

2021-2028 Strategic Plan

Master of Urban and Regional Planning Program

Humphrey School of Public Affairs

University of Minnesota

May 26, 2021

Mission

The University of Minnesota's Master of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP) program promotes equitable, racially just, inclusive and ethical planning through education and research to advance the common good in a diverse world.

Vision

We aspire for the MURP program to be a leader in the advancement of planning education and research that contributes to improved human well-being, ecological health and community-driven action that yields resilient and just communities. Acting from within a school of public affairs and rooted in a set of values that prioritizes equity, racial and social justice, sustainability, inclusion, community engagement, and ethical practice, we expect students and faculty members to participate in tackling the most urgent planning challenges faced by cities and regions.

Goals

Goal 1

The MURP program matriculates a student body that reflects the racial and ethnic diversity of the U.S. and includes a robust population of international students.

Strategies

Strategy 1.1: Eliminate the GRE as a component of the application for prospective students to the MURP program. (Faculty)

Strategy 1.2: Work with staff in admissions and communications to use the Krusell Fellowship as the centerpiece of an advertising and recruitment campaign to attract a larger number of applicants of color to the MURP program. (Director)

Strategy 1.3: Explore a partnership with Youth Engagement in Planning (K-12 planning group) that prioritizes engagement with students of color to give faculty and students an opportunity to introduce planning concepts to K-12 students. (Director & Planning Student Organization leadership)

Strategy 1.4: Convene a subcommittee of MURP faculty members to explore feasibility and desirability of creating a certificate program in urban planning to create a better pipeline of working professionals into the MURP program. (Subcommittee)

Performance Measures

Performance Measure 1a: Proportion of non-white domestic MURP students in a given year (Benchmark: 40% of matriculated students are students of color (ACS 2019, U.S.))

	% of non-white domestic students* (Entire MURP student body)
AY 2020-2021	22%
AY 2021-2022	24%
AY 2022-2023	26%
AY 2023-2024	27%
AY 2024-2025	25%
AY 2025-2026	21%

*Racially/ethnically diverse including Black or African American, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander, & Hispanic or Latino.

Performance Measure 1b: Proportion of admitted non-white domestic MURP students who enroll in the MURP program (Benchmark: 50% of admitted non-white domestic applicants to the MURP program choose to enroll)

	% of admitted non-white domestic* students that enrolled in the MURP program (Incoming first year)
Entering Fall 2020	50%
Entering Fall 2021	53%
Entering Fall 2022	60%
Entering Fall 2023	43%
Entering Fall 2024	43%
Entering Fall 2025	42%

*Racially/ethnically diverse including Black or African American, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander, & Hispanic or Latino.

Performance Measure 1c: Proportion of students applying to the MURP program who also submit applications for the Krusell Fellowship. (Benchmark: 10% of applicants to the MURP program also apply for the Krusell Fellowship)

	% of MURP applicants who also applied for the Krusell Fellowship	Number of total MURP applicants who also applied for the Krusell Fellowship
Entering Fall 2020	8%	7 of 92
Entering Fall 2021	11%	11 of 98
Entering Fall 2022	2%	2 of 84
Entering Fall 2023	8%	7 of 85
Entering Fall 2024	6%	7 of 118
Entering Fall 2025	5%	8 of 155

Performance Measure 1d: Proportion of international MURP students in a given year (Benchmark: 10% of matriculated students are international students)

	% of international students (Entire MURP student body)
AY 2020-2021	4%
AY 2021-2022	3%
AY 2022-2023	4%
AY 2023-2024	7%
AY 2024-2025	6%
AY 2025-2026	3%

Goal 2

Students graduate from the MURP program with the skills and knowledge necessary to address planning challenges.

Strategies

Strategy 2.1: Create a new required three-credit core course that focuses on race and urban planning, with an emphasis on anti-racism and various forms of intersectionality. (Faculty)

Strategy 2.2: Incorporate essential training in qualitative research methods in an existing core course. (Subcommittee)

Strategy 2.3: Work across degree programs in the Humphrey School to improve resources for students available from within the Humphrey School to improve their writing. (Director)

Strategy 2.4: Regularly survey MURP alumni about the skills they consider vital for being successful in their jobs and use results to inform MURP curriculum. (Director of Alumni Relations)

Strategy 2.5: Regularly survey MURP students about the skills they consider vital for being successful in their future jobs and use results to inform MURP curriculum. (Director)

Strategy 2.6: Create a permanent elective that focuses on rural/regional planning issues. (Faculty)

Performance Measures

Performance Measure 2a: Proportion of MURP alumni graduating five years ago that agree or strongly agree with the statement: “The MURP program gave me practical skills for urban planning practice.” (Benchmark: 80% of MURP alumni agree or strongly agree)

Performance Measure 2b: Proportion of MURP alumni graduating five years ago that agree or strongly agree with the statement: “The MURP program improved my ability to address racial and social justice challenges.” (Benchmark: 80% of MURP alumni agree or strongly agree)

Performance Measure 2c: Proportion of MURP alumni graduating five years ago that report professional or volunteer activities that directly or indirectly improve community life. (Benchmark: 50% of MURP alumni report at least substantial amount of activities to improve community life [very few, some, substantial amount, or most of my activities]).

