 611, LAND 640, PLAN 613, PHSB 605, RELM 635, SOCI 623, SOCI 624, or SOCI 633

   b. Analytic Methods (9 credits)
      - URSC 641 – Analytic Methods in Landscape and Urban Research I
      - URSC 642 – Analytic Methods in Landscape and Urban Research II
      - One Specialty Analytic Course (3 credits): e.g. URSC 645, SOCI 631, EDAD 690, FRSC 663, PBSI 607, PBSI 671, PBSI 673. Or EPSY 690

   c. Theory (9 credits)
      - URSC 631 – Foundations of Planning Thought
      - URSC 632 – Structure and Functions of Cities and Regions
      - One Specialty Theory Course (3 credits): e.g. ARCH 675, LAND 645, LDEV 673, LDEV 677, PLAN 627, PLAN 631, PLAN 647, PLAN 649, PLAN 664, POLS 646, RLEM 602, or SOCI 622

   d. Professional Development (2 credits)
      - URSC 681 – Professional Seminar I (1 credits)
      - URSC 682 – Teaching Practicum (1 credits)

   e. Teaching (3 credits)
      - URSC 685 - Teaching Practicum (3 credits)

2. **Specialty Curriculum** (9-12 Credits)
   - Three or four other specialty courses (9-12 credits) that fit the student's research interests to be agreed upon with his/her committee chair

3. **Research/Dissertation Credits**
   - Research/dissertation credits for the rest of the course of study.

Brief Description of Core Courses

CARC 601/URSC601. Foundations of Research in Planning and Design. (3-0). Credit 3.
Introduction to the research process and its application to problems in planning and design; presentation of philosophy and logic underlying the scientific method; critical analysis of planning and design literature according to each step of the research process: problem definition, hypothesis development, study design, analysis and interpretation of the findings.

CARC 602/URSC 602. Research Methods in Planning and Design. (3-0). Credit 3.
Basic empirical research methods used in planning and design research: experimental, survey and case study designs; comparisons of the various methods; application of techniques in sample selection, data collection, analytic approaches. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: URSC 641.

URSC 631. Foundations of Planning Thought (3-0). Credit 3.
This PhD level course examines a series of foundational issues in planning and design theory. These include the definition of planning problems, rationality, modernism and post modernism, the validation of value judgments, relations with future generations, multiculturalism and gender justice in liberal democratic societies.

URSC 632. Structure and Functions of Cities and Regions (3-0). Credit 3.
Surveys the design, financial, natural, physical, political and social parameters that influence the development of cities and regions, including presentation of theories about cities and regions, organization of, planning to shape them, and public and private sector plans for structure and function of cities and regions.

URSC 641. Urban and Regional Analysis I. (3-0). Credit 3.
Provides students in urban and regional science with a fundamental understanding and hands on experiences with techniques and procedures related to conceptual measurement and operational issues, data set development and manipulation, and data analysis issues critical for conducting academic research.

URSC 642. Analytic Methods in Landscape and Urban Research II. (3-0). Credit 3.
Provides students in urban and regional science with a survey of hands on experiences with advanced techniques and procedures related to conceptual measurement and operational issues, data set development and manipulation and data analysis issues critical for conducting academic research. Prerequisites: STAT 651, CARC 601, URSC 641, permission.

URSC 681. Professional Seminar I. (1-6). Credit 1.
Analysis and criticism of selected landscape architectural projects. Lectures, reports and discussions.

URSC 682. Professional Seminar II. (1-6) Credit 1.
Reports and discussions of current research and selected topics in urban and regional planning.

URSC 685. Directed Studies (take when doing the Teaching Practicum). (1-6) Credit 3.
All doctoral students must teach a course before graduating. Students who are instructors of record for an undergraduate course should concurrently enroll in URSC 685 with their mentor or chair to receive the teaching credit. Students who do not have an opportunity to teach will: (a) enroll in URSC 685 in their 3rd Spring Semester, (b) complete the Center for Teaching Excellence's Academy for Future Faculty certification program, and (c) guest-instruct one lecture in a section of URPN 202.

URSC 691. Research. (1-23) Credit 1.
Research for the dissertation. Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.

Specialty Courses

- Available courses for Specialty Methods, Analytic Methods, and Theory are listed below, but other courses may be substituted with the approval of URSC Program Coordinator or Graduate Committee Chair.
- Take at least one course from each section during the first two years of the study.

Research Methods Courses	Credits
ECON 655 Experimental Economics	3
EDAD 690 Theory of Educational Administration Research	3
GEOG 611 Geographical Research Design[1]	3
LAND 640 Research Methods in Landscape Architecture	3
PLAN 613 Planning Methods and Techniques	3
SOCI 623 Measurement of Sociological Parameters	3
SOCI 624 Qualitative Methodology	3
SOCI 633 Demographic Methods	3
PLAN 689 Special Topics: At times, faculty offer specialty methods courses, e.g., survey design, qualitative, community engagement, etc.	3
Analytic Methods Specialty Courses	**Credits**
SOCI 631 Seminar in Sociological Research	3
EDAD 690 Theory of Educational Administration Research[2]	3
PSYC 607 Experimental Psychology	3
PSYC 671 Experimental Design for Behavioral Scientists	3
URSC 645 Urban & Regional Analytics (Data Management)	3
STAT 647 Spatial Statistics	3

[1] **GEOG611** is one of the required courses for geography grad students. There is a cap in enrollment and priority will be given to their own grad students during the enrollment.

[2] **EDAD690** is usually only open to their SAAHE cohort students.

Theory Specialty Courses	Credits
ARCH 675 Health Design and Research	3
LAND 645 Practice Diversity in Landscape Architecture	3
LDEV 667 Design and Development Economy	3
PLAN 612 Transportation & the City	3
PLAN 627 Economic Development	3
PLAN 635 Ecological Planning & Design	3
PLAN 647 Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Recovery	3
PLAN 664 Planning Theory and History	3
PLAN 656 Housing & Community	3
PLAN 673 Sustainable Transportation	3
PLAN 689 Special Topics: At times, faculty offer specialty theory courses	3

Degree Planning Guide

Students are expected to follow the degree plan as outlined below. Changes to the course sequence must be approved the Graduate Advisor (Thena Morris) in consultation with the URSC Program Chair.

