

# Have You Seen This Major?

Planning is a systematic and creative way to influence the future of neighborhoods, cities, rural, and metropolitan areas. Planners use their professional skills to serve communities facing social, economic, environmental, and cultural challenges by helping residents to:

- Preserve and enhance the quality of life
- Protect the natural and built environment
- Promote equity and equality
- Improve services to disadvantaged communities
- Effectively deal with growth and development of all kinds

Most Planners share a common set of skills even though they may specialize in one or more particular areas. This “toolkit” includes:

- Involving all parties in making planning decisions
- Helping communities develop their own vision of the future and preparing plans that reflect that vision
- Analyzing information to suggest possible solutions to complex problems
- Evaluating the cost-effectiveness of proposed projects and plans
- Offering recommendations to public officials and citizens in a comprehensive and understandable way



## SEE WHAT A STUDENT HAS TO SAY...

**“I think the Planning Program at Missouri State prepared me for the real world by providing an education on the fundamentals of the planning practice. No matter what field you choose to go into, these building blocks are essential for getting up the learning curve quickly.”**

**- Justin Crighton, Senior Planner**

**For more information, please contact:**

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# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## ABOUT THE DEGREE

**Does this major require a minor? What minors work well with this major?**

The planning major is a comprehensive professional degree, and as such, no minor is required.

**Does this major require a practicum or internship?**

Yes, the planning major requires both a practicum and an internship. The program prides itself in creating an environment for doing planning before a student leaves the university.

**What courses should a student take to explore this major?**

PLN 100, GRY 322

**What are the admission requirements to the major?**

No special admission requirements; general MSU admission requirements apply.

## AFTER THE DEGREE

**How would you describe the demand for graduates with this major? What are some types of jobs for which your graduates are prepared to apply?**

The demand for planners is robust. Graduates find planning jobs at the city, county, and state levels in a wide range of specializations that include: land-use planning, environmental planning, economic development planning, transportation planning, community planning, and disaster planning to name a few.

**What are some typical jobs for graduates with this major?**

Land-use planner, who develops ways to encourage growth in certain places. Environmental planner, who works to protect the natural and built environment. Economic planners, who help bring jobs to a community—for example, working in a chamber of commerce. Transportation planners, who plan the transportation system. Community planners, who help preserve and enhance the quality of life in communities

**What are some of the most successful graduates from the major doing?**

For this information, please visit  
<http://geosciences.missouristate.edu/72944.htm>

**Do careers in this field require or prefer graduate study?**

Many planning students will pursue an advanced degree in this field during their careers. Approximately 30% go directly to graduate school after graduating from MSU, the remainder often complete a masters degree during their careers.

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