PROGRAM IN BIOREGIONAL PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DESIGN

The interdisciplinary program in Bioregional Planning and Community Design is administered by the College of Art and Architecture (https://catalog.uidaho.edu/colleges-related-units/art-architecture).

The Master of Science in Bioregional Planning and Community Design (BIOP) is an interdisciplinary, professional degree designed to prepare future leaders for roles in planning within both the public and private sectors and from local to international organizations. The BIOP program is distinguished from other planning programs around North America in three ways:

1. it represents a university-wide, interdisciplinary approach to planning involving eight UI colleges and nine academic departments;
2. it fully integrates education and research with community outreach; and
3. it supports, promotes and advances bioregional approach to planning that focuses on sustainable development, sustainable efficient conservation planning and management, and sustainable human quality-of-life within and across bioregions.

Students have a unique opportunity to integrate sustainable approaches to planning in a rapidly developing region of the Intermountain West.

The curriculum includes a common core of required courses that link knowledge with practice, and fundamental theories with skills. Restricted elective requirements build on this core knowledge and skill while providing flexibility for the students to focus on their interest areas. Students also select one of several areas of specialization:

1. Regional Planning and Multi-jurisdictional Governance,
2. Community Design,
3. Community and Economic Development,
4. Transportation and Sustainable Infrastructure,
5. GIS and Spatial Analysis,
6. Natural Hazards and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation or,
7. Student designed option.

These specializations provide connections between the BIOP program and the disciplines within the participating colleges and departments.

A 15-credit professional certificate is also available in the BIOP program. The certificate is designed for graduate students enrolled in various professional disciplines (e.g., transportation engineering, environmental and natural resource management, architecture, landscape architecture, public administration) who want some expertise in planning. Students earning the certificate will gain knowledge, skills, and values in bioregional planning and be able to effectively employ planning concepts and principles within their discipline.

Questions regarding the BIOP M.S. programs should be directed to bioregionalplanning@uidaho.edu.

Admission

Admission to the graduate program is based on: ability to complete graduate-level work evidenced by undergraduate transcripts; the applicant’s statement of research and career objectives; the compatibility of the student’s objectives with program mission; and availability of graduate faculty to act as major advisor for the applicant. The GRE, applicant’s statement of objectives, and three letters of recommendation and resume are required.

Jacobs (Jaap) Vos, Program Head (Urban Design Center; phone 208-334-2999; bioregionalplanning@uidaho.edu; www.bioregionalplanning.uidaho.edu).

Faculty: Gary Austin, Steve Drown, Mike Lowry, Jerrold Long, David Paul, Nick Sanyal, Manoj Shrestha, Philip Watson.

Bioregional Planning and Community Design Graduate Program

• Bioregional Planning and Community Design Graduate Academic Certificate (https://catalog.uidaho.edu/colleges-related-units/art-architecture/bioregional-planning-community-design/bioregional-planning-community-design-graduate-academic-certificate)
• Urban Design Graduate Academic Certificate (https://catalog.uidaho.edu/colleges-related-units/art-architecture/bioregional-planning-community-design/urban-design-graduate-academic-certificate)
• Bioregional Planning and Community Design (M.S.) (https://catalog.uidaho.edu/colleges-related-units/art-architecture/bioregional-planning-community-design/bioregional-planning-community-design-ms)

Bioregional Planning and Community Design

BIOP 404 (s) Special Topics
Credit arranged.

BIOP 423 Planning Sustainable Places
3 credits
Joint-listed with BIOP 523
This course discusses the concept of sustainable development and its promises and pitfalls as a leading concept for the planning and design of communities. The course provides an overview of the different interpretations of sustainability and discusses the usefulness of these interpretations for planning in the context of the communities in which we live. Additional work required for graduate credit.

BIOP 500 Master’s Research and Thesis
Credit arranged.

BIOP 501 (s) Seminar
Credit arranged.

BIOP 502 (s) Directed Study
Credit arranged.

BIOP 503 (s) Workshop
Credit arranged.

BIOP 504 (s) Special Topics
Credit arranged.

BIOP 520 Introduction to Bioregional Planning
3 credits
This class introduces first semester Bioregional Planning and Community Design students to bioregional planning concepts and current implementation practices.
BIOP 521 Local and Regional Comprehensive Planning  
3 credits  
Provides an overview of the processes and methods for preparing comprehensive plans for local and county governments in the context of federal and state lands and regional growth management: Integrates land-use with economic development, housing, historic preservation, agricultural viability. Includes lectures by practitioners and interdisciplinary faculty, and a service-learning project. (Fall only)

BIOP 522 Bioregional Planning Methods  
3 credits  
This is an overview course of the methods used in making evidence based decisions in regional planning. This course will focus on the