Year 1

FALL			
Course	**Type**	**Title**	**Credit**
CARC 601	Method (core)	Foundations	3
URSC 641	Analytic (core)	Analytic Research Methods I	3
URSC 631 Or URSC 632	Theory (core)	Foundations of Planning Thought Structure and Functions of Cities and Regions	3
URSC 681	Other (core)	Seminar	1
TOTAL			10

SPRING			
Course	**Type**	**Title**	**Credit**
CARC 602	Method (core)	Methods	3
URSC 642	Analytic(core)	Analytic Research Methods II	3
URSC 631 Or 632	Theory (core)	Foundations of Planning Thought OR Structure and Functions of Cities and Regions	3
URSC 682	Other (Core)	Seminar	1
TOTAL			10

Year 2

FALL			
Course	**Type**	**Title**	**Credit**
Specialty Method Course			3
Specialty Analytic Course			3
Specialty Theory Course			3
TOTAL			9

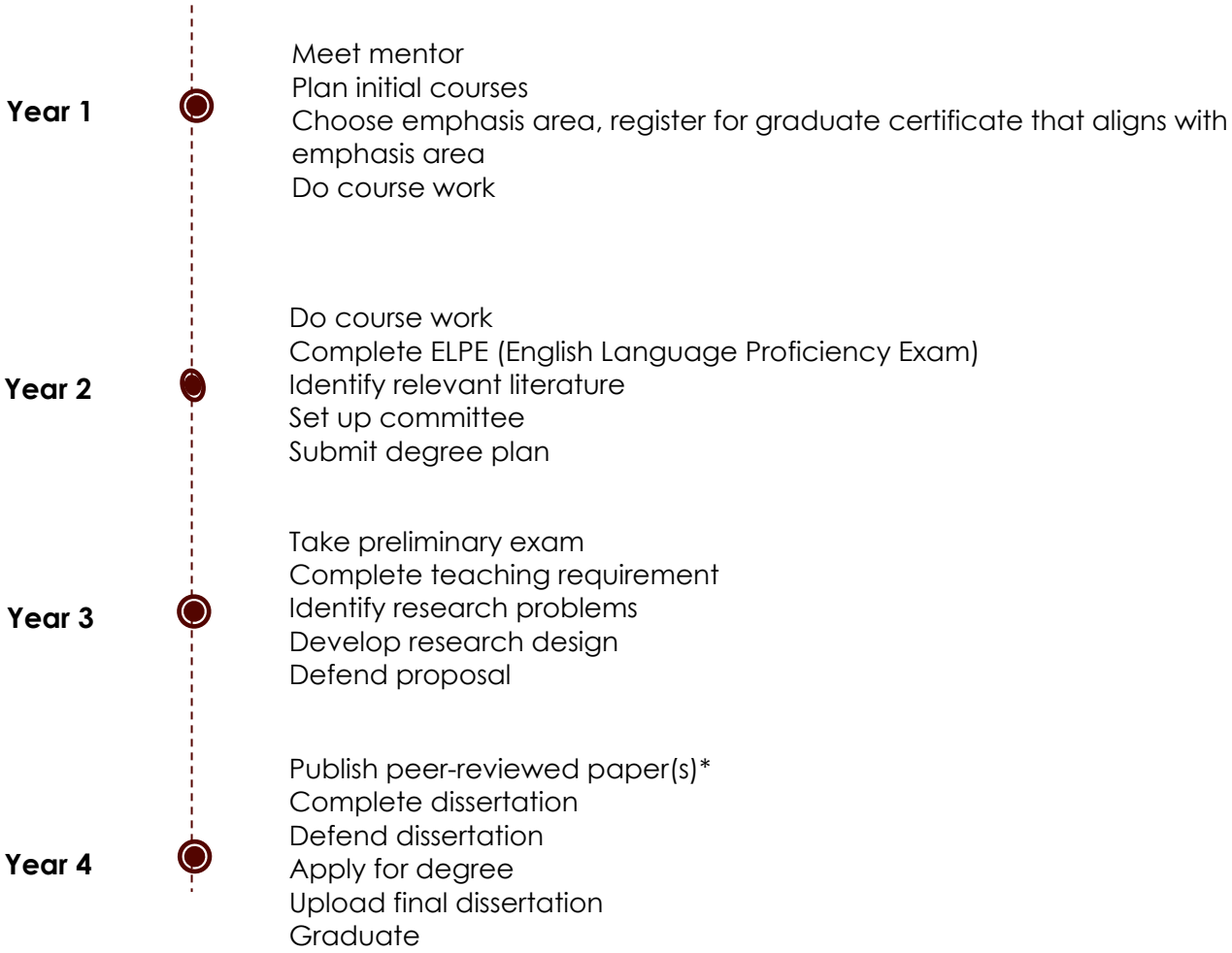
SPRING	
Course	**Credit**
Specialty Curriculum	9-12
TOTAL	9-12

Year 3+

REMAINING SEMESTERS	
Course	**Credit**
Teaching Practicum (URSC 685 Directed Studies)	3
Research Hours	20
TOTAL	23

Recommended Degree Timeline

4-year Timeline



Note: * means aspiration goals

PROCEDURAL AND MILESTONE GUIDELINES

a. Meet Mentor and Plan Initial Courses

Meet with your mentor and plan your first semester courses and start thinking about your research emphasis area. You can also meet with graduate advisor Thena Morris or the PhD Program Chair to discuss courses.

b. Select Committee and Submit Degree Plan

Select your committee chair (who may or may not have been your mentor). With your Chair select the other members of your committee. Once selected, submit your degree plan to the Graduate School. Your committee includes at least 4 faculty members: 3 of which should be from our department and at least one member from a different department. You can have more than 4 faculty members if you would like, as long as at least one member is "external" to our department.

c. Complete Coursework and ELPE

To be eligible for a teaching assistant (TA) position, international students are required to meet the English Language Proficiency (ELP) standards. TA titles include Graduate Assistant - Teaching [GAT], Lecturer [GAL], Instructor [GAI], and Graduate Teaching Fellow [GTF].

