

**WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR IN**

# URBAN PLANNING STUDIES

**OVERVIEW OF MAJOR**

At the undergraduate level, Concordia University's Department of Geography, Planning and Environment offers a BA Honours and a BA Specialization in Urban Planning as well as a BA Major and Minor Urban Studies. A Master of/Magisteriate in Science (Geography, Urban and Environment Studies) as well as a Diploma in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) are offered at the graduate level. For the latest information on programs, faculty and their areas of research go to the Department of Geography, Planning and Environment's Internet site at:  
<http://www.gpe.concordia.ca>.

The need for planners and their specialized skills remains strong with the expansion and evolution of cities and towns, the continued development of rural areas and the increasing emphasis on the protection and enhancement of our natural environment.

Full membership in one of the provincial associations affiliated with the Canadian Institute of Planners, is a requirement in order to use the designated MCIP (Member, Canadian Institute of Planner) title. The Professional Standards Board for the Planning Profession in Canada (PSB) processes all applications (except student and Quebec residents) for candidate membership in the CIP (Canadian Institute of Planners) and its provincial affiliates. In Quebec, the affiliated provincial association is the Ordre des urbanistes du Québec. Websites for these organizations are available further on in this profile.

**EXAMPLES OF JOBS ACQUIRED BY  
CONCORDIA GRADUATES**

The following job titles are representative of the types of entry-level positions for which Concordia University students are qualified upon graduation. Note that the numbers following each job title refer to Canada's National Occupational Classification (NOC) code. For details on these titles go to <http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/>

- Consultant, Planning & Network Management
- Development Permit Technician
- Environmental Waste Technician (4161)
- Geographic Analyst
- Guide-Educator
- Junior Environmental Consultant (4161)
- Land-use Planning and Regional Development Advisor (2153, 4163)
- Planning & Process Coordinator
- Program Assistant
- Project Leader, Construction Design
- Project Manager (0711)
- Research Assistant (4164)
- Sustainable Housing Policy Researcher
- Sustainable Transportation Officer
- Transportation Specialist
- Urban Landscaper
- Urban Planning Technician (2231)
- Urban Planner (2153)
- Youth Intern

**CELEBRATED URBAN PLANNING STUDIES  
MAJORS**

**Andrés Duany**. Architect & Urban Planner. Leader of the "New Urbanism Movement"

**Norman Krumholz**. Professor. "Father of Equity Planning"

**Ian McHarg**. Landscape Architect. Leader in the American Ecology Movement

**Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk**. Dean, University of Miami's School of Architecture and Coauthor of Suburban Nation

**Blanche Van Ginkel**. Canadian Architect and Planner. First Woman Officer of the PQAA (Province of Quebec Architects Association)

## MORE JOB TITLES

Planners work to improve the welfare of people and their communities by creating better places for them to live and work. Planners develop the plans and oversee the projects. The titles below are not meant to be exhaustive but are representative of fields which urban planning/urban studies majors pursue. Keep in mind that some occupations require further education (e.g., a higher degree, second degree, diploma). Note that the numbers following each job title refer to Canada's National Occupational Classification (NOC) code. For details on these titles go to <http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/>.

- Architect (2151)
- Cartographer (2255)
- City/Municipal Planner (2153)
- Community Planner (2153)
- Economic Developer (0412, 4163)
- Editor (5122)
- Facility Maintenance Manager (0721)
- Historian (4169)
- International Development Officer (4163, 4164)
- Journalist (5123)
- Lawyer (4112)
- Legal Advisor (4112)
- Lobbyist (4161)
- Planning Analyst (2153)
- Policy Researcher
- Political Aide
- Political Campaign Worker
- Politician (0011)
- Public Policy Specialist
- Real Estate Developer (0121))
- Regional Planner (2153)
- Site Planner (2153)
- Social Worker (4152)
- Transportation Planner (2153)
- University Professor (4121)
- Urban Planner (2153)
- Zoning Officer (2153)

## POTENTIAL WORK SETTINGS

Planners work worldwide in cities, towns and rural areas. They are employed in public, private and community sectors. If you wish to research specific employers who hire those in the field, there are many resources available in such locations as the Career Resource Centre, the Webster Library, Vanier Library and the Internet.

- Architecture Firms
- Colleges & Universities
- Construction Companies
- Consulting Firms

- Economic Development Agencies
- Engineering Firms
- Environmental Regulatory Agencies
- Government (Federal, Provincial and Municipal)
- Health-Related Services
- Historical Restoration Agencies
- Housing and Urban Development Firms
- International Development Agencies
- Investment Companies
- Land Developers
- Non-profit Organizations
- Park/Historic Sites
- Planning and Development Commissions
- Public Utilities
- Real Estate Agencies
- Recreational Centres
- Retailing Chains
- Social Service Organizations
- Transportation Agencies

## SKILLS AND CHARACTERISTICS

Planners need to be able to see the big picture and be able to place specific planning issues in a broader context. They also need strong communication skills in order to get their proposals accepted and put their plans into action. An understanding of how various levels of government function and their decision-making processes is also useful in the work that they do. Planning is a highly collaborative field, and planners frequently work on a multidisciplinary team spending much time working with others. In addition, students will find the following skills, interests, values and other characteristics valuable for succeeding in the field.

