

COMMUNITY PLANNING - ASSOCIATE IN ARTS



CPLD

This program may be completed at the Knight (Warwick) Campus but requires one or more courses be completed online.

This two-year program prepares students for careers as planning technicians (<https://planning.org/jobdescriptions/planningtech/>) in state, local, and regional planning offices, as well as consulting firms. Students develop practical skills in zoning administration, building plan review, GIS mapping, and code enforcement while learning to communicate planning regulations effectively to diverse audiences.

The curriculum combines planning theory with hands-on training in technical tools and administrative procedures. Graduates will be equipped to review permit applications, conduct site investigations, create data visualizations, manage multiple projects, and maintain legal records that meet professional standards.

Career opportunities include planning technicians, zoning administrators, permit coordinators, and GIS specialists.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this program, a student will be able to:

1. Understand fundamental planning principles and analyze how these principles inform the application of local ordinances to development scenarios
2. Interpret site plans and apply zoning codes to determine whether proposed developments meet regulatory requirements
3. Analyze zoning ordinance requirements and evaluate permit applications for compliance with use, bulk, placement, and parking standards
4. Analyze site plans and evaluate for violations of planning regulations
5. Remember the components of parcel legal descriptions and apply this knowledge to verify property boundaries for planning applications
6. Explain planning regulations to diverse audiences and apply appropriate communication strategies to address citizen inquiries and concerns
7. Apply established procedures to prepare public notices and create accurate administrative records that meet legal and professional standards
8. Apply research methods to gather information from multiple sources and analyze collected data to support planning decisions
9. Apply GIS software tools and create maps, charts, and tables to support planning analysis and public information needs
10. Apply organizational systems to track multiple projects and evaluate priorities to determine optimal task sequencing and resource allocation

Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Requirements		
COMM 1010	Communication Fundamentals ^A (Work-Based Learning Course)	3
ECON 1000	Introduction to Economics	3
ENGL 1010	Composition I (or ENGL 1010A)	3
GEOG 1010	Introduction to Geography	3
GEOL 1030	Natural Disasters	3
MATH 1175	Statistics for the Health and Social Sciences (or MATH 1175C)	3
POLS 1030	State and Local Government	3
Sub-Total General Education Requirements		21
Major Requirements		
AGIS 1000	ArcGIS I: Introduction to ArcGIS	4
AGIS 1500	ArcGIS II: Data Management and Spatial Analysis	4
AGIS 2000	ArcGIS III: Field Data Collection and Web Applications	4
BUSN 1015	Business Computing Applications	3
CMPL 1010	Introduction to Community Planning	3
CMPL 2010	Site Planning	3
CMPL 2020	The Comprehensive Plan	3
COMI 2015	Introduction to Microsoft Project	1
ENGL 2100	Technical Writing	3
LAWS 1200	Land Use, Planning, and Zoning (Rhode Island Focus)	3
LIBA 1010	Cooperative Work Experience I ^A (Work-Based Learning Course)	3
LIBA 1020	Cooperative Work Experience II	4
Choose ONE of the following:		3
ENGR 1030	Engineering Graphics	
SOCS 1010	General Sociology	
Sub-Total Major Requirements		41
Total Hours		62

Recommended Course Sequence

Course	Title	Hours
Year 1		
Semester 1		
ENGL 1010	Composition I (OR ENGL 1010A)	3
MATH 1175	Statistics for the Health and Social Sciences (OR MATH 1175C)	3
GEOL 1030	Natural Disasters	3
CMPL 1010	Introduction to Community Planning	3
LAWS 1200	Land Use, Planning, and Zoning (Rhode Island Focus)	3
Hours		15
Semester 2		
ENGL 2100	Technical Writing	3
COMM 1010	Communication Fundamentals ^A (Work-Based Learning Course)	3
BUSN 1015	Business Computing Applications	3
CMPL 2010	Site Planning	3

CMPL 2020	The Comprehensive Plan	3
Hours		15
Year 2		
Semester 1		
GEOG 1010	Introduction to Geography	3
POLS 1030	State and Local Government	3
AGIS 1000	ArcGIS I: Introduction to ArcGIS	4
AGIS 1500	ArcGIS II: Data Management and Spatial Analysis	4
LIBA 1010	Cooperative Work Experience I* (Work-Based Learning Course)	3
COMI 2015	Introduction to Microsoft Project	1
Hours		18
Semester 2		
ECON 1000	Introduction to Economics	3
Choose ONE of the following:		3
ENGR 1030	Engineering Graphics	
SOCS 1010	General Sociology	
AGIS 2000	ArcGIS III: Field Data Collection and Web Applications	4
LIBA 1020	Cooperative Work Experience II	4
Hours		14
Total Hours		62

Transfer

Please meet with an Academic Advisor/Student Success Coach (<https://ccri.edu/advising/>) if you are interested in earning a bachelor's degree. Your Academic Advisor will help you select the courses that best prepare you for transfer to a four-year college or university.

Check out the Joint Admissions Agreement (<https://ccri.edu/jaa/>) if you are interested in transferring to Rhode Island College or the University of Rhode Island. The JAA program offers seamless transfer to RIC or URI with additional benefits. Transfer information, events, and articulations are available on the Transfer Center website (https://ccri.edu/oes/transfer_center/).