Level #	TOEFL Essentials (Speaking Section)	TOEFL (Speaking Section)	IELTS (Speaking Section)	ELPE oral exam (locally administered)	Eligibility Levels for International Students Seeking to Serve in Teaching Positions
1	≥ 11	26-30	≥8.0	≥80	Eligible for Teaching Assignments
2	9-10	23-25	7.0-7.5	≥75	Conditionally Eligible for Teaching Assignments
3	≤ 8	<23	<7.0	<75	Students Not Eligible for Teaching; Additional Training, such as CTE-ELP Required

- **English Language Proficiency (ELP):** https://grad.tamu.edu/academics/academic-success-resources/elp
- **Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE):** https://cte.tamu.edu/Graduate-Student-Support/English-Language-Proficiency
- **Testing Services:** https://testing.tamu.edu/Exams/ELPE

d. Take Preliminary Examination

Student and chair review eligibility requirements using the Preliminary Examination checklist, which should be completed several weeks prior to Preliminary Examination date. Checklist must be signed by the Chair of the graduate student's committee, URSC program coordinator, and LAUP department head.

1. Student checks the availability of committee members—Completed several weeks prior to preliminary exam date.
2. Student prepares and submits any petition found necessary by review of the eligibility requirements—Should be completed at least three weeks prior to proposed preliminary exam date. Approved by students' advisory committee, URSC program coordinator, LAUP department head, and Graduate and Professional School. When an exam date is determined, the department will announce the schedule, as approved by the student's chair, URSC program coordinator and department head.
3. Take the preliminary exam—The Preliminary Examination is taken after the coursework is completed (or at least within 6 hours of completing coursework) and prior to the proposal defense. Preliminary Exam content covers general theory and methods taught in the URSC program as well as specialty theory and methods related to the student's emphasis area. The Preliminary Exam is meant to be general enough to show student capacity to research and teach in urban planning field(s) and specialty knowledge to teach courses related to their emphasis area. The Preliminary Exam is broader than the student's dissertation research.

   Preparation for the Preliminary Exam begins with the student preparing a reading list that covers theory, research methods, and their emphasis area. The reading list is approved by the student's committee members before beginning to study for the Preliminary Exam. Students will then study for the Preliminary Exam for 3-9 months. The student may ask their fellow students for example questions and may ask their committee to provide example questions or additional guidance on expectations.

   The format the Preliminary Exam is determined by the graduate student advisory committee and agreed to by the student and includes a written and oral component. The written component consists of essay responses with appropriate citations from their reading list for approximately 3-10 questions depending on committee. Written components may be open or closed book, depending on committee. Typical written component formats include:

   a. A 72-hour written take home exam,
   b. An 8-hour written sit down exam on campus, or
   c. Several exams over a limited time period that may be substituted for one single exam over a longer duration.

   Alternatively, the student's dossier may be submitted where considerable extant expertise warrants. The student then must orally defend the written preliminary exam response(s) to the satisfaction of her or his faculty advisory committee. The oral defense of the Preliminary Examination is scheduled through the Graduate and Professional School. The format of the oral defense of the preliminary exam is arranged with the student's graduate committee but is not to exceed two hours.

4. Chair submits the Report of the Preliminary Examination and the Preliminary Examination Checklist to OGAPS.
5. Chair and committee evaluate student progress in key learning outcomes for the URSC program, and submit to the URSC Program Chair.
6. Graduate and Professional School notifies the student and chair of any action necessary to rectify any deficiencies.

e. Defend Dissertation Proposal

The format of the written research proposal is determined with the student's chair and advisory committee. The written proposal is submitted to the advisory committee for review, followed by an oral defense of the proposal by the advisory committee. The proposal may be approved or sent back to the student for changes requested. If changes are requested, the advisory committee decides if another oral defense is necessary.

The research proposal should be approved at meeting of the student's advisory committee, at which time the feasibility of the proposed research and the adequacy of available facilities should be reviewed. The approved proposal signed by all members of the student's advisory committee, the head of the student's major department (or chair of the intercollegiate faculty, if applicable), must be submitted to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies at least 15 working days prior to the submission of the Request for the Final Examination.

To be admitted to candidacy for a doctoral degree, a student must have: (1) completed all formal course work on the degree plan with the exception of any remaining 681, 684, 690 and 691, (2) a 3.0 Graduate GPR of at least 3.0 with no grade lower than C in any course on the degree plan, (3) passed the Preliminary Examination (written and oral portions), (4) submitted an approved dissertation proposal, (5) met the residence requirements. The final examination will not be authorized for any doctoral student who has not been admitted to candidacy.

f. Complete Residence

Complete residence requirement through the Howdy portal—Completed prior to scheduling oral dissertation defense as approved by TAMU.

g. Apply for Degree

Apply for degree pay graduation fee—Completed the first week of the final semester as per graduate calendar.

Graduate degrees are conferred at the close of each regular semester and 10-week summer semester. A candidate for an advanced degree who expects to complete his/her work at the end of a given semester must apply for graduation by submitting the electronic application for degree to the Office of the Registrar and by paying the required graduation fee at the Fiscal Department no later than the Friday of the second week of the fall or spring semester or the Friday of the first week of the first summer term.

h. Defend Final Dissertation

Submit request for permission to hold and announce Final Examination—must be received by the Graduate and Professional School at least 10 working days prior to requested exam date as approved by advisory committee, URSC program coordinator, LAUP department head and TAMU.

The Dissertation in URSC involves a written component and an oral defense. The oral defense is the "Final Examination" milestone for the TAMU Graduate and Professional School. Students should review guidelines and formatting from TAMU at thesis.tamu.edu early in the dissertation process.

thesis.tamu.edu

Students in URSC generally complete written dissertations in one of two formats, which is decided in discussion with their advisory committee. Students may complete either a traditional dissertation or a "3-paper-model". The traditional dissertation is one monograph that has several related chapters, often including the following chapters: Introduction, Literature Review, Methods, Results (there may be more than 1 Results chapter), and Conclusion. The 3-paper-model has three stand-alone publication quality journal articles with an Introduction paper that overviews the group of papers and a Conclusion paper that summarizes results from the whole dissertation.

The written dissertation is a product produced with supervision from the student's chair. The final dissertation, formatted and publication-quality, is then submitted to the advisory committee for review approximately 2 weeks before the student's oral defense date.