	Response rate	% agree “The MURP program gave me practical skills for urban planning practice.”	% agree “The MURP program improved my ability to address racial and social justice challenges.”	% reporting professional or volunteer activities that improve community life
2017 Grads	28% (9 out of 32)	44%	-	89%
2018 Grads	24% (10 out of 41)	90%	-	90%
2019 Grads	17% (6 out of 35)	66%	50%	83%
2020 Grads	38% (9 of 24)	66%	89%	89%
2021 Grads	54% (21 of 37)	68%	79%	95%

Performance Measure 2d: Proportion of MURP land use planning teams judged to have performed “exceptionally” in incorporating planning solutions into their land use planning projects. (Benchmark: 33% of land use planning project jurors awarded an “exceptional” score to MURP land use planning projects)

Performance Measure 2e: Proportion of MURP capstone teams judged to have performed “exceptionally” in incorporating planning solutions into the capstone projects.

(Benchmark: 33% of capstone project jurors awarded an “exceptional” score to MURP capstone projects)

	% of MURP capstone teams receiving an exceptional review (5-6 average overall project score)
Spring 2020	33%
Spring 2021	30%
Spring 2022	54%
Spring 2023	22%
Spring 2024	36%
Spring 2025	25%

Goal 3

Scholars in the MURP program produce high quality, visible research that influences planning theory, policymaking and practice.

Strategies

Strategy 3.1: Work with staff in communications to publish a periodic newsletter highlighting research achievements. (Director)

Strategy 3.2: Ensure that faculty members associated with the MURP program highlight recently published research on their Humphrey faculty websites and update their CVs at least annually. (MURP Coordinator)

Strategy 3.3: Work with staff in communications to publish op-ed articles in major periodicals that highlight or build upon recently published research by faculty members and students. (Faculty)

Strategy 3.4: As a degree program, work to nominate academic products emerging from student and faculty research for awards given by the American Planning Association, the American Planning Association-Minnesota Chapter, and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning. (Subcommittee)

Strategy 3.5: Encourage tenured and non-tenured faculty members to develop co-authored pieces of research where practical and appropriate to provide mentorship around the writing and publishing process.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure 3a: Number of peer-reviewed journal articles, peer-reviewed book chapters and peer-reviewed books published by faculty members or doctoral students

affiliated with the MURP program. (Benchmark: 35 peer-reviewed publications per calendar year, reported by publication type)

	# of peer-reviewed journal articles published by MURP faculty	# of peer-reviewed book chapters published by MURP faculty	# of peer-reviewed books published by MURP faculty
AY 2020-2021	66	8	3
AY 2021-2022	58	10	3
AY 2022-2023	76	7	0
AY 2023-2024	69	0	1

Performance Measure 3b: Proportion of peer-reviewed journal articles, peer-reviewed book chapters and peer-reviewed books that include co-authorship between tenured and non-tenured faculty members affiliated with the MURP program. (Benchmark: 5% of total peer-reviewed publications involve tenure and non-tenured faculty co-authorship).

Performance Measure 3c: Proportion of peer-reviewed journal articles, peer-reviewed book chapters and peer-reviewed books that include co-authorship between faculty members and doctoral students affiliated with the MURP program. (Benchmark: 5% of total peer-reviewed publications involve co-authorship between faculty members and doctoral students).

	% peer-reviewed items co-authored between tenured and non-tenured faculty members affiliated with the MURP program	% peer-reviewed items co-authored between faculty members and doctoral students affiliated with the MURP program
AY 2020-2021	2%	22%
AY 2021-2022	7%	13%
AY 2022-2023	3%	13%
AY 2023-2024	1%	4%

Goal 4

Faculty members and students in the MURP program participate in meaningful collaborations with public and nonprofit organizations and community-based groups to address planning challenges.