- Ability to Discern Trends in Populations, Employment and Health
- Ability to Work with Diverse Groups
- Accountability to the Community
- Awareness of Current Events
- Computer Skills
- Creative
- Critical Thinking
- Decision Making Skills
- Interest in Geography and the Environment
- Interpersonal Skills
- Land Use Knowledge
- Listening and Questioning Skills
- Management Skills
- Mediation Skills
- Patience
- Problem Solving
- Project Management Skills
- Report Writing Skills
- Research Abilities

## CON'T. – SKILLS AND CHARACTERISTICS

- Responsive to Clients Needs
- Team Worker
- Willingness to Work Irregular Hours

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION AND OTHER LINKS

Making wise career decisions requires exploring your field. A multitude of Internet sites and other resources will help you do this to the best of your ability. Professional association sites, in particular, are very useful for their career descriptions and job hunting tips. Moreover, these authoritative sites frequently provide links to Internet sites which announce job openings and list potential employers. A few recommended sites are included below.

### CANADIAN

#### Canadian Institute of Planners

<http://www.cip-icu.ca>

As the national voice of Canada's planning community, this organization aims to promote responsible planning both here and abroad. It offers events and conferences that allow the new professional not only to stay current but network with others in the field. Check out the Student Zone to find a wealth of information on careers and educational planning programs. Full membership in one of the provincial associations affiliated with the Canadian Institute of Planners, is a requirement in order to use the designated MCIP (Member, Canadian Institute of Planner) title. In Quebec, the provincial association affiliated with the CIP is the Ordre des urbanistes du Québec.

#### Canadian Institute of Geomatics

<http://www.cig-acsg.ca/>

This organization represents the geospatial knowledge network in Canada. It provides a forum for members to network through its publications and events. It maintains an Employment Opportunity board.

#### Canadian Urban Institute

<http://www.canurb.com>

Non-profit organization committed to the enhancement of urban life both in Canada and internationally. Provides opportunities through its seminars and conferences to network and keep current with issues in the field. Click on Careers and Internships for employment opportunities.

#### Ordre des urbanistes du Québec

<http://www.ouq.qc.ca>

The Order is an affiliated member of the Canadian Institute of Planners. It oversees and regulates the planning profession in Quebec. Provides career information, professional development opportunities and a list of member firms by region.

#### Professional Standards Board for the Planning Profession in Canada (PSB)

<http://www.psb-planningcanada.ca>

Processes all applications (except student and Quebec residents) for candidate membership in the CIP (Canadian Institute of Planners) and its provincial affiliates. Also administers the certification for Registered Professional Planner (RPP) and furthermore is responsible for the accreditation of university planning programs.

### INTERNATIONAL

#### American Institute of Certified Planners

<http://www.planning.org/aicp/index.htm>

ACIP is the professional institute of the American Planning Association. In order for one to be certified as a planner one must meet AICP standards. Check out the website for requirements.

#### American Planning Association

<http://www.planning.org>

Non-profit organization whose aims are to promote urban, suburban, regional and rural planning. Click on Jobs & Careers to see what APA can do to help advance your career.

#### Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP)

<http://www.acsp.org>

ACSP is a worldwide consortium of universities offering programs in urban and regional planning. One can access links to planning schools and Ph.D programs as well as career information and job listings in the field.

## CREATE YOUR AMAZING CAREER – CAREER RESOURCE CENTRE TITLES

For those who need more help with their career and educational planning, the Career Resource Centre (CRC) offers books, pamphlets, DVDs and recommended Internet sites. It is located in the Hall Building, H-440, at 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West. The following titles are just a few of the titles available in the CRC.

- Aspiring Academics: A Resource Book for Graduate Students and Early Career Faculty
- Becoming a Landscape Architect
- Becoming an Architect
- Becoming an Urban Planner
- pCareer Opportunities in Engineering
- A Career Worth Planning: Starting Out and Moving Ahead in the Planning Profession
- Careers in Government Panel Discussion (DVD format)
- Careers in the Environment
- Careers in Urban Planning
- Careers in Geography and Urban Studies Planning Panel Discussion DVD
- 50 Carrières de l'environnement
- Green Careers Panel Discussion (DVD format)
- Green Jobs for a New Economy
- Guide to Careers in Community Development
- 150 Best Jobs for a Better World