Final Examination/Dissertation Defense Requirements

The candidate for the doctoral degree must pass a final examination by deadline date announced in the "Office of Graduate and Professional Studies Calendar" each semester or summer term. The doctoral student is allowed only one opportunity to take the final examination. No student may be given a final examination unless his or her current official cumulative and degree plan **GPRs are 3.000 or better and he or she has been admitted to candidacy. No unresolved grades of D, F, or U for any course can be listed on the degree plan.** To absolve a deficient grade, a student must have repeated the course work and have achieved a grade of C or better. A student must have completed all course work on his or her degree plan with the exception of 691 (Research) or 692 (Professional Study) hours. The student must be registered for all remaining hours; no hours remain to be taken on the degree plan. The Preliminary Examination results must have been submitted to OGAPS 12 weeks prior to the defense. The research proposal must have been submitted to the OGAPS 15 working days prior to the date of the final examination/defense. Any changes to the committee must be approved by OGAPS prior to the approval of the Final Examination. The request for permission to hold and announce the Final Examination must be submitted to OGAPS a **minimum of 10 working days in advance** of the scheduled date. Examinations/Defenses that are not completed and reported satisfactory to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies within 10 working days of the scheduled

examination/defense date will be recorded as failures. **OGAPS must be notified in writing of any cancellation.**

The student's advisory committee will conduct this examination. The Final Examination is not to be administered until the dissertation or record of study is available in substantially final form to the student's advisory committee, and all concerned have has adequate time to review the document. Additionally, all English Language Proficiency requirements must be satisfied prior to scheduling the examination. Whereas the Final Examination may cover the broad field of the candidate's training, it is presumed that the major portion of the time will be devoted to the dissertation and closely allied topics. Persons other than members of the graduate faculty may, with mutual consent of the candidate and major professor, be invited to attend the Final Examination for an advanced degree. A positive vote by all members of the graduate advisory committee with at most one dissension is required to pass a student on his or her exam. A department can have a stricter requirement provided there is consistency within all degree programs within a department. Upon completion of the questioning of the candidate, all visitors must excuse themselves from the proceedings.

The advisory committee will submit its recommendation on the appropriate Report of the Final Examination for Doctoral Candidates form to OGAPS regarding acceptability of the candidate for the doctoral degree. A student must be registered in the University in the semester or summer term in which the final examination is taken.

i. Upload Final Dissertation with TAMU Thesis Office

Upload an approved final copy of dissertation as a single PDF file—As per Graduate and Professional School deadlines published in calendar, as approved by advisory committee, URSC coordinator, LAUP department head and TAMU.

Dissertation Requirements

The ability to perform independent research must be demonstrated by the dissertation, **which must be the candidate's original work.** Whereas acceptance of the dissertation is based primarily on its scholarly merit, it must also exhibit creditable literary workmanship. The format of the dissertation must be acceptable to TAMU. Guidelines for the preparation of the thesis are available in the *Thesis Manual*, which is available online at thesis.tamu.edu.

After successful defense and approval by the student's advisory committee and the head of the student's major department (or chair of the intercollegiate faculty, if applicable), a student must submit his/her dissertation to the Thesis Office in electronic format as a single PDF file. The PDF file must be uploaded to the Thesis Office Web site, thesis.tamu.edu. Additionally, a signed approval form must be brought or mailed to the Thesis Office. Both PDF file and the signed approval form are required by the deadline.

Before a student can be "cleared" by the Thesis Office, a processing fee must be paid at the Fiscal Department. This processing fee includes a charge for microfilming services and inclusion in Digital Dissertation database through the Texas A&M Libraries.

A dissertation that is deemed unacceptable by the Thesis Office because of excessive corrections will be returned to the student's department head or chair of the intercollegiate faculty. The manuscript must be resubmitted as a new document, and the entire review process must begin anew. The original submittal deadlines must be met during the resubmittal process in order to graduate.

RESOURCES

There are many resources and opportunities available to the URSC students within the department and the university, including funding, research, student life, teaching, learning, and career development.

Texas A&M University

PhD Program in Urban and Regional Sciences

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

All students accepted and admitted into the URSC program are eligible for financial aid.

Assistantships

A graduate assistantship – teaching (GAT), non-teaching (GANT), or research (GAR), is available to a qualified student on a competitive basis. An assistantship requires up to 20 hours a week. Appointment to an assistantship is normally for 9 months. Many assistantships are awarded through the applicant's major department, but additional assistantships are awarded from individual faculty members with external funding.

Fellowships

A few competitive fellowships are available for doctoral students. Most consistently, the program nominates students for Merit Fellowships which are awarded by URSC, the College, and Diversity Fellowships, which are awarded by the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies. Ordinarily, a graduate student holding a fellowship is not required to perform any services.

Student Workers

A limited number of student worker positions may be available. These provide an hourly wage for work done in the department or for an individual faculty member. No additional benefits (tuition, fees) are provided.

Scholarships

Applications for departmental scholarships are accepted in January of each year. Students must apply to be considered for scholarships.

Other Financial Support

Graduate Student Research and Presentation (RAP) Travel Award from OGAPS:
RAP Travel Award provides graduate students with educational and professional development opportunities through reimbursing up to $750 for travel expenses associated with academic conferences and research projects in the United States and abroad.
https://ogaps.tamu.edu/Buttons/Funding-Opportunities/Research-and-Presentation-Award-Guidelines

Dissertation fellowships from OGAPS:
This fellowship is intended to support doctoral students in the final analysis of the research topic and the final writing of the dissertation, and will be awarded to 10 students in the fall and 5 students in the spring.
https://ogaps.tamu.edu/Buttons/Funding-Opportunities/Dissertation-Fellowship

MIRC PhD Grants from the Mays Innovation Research Center, Texas A&M University
The Mays Innovation Research Center (MIRC), an interdisciplinary center at Texas A&M, is announcing research grants for PhD students at Texas A&M. The mission of the MIRC is to understand the true nature of innovation.
https://mays.tamu.edu/innovation-research-center/grants/

Open Access to Knowledge Fund (OAKFund) from the library:
The Open Access to Knowledge Fund (OAKFund) at Texas A&M University underwrites publication charges for scholarly journal articles, book chapters, and books published in fully Open Access publications.
https://library.tamu.edu/services/scholarly_communication/Open_Access/oakfund.html