Strategies

Strategy 4.1: Develop resources to fund unpaid internships offered by nonprofit or community-based organizations engaged in urban planning work, prioritizing BIPOC-led organizations. (Director)

Strategy 4.2: Create and convene a subcommittee of faculty and students in the MURP program to consider and make recommendations on the types of community collaborations the program should support (e.g., deep vs. broad, short-term vs. long-term), what level of formality we should incorporate into collaborations (e.g., MOUs). (Subcommittee)

Strategy 4.3: Explore the potential for more formal partnerships with the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA), the University Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC) and other institutions with a community engagement focus at the University of Minnesota to facilitate and focus future research and pedagogical collaborations for the MURP program. (Subcommittee)

Performance Measures

Performance Measure 4a: Number and proportion of annual internships supported by financial resources at the Humphrey School (academic year). (Benchmark: 15% of internships supported by financial resources at the Humphrey School [note: the majority of internships secured by MURP students are paid]).

	# of Internships by MURP students to fulfill the graduation requirement	Students receiving financial support for their internship	
AY 2020-2021	18	4	All students who held an unpaid internship received an internship grant from the Humphrey School.
AY 2021-2022	23	1	
AY 2022-2023	25	0	
AY 2023-2024	51	1	

Performance Measure 4b: Number of unique organizations that faculty members collaborate with in their research (academic year). (Benchmark: 10 unique organizations).

	# of unique organizations MURP faculty collaborated with in research
AY 2020-2021	38
AY 2021-2022	37
AY 2022-2023	45
AY 2023-2024	44

Performance Measure 4c: Number of unique organizations that MURP students collaborate with in community-based course projects (academic year). (Benchmark: 15 organizations).

	Number of unique organizations in community-based course projects*
AY 2020-2021	17
AY 2021-2022	14
AY 2022-2023	19
AY 2023-2024	16
AY 2024-2025	17
AY 2025-2026	10

*AY 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 include organizations from PA 5211 Land Use Planning, PA 5213 Introduction to Site Planning, & PA 8081 Capstone Workshop. AY 2022-23 includes organizations from PA 5145 Civic Participation and PA 8081 Capstone Workshop. AY 2023-2024 and later include all MURP courses.

Goal 5

The research and teaching in the MURP program is integrated where appropriate with other degree programs at the Humphrey School and other areas of the University of Minnesota.

Strategies

Strategy 5.1: Pursue a joint seminar series with other degree programs (e.g., STEP and/or MDP) or research centers (e.g., CURA, CTS, and/or IonE). (Director & Planning Student Organization leadership)

Strategy 5.2: As registration is underway for the next semester, create a MURP-specific listing of non-MURP Humphrey courses that would be of interest to MURP students. (MURP Coordinator)

Strategy 5.3: Advertise and advise students on available graduate minors (STEP, MDP (coming soon), Landscape Architecture, etc.) and certificate programs (Human Services Leadership, Nonprofit Management, Policy Issues on Work and Pay, Metropolitan Design, etc.) that could compliment their MURP degree. (MURP Coordinator & Faculty)

Strategy 5.4: Plan one faculty mixer each semester with faculty from other departments to spark new ideas about research and potential collaborations. (Faculty)

Performance Measures

Performance Measure 5a: Number and proportion of MURP students pursuing a joint degree. (Benchmark: 10% of MURP students)

	Total # MURP graduates	# MURP graduates	% completing dual degrees

		completing dual degrees	
AY 2020-2021	40	4	10%
AY 2021-2022	31	3	10%
AY 2022-2023	39	2	5%
AY 2023-2024	29	4	14%
AY 2024-2025	25	1	4%

Performance Measure 5b: Number and proportion of MURP students pursuing a graduate minor or certificate program. (Benchmark: 10% of MURP students)

	Total # MURP graduates	# MURP graduates completing minors or certificates	% completing minors or certificates
AY 2020-2021	40	4	10%
AY 2021-2022	31	4	13%
AY 2022-2023	39	5	13%
AY 2023-2024	29	13	45%
AY 2024-2025	25	8	32%

Performance Measure 5c: Number and proportion of publications by MURP faculty that include co-authors who are not full-time MURP faculty. (Benchmark: 30% of publications include co-authors who are not full-time MURP faculty).

	# of publications by MURP faculty with co-authors who are not full-time MURP faculty*	% of publications by MURP faculty with co-authors who are not full-time MURP faculty*
AY 2020-2021	14	18%
AY 2021-2022	13	18%
AY 2022-2023	9	12%
AY 2023-2024	17	24%

*Faculty partnerships between MURP faculty and Humphrey faculty from other degree programs or faculty from other University of Minnesota colleges/departments.