PIVOT Funding Database Available Through the Library:
Pivot allows research administrators, research development professionals, and individual faculty members the ability to search and track the right research funding opportunities — quickly and easily. It provides global and local connections that strengthen research by exploring new avenues for funding and collaboration—for faculty, staff researchers, and graduate students.
https://vpr.tamu.edu/initiate-research/funding-databases

ACSP Student Travel to the Annual Conference from ACSP:
ACSP travel scholarships will provide financial support to doctoral students to attend the ACSP Conference. Each award includes a student conference full registration waiver plus $500 USD in cash to defray travel expenses to the conference. Awards are granted to those for whom conference attendance would otherwise not be possible.
https://www.acsp.org/page/AwardACSPTravel#:~:text=For%202020%2C%20fourteen%20(14),travel%20expenses%20to%20the%20conference

Student Award for Research or Creative Scholarship from Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA):
This award recognizes students' outstanding performance in research or creative scholarship.
https://thecela.org/student-award/

Student Scholarships and Fellowships from American Society of Landscape Architect (ASLA):
https://www.asla.org/scholarships.aspx

Texas Planning Award from American Planning Association Texas Chapter:
The APA Texas Planning Awards Program recognizes individuals, organizations and communities for outstanding contributions to planning in Texas.
https://texas.planning.org/community-outreach/chapter-awards/

Academic Excellence Award from Texas A&M University:
This Academic Excellence Award is intended to recognize, encourage and assist currently enrolled undergraduate, graduate and professional students who have

excellent scholastic records, campus and community activities, leadership positions, work experience and, in some cases, evidence of financial need.
http://scholarships.tamu.edu/Apply-for-Scholarships

International Student Services Scholarships:
Scholarships are available to currently enrolled international continuing students through the University Scholarship Application. This application is available twice a year for International Student Services Scholarships.
https://scholarships.tamu.edu/CONTINUING-STUDENTS/University-Scholarships#0-InternationalStudentServicesScholarships

RESEARCH CENTERS

Nearly all doctoral students work through one of the College's research units. The units that are primarily associated with the URSC program include:

The Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center
(Director: Michelle Meyer)

The Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center (HRRC) was established at Texas A&M University in 1988. HRRC researchers focus on hazard analysis, emergency preparedness and response, disaster recovery, and hazard mitigation. Researchers study the full range of natural and technological hazards.

The Center for Housing & Urban Development
(Director: Shannon Van Zandt)

CHUD's mission is to provide leadership as a center of inquiry for the creation of sustainable housing and communities. Sustainable communities are those that feature vibrant economies, offer a choice of housing and transportation modes, are closer to jobs, schools, shopping, and recreation, are less energy dependent, and help protect clean water and air (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development).

The Center for Health Systems & Design
(Director: Ray Pentecost)
Specialty labs: Design Research for Active Living (Director: Chanam Lee);
Microclimatic-Design Research Group (Director: Robert Brown)

Center for Health Systems & Design is home to the world's largest collection of interdisciplinary faculty, students, and affiliated professionals committed to research and education about environments for healthcare.

The Center for Health Systems & Design is a creation of the Colleges of Architecture and Medicine at Texas A&M University intended to promote research, innovation and communication in an interdisciplinary program that focuses on health facility planning and design. The research interests of faculty fellows range from the effects of stress on patients' health and wellbeing, to the design of healing environments for neonatal patients, children, the elderly, people who live in the Texas colonias and AIDS patients.

The Center for Heritage Conservation (Director: Fabrizio Aimar)

The Center for Heritage Conservation was authorized in 2005 as a professional center for interdisciplinary research and service projects on all aspects of built and natural heritage. Since 1977, Texas A&M University has been recognized for academic and research programs dedicated to the better understanding of our historic legacy.

The Center supports research of planned and built environments with particular emphasis on their continued use and care. Investigations are performed through sponsored projects and professional and academic graduate studies. Research findings are disseminated to the public through publications and presentations in academic and professional journals and conferences.

The Center for Geospatial Sciences, Applications, and Technology (GEOSAT)
(Director: Xinyue Ye)

The Center for Geospatial Sciences, Applications, and Technology (GeoSAT) was established by the Texas A&M Board of Regents. It aims to foster excellence in research, education, and outreach activities through innovative development and use of geospatial technology solutions that will advance interdisciplinary scientific inquiry, enhance conceptual and experiential learning, and promote technology transfer and capacity building.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Urban and Regional Science Student Organization (URSSO)

The URSSO, serving as the Urban and Regional Sciences doctoral student representative organization in the Department of Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning at Texas A&M University, exists to share and discuss individual and collective concerns pertaining to its members and to advocate for their interests in their graduate, academic and research, and professional and career development experiences.

The URSSO is established to provide an officially recognized graduate student organization at Texas A&M University in order to:

- Serve as a collective voice for students in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning's Urban and Regional Sciences (URSC) doctoral program.
- Foster a climate in which all URSC doctoral students feel a sense of community and belonging.
- Establish open and effective communications among the URSSO members, other students, faculty, staff and the Graduate Student Council of Texas A&M.
- Encourage academic and research interactions among the URSSO members and between the members and faculty and staff at the department, college and university levels.
- Provide and coordinate professional and career development opportunities that will benefit URSSO members.
- Promote the prestige, reputation, and recognition of the Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning at the local, state, national, and international levels.

http://laup.arch.tamu.edu/academics/graduate/ursc/resources/ursc-handbook/ursso/

UNIVERSITY WRITING CENTER

The University Writing Center, a unit of Undergraduate Studies, supports writing and public speaking for every Texas A&M student, with particular emphasis on supporting Writing and Communication courses. Our priorities are:

- To help graduate and undergraduate students practice the habits of mature composers of written and oral communication.
- To provide resources for faculty and Graduate Assistant Teachers for integrating best writing and oral communication pedagogy into courses across the disciplines and in the core curriculum.

The University Writing Center respects and addresses students' learning differences. We celebrate language diversity and growth, emphasizing the value and recognition of

Global English. Above all, we seek to provide a safe space of encouragement in the development of communication processes for every Aggie, affirming the multitudes of their backgrounds and experiences.

We embrace the university's diversity initiatives and continually assess our progress to maintain accountability to and recognition of our unique Aggie community. We work to foster a safe and welcoming environment by

- Attending national and regional conferences to learn about diversity, inclusion, equity, accessibility, and learning in higher education including the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity (NCORE), the International Writing Centers Association (IWCA), and the National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing (NCPTW);
- Actively recruiting tutoring and professional staff from underrepresented populations;
- Employing an ESL/ELL Specialist who conducts regular staff trainings for our consultants and collaborates with The Center for Teaching Excellence's English Language Proficiency (ELP) program and the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies;
- Emphasizing the best practices for creating course materials using the elements of universal design;
- Serving on university-level committees related to diversity and inclusion, such as the Academic Affairs Climate and Diversity Committee (AACDC), the African American Professional Organization (AAPO), and the University Staff Council;
- Completing certifications, trainings, and courses such as the College Reading and Learning Association program, Aggie Allies (supporting the LGBTQIA community), Step in Stand Up (supporting victims of sexual assault), QPR (suicide prevention), and Green Dot (ending violence).

https://writingcenter.tamu.edu/

CENTER FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE (CTE)

CTE Mission Statement
Support the educational mission of Texas A&M University (TAMU) through evidence-based professional development opportunities promoting proven and innovative instructional approaches aligned with faculty and student success.

CTE Diversity Statement
Recognize the integral value of diverse perspectives and inclusive teaching approaches; strive to ensure that all faculty, teaching assistants, and students, regardless of their identity, can excel.

Workshops
It offers many workshops covering topics ranging from classroom management and course design to instructional technology and inclusive teaching. They are offered on a consistent schedule each semester. The workshops are informal and interactive and offer faculty and staff a safe environment to share and discuss their experiences. The Center also offers graduate student-specific workshops through the **Academy of Future Faculty program.**
https://cte.tamu.edu/

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES (ITS)

Under the leadership of our IT Director, Chrissie Cordray, ITS strives to provide innovative solutions to the college in order to meet its teaching, research, and outreach goals.

Contact Information
Office: Coke Building, Suite 109
Phone: 979.862.8584
Email: helpdesk@arch.tamu.edu

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES (ISS)

Contact Information
Office: Pavilion Room 110, 1226 TAMU
Phone: 979.845.1824
Email: iss@tamu.edu
http://iss.tamu.edu

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

TAMU library provides the systematic review service that is open to all Texas A&M University affiliated students, faculty, and staff working on systematic reviews, meta-analysis, scoping reviews, rapid reviews, and more. The TAMU library also maintains access to all dissertations completed by TAMU students, including URSC former students.

Contact Information
https://library.tamu.edu/

TAMU Dissertations in Oaktrust
http://oaktrust.library.tamu.edu/handle/1969.1/1/browse?type=department&value=Landscape+Architecture+and+Urban+Planning

SINGLE SIGN ON (SSO)

The Single Sign On (SSO) system is the Texas A&M System's one point of entry for HRConnect, TrainTraq and other online applications. UINs are used as the login username. This service is provided by the A&M System's Business Computing Services. Log in at SSO.tamus.edu. Visit https://employees.tamu.edu/orgdev/ to learn more about using SSO

OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF STUDENT LIFE

Provide education, outreach, and support to students. For more information about student assistance services, legal services, media, women's resources, off-campus student services, new student & family program:
https://studentlife.tamu.edu/

COUNSELING & PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS)

CAPS remains committed to supporting students' mental health and wellbeing. For more information about mental health services, diversity and inclusion, etc.
https://caps.tamu.edu/

GRADUATE STUDENT CAREER SERVICES

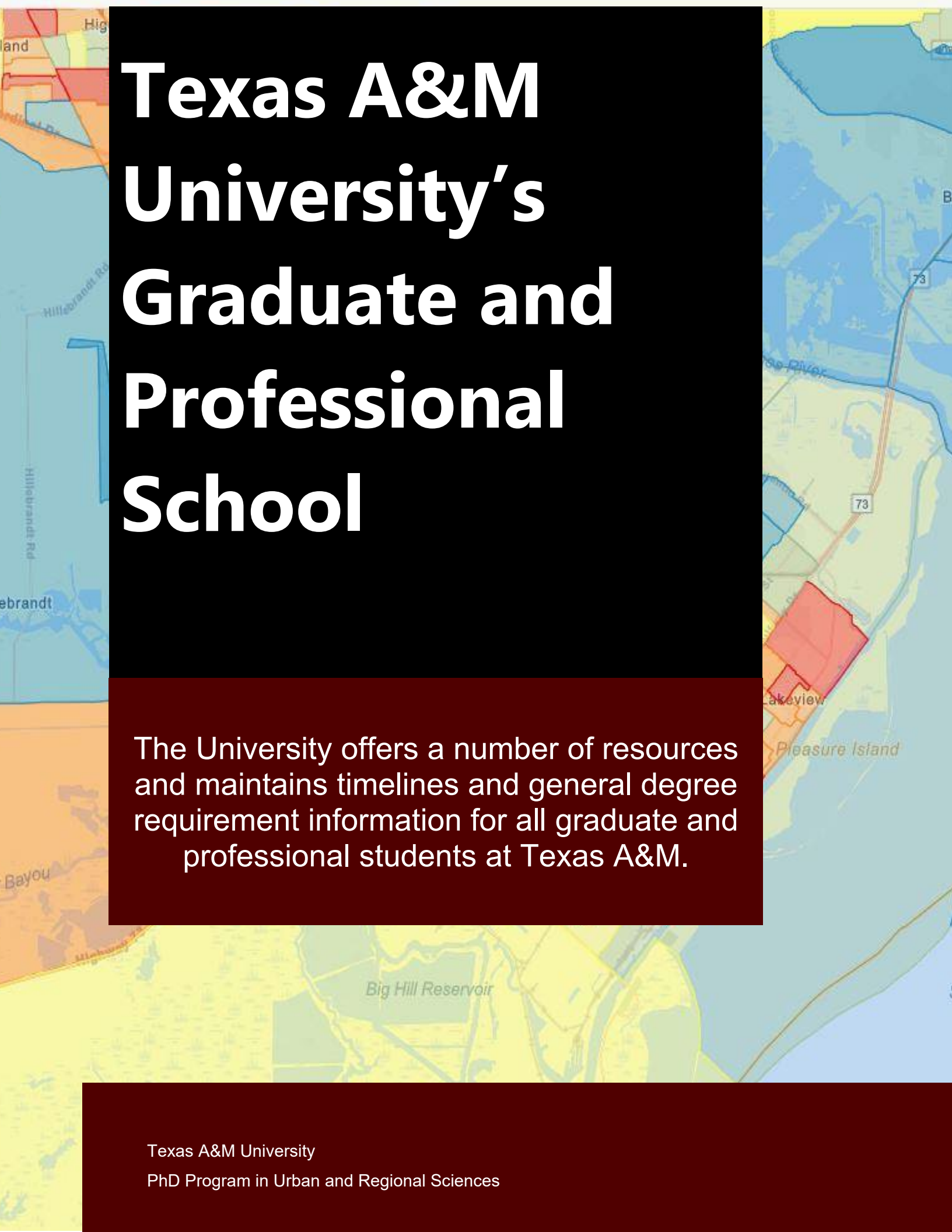
Available to all current graduate students and former students. For more information about resume & CV review and advising, career guide and job posting, etc., visit:
https://careercenter.tamu.edu/

CENTER FOR INTEGRATION OF RESEARCH, TEACHING AND LEARNING (CIRTL)

CIRTL Network is a coalition of over 35 research universities, of which Texas A&M University is a member. Through STEM-focused, CIRTL programming is open to ALL disciplines.
http://cirtl.tamu.edu/

MONEY EDUCATION (ME) CENTER

ME center can help you make the best decisions on money management, buying home/car, saving and investing, etc.
https://money.tamu.edu/



Texas A&M University's Graduate and Professional School

The University offers a number of resources and maintains timelines and general degree requirement information for all graduate and professional students at Texas A&M.

Texas A&M University
PhD Program in Urban and Regional Sciences

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Contact Information
Office: 204 Nagle Hall, 1113 TAMU College Station, TX 77843
Phone: 979.845.3631
https://grad.tamu.edu/

TAMU Graduate and Professional School Detailed Steps for Completing Preliminary Examination

1. Establish advisory committee. Submit a degree plan.
   When: Prior to the deadline set by the student's college, and no later than 90 days prior to preliminary examination.
   Approved by: Advisory committee, department or intercollegiate faculty chair, and Office of Graduate Studies and Professional Studies (OGAPS).
2. Complete English language proficiency requirements (if applicable), and course work detailed on degree plan.
   When: Before Preliminary Examination.
3. Student and chair review eligibility requirements for the Preliminary Examination using the "Preliminary Examination Checklist."
   When: Several weeks before the proposed date of the Preliminary Examination. Check list must be signed by the chair and department head, or intercollegiate faculty chair.
4. Student checks the availability of committee members.
   When: Several weeks before the proposed date of the Preliminary Examination.
5. Student prepares and submits any petitions found necessary by the review of the eligibility requirements.
   When: At least three weeks before the proposed date of the Preliminary Examination.
   Approved by: Advisory committee, department head or intercollegiate faculty chair, and OGAPS.
6. When exam date is determined, the department may announce the schedule.
   Approved by: Committee Chair, department head or intercollegiate faculty chair.
7. Chair submits the Report of the Preliminary Examination and the Preliminary Examination Checklist to OGAPS.
   When: Within 10 working days of the date of the scheduled oral examination and no later than 14 weeks prior to the final defense date.
   Approved by: Advisory
8. Office of Graduate Studies notifies the student and chair of any actions necessary to rectify any deficiencies.
   When: Upon receipt of the report of the doctoral Preliminary Examination.

Graduate and Professional School Preliminary Examination Requirements

The Preliminary Examination for a doctoral student shall be given no earlier than a date at which the student is within approximately 6 credit hours of completion of the formal course work on the degree plan (i.e., all course work on the degree plan except 681, 684, 690 and 692 courses). The student is strongly encouraged to complete the Preliminary Examination no later than the end of the semester following the completion of the formal course work on the degree plan. The Office of Graduate and Professional Studies must receive the results of the Preliminary Examination at least 14 weeks prior to the final examination date (the dissertation defense). The examination shall be oral and written unless otherwise recommended by the student's advisory committee and approved by the OGAPS. The written part of the examination will cover all fields of study included in the student's degree plan. Each member of the advisory committee is responsible for administering a written examination in his or her particular field, unless he or she chooses to waive participation in this part of the examination. Two or more members of the advisory committee may give a joint written examination. One or more members may require a student to take a departmental or intercollegiate faculty examination to supplement or replace a written examination. Each written examination must be completed and reported as satisfactory to the chair of the advisory committee before the oral portion of the examination may be held. In case any written examination is reported unsatisfactory, the entire advisory committee must agree (1) to proceed with the oral portion of the Preliminary Examination, or (2) to adopt another course of action regarding the unsatisfactory written examination. Either procedure is subject to the approval of the OGAPS.

Prior to scheduling the Preliminary Examination with the other committee members, the committee chair will review with the student eligibility criteria, using the Preliminary Examination Checklist to ensure the student is ready for the examination. The following list of eligibility requirements applies.

- The student is registered at Texas A&M University for the semester or summer term during which any portion of the Preliminary Examination may fall. If the entire examination falls between semesters, then the student must be registered for the term immediately preceding the examination.
- An approved degree plan was on file with the Office of Graduate Studies at least 90 days prior to the first written examination.
- The student's cumulative GPR is at least 3.000.
- The student's degree plan GPR is at least 3.000.
- All English language proficiency requirements have been satisfied.
- All committee members have scheduled or waived the written portion and agreed to attend the oral portion of the examination or have found a substitute. Only one substitution is allowed and it cannot be for the committee chair.
- At the end of the semester in which the exam is given, there are no more than 6 hours of course work remaining on the degree plan (except 681, 684, 690, 691

and 692). The head of the student's department (or Chair of the Intercollegiate Faculty, if applicable) has the authority to approve a waiver of this criterion.

- The time span from the first written examination to the oral is **no more than three weeks**. (In cases of department-wide written examinations, this criterion is not applicable.) The head of the student's department (or chair of the intercollegiate faculty, if applicable) has the authority to approve a waiver of this criterion.

Once all requirements are met, departments or interdisciplinary degree programs may announce the schedule of the written and oral parts of the examination.
The chair of the student's advisory committee is responsible for making all written examinations available to the members of the advisory committee at or before the oral portion of the examination. A positive vote by all members of the graduate committee with at most one dissention is required to pass a student on his or her exam. A department or interdisciplinary degree program can have a stricter requirement provided there is consistency within all degree programs within a department or interdisciplinary program.

The chair of the advisory committee will report the results of the Preliminary Examination to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies, using the Report of Doctoral Preliminary Exam form, and the Preliminary Examination checklist. Both forms must have appropriate signatures and should be submitted to the OGAPS within 10 working days of the scheduled examination.

After passing the required preliminary oral and written examinations for the doctoral degree, the student must complete all remaining requirements for the degree within four calendar years. Otherwise, the student will be required to repeat the Preliminary Examination.
A student who has failed the Preliminary Examination may be given one re-examination with the approval of the student's advisory committee. Adequate time should be given to permit the student to address the inadequacies emerging for the first examination (normally six months). The student and the advisory committee should jointly negotiate a mutually acceptable date for this purpose.

A student must be registered at Texas A&M University for a minimum of one semester credit hour in the semester or summer term in which they will take any portion of the Preliminary Examination.

Graduate and Professional School Dissertation Proposal Requirements

The general field of research to be used for the dissertation should be agreed on by the student and the advisory committee at their first meeting, as a basis for selecting the proper courses to support the proposed research.

As soon thereafter as the research project can be outlined in reasonable detail, the dissertation research proposal should be completed. The research proposal should be approved at meeting of the student's advisory committee, at which time the feasibility

of the proposed research and the adequacy of available facilities should be reviewed. The approved proposal signed by all members of the student's advisory committee, the head of the student's major department (or chair of the intercollegiate faculty, if applicable), must be submitted to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies at least 15 working days prior to the submission of the Request for the Final Examination.

Compliance issues must be addressed if graduate student is performing research involving human subjects, animals, infectious biohazards and recombinant DNA. A student involved in these types of research must check with the Office of Research Compliance, Office of the Vice President for Research at 979-845-8585 to ensure that all compliance responsibilities are met.

Admission to Candidacy Requirements

To be admitted to candidacy for a doctoral degree, a student must have: (1) completed all formal course work on the degree plan with the exception of any remaining 681, 684, 690 and 691, (2) a 3.0 Graduate GPR of at least 3.0 with no grade lower than C in any course on the degree plan, (3) passed the Preliminary Examination (written and oral portions), (4) submitted an approved dissertation proposal, (5) met the residence requirements. The final examination will not be authorized for any doctoral student who has not been admitted to candidacy.

Final Examination/Dissertation Defense Requirements

The candidate for the doctoral degree must pass a final examination by deadline date announced in the "Office of Graduate and Professional Studies Calendar" each semester or summer term. The doctoral student is allowed only one opportunity to take the final examination. No student may be given a final examination unless his or her current official cumulative and degree plan **GPRs are 3.000 or better and he or she has been admitted to candidacy. No unabsolved grades of D, F, or U for any course can be listed on the degree plan.** To absolve a deficient grade, a student must have repeated the course work and have achieved a grade of C or better. A student must have completed all course work on his or her degree plan with the exception of 691 (Research) or 692 (Professional Study) hours. The student must be registered for all remaining hours; no hours remain to be taken on the degree plan. The Preliminary Examination results must have been submitted to OGAPS 12 weeks prior to the defense. The research proposal must have been submitted to the OGAPS 15 working days prior to the date of the final examination/defense. Any changes to the committee must be approved by OGAPS prior to the approval of the Final Examination. The request for permission to hold and announce the Final Examination must be submitted to OGAPS a **minimum of 10 working days in advance** of the scheduled date. Examinations/Defenses that are not completed and reported satisfactory to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies within 10 working days of the scheduled examination/defense date will be recorded as failures. **OGAPS must be notified in writing of any cancellation.**

The student's advisory committee will conduct this examination. **The Final Examination is not to be administered until the dissertation or record of study is available in substantially final form to the student's advisory committee, and all concerned have has adequate time to review the document.** Additionally, all English Language Proficiency requirements must be satisfied prior to scheduling the examination. Whereas the Final Examination may cover the broad field of the candidate's training, it is presumed that the major portion of the time will be devoted to the dissertation and closely allied topics. **Persons other than members of the graduate faculty may, with mutual consent of the candidate and major professor, be invited to attend the Final Examination for an advanced degree.** A positive vote by all members of the graduate advisory committee with at most one dissension is required to pass a student on his or her exam. A department can have a stricter requirement provided there is consistency within all degree programs within a department. Upon completion of the questioning of the candidate, all visitors must excuse themselves from the proceedings.

The advisory committee will submit its recommendation on the appropriate Report of the Final Examination for Doctoral Candidates form to OGAPS regarding acceptability of the candidate for the doctoral degree. A student must be registered in the University in the semester or summer term in which the final examination is taken.

Dissertation Requirements

The ability to perform independent research must be demonstrated by the dissertation, **which must be the candidate's original work.** Whereas acceptance of the dissertation is based primarily on its scholarly merit, it must also exhibit creditable literary workmanship. The format of the dissertation must be acceptable to OGS. Guidelines for the preparation of the thesis are available in the *Thesis Manual*, which is available online at thesis.tamu.edu.

After successful defense and approval by the student's advisory committee and the head of the student's major department (or chair of the intercollegiate faculty, if applicable), a student must submit his/her dissertation to the Thesis Office in electronic format as a single PDF file. The PDF file must be uploaded to the Thesis Office Web site, thesis.tamu.edu. Additionally, a signed approval form must be brought or mailed to the Thesis Office. Both PDF file and the signed approval form are required by the deadline.

Before a student can be "cleared" by the Thesis Office, a processing fee must be paid at the Fiscal Department. This processing fee includes a charge for microfilming services and inclusion in Digital Dissertation database through the Texas A&M Libraries.

A dissertation that is deemed unacceptable by the Thesis Office because of excessive corrections will be returned to the student's department head or chair of the intercollegiate faculty. The manuscript must be resubmitted as a new document, and the entire review process must begin anew. The original submittal deadlines must be met during the resubmittal process in order to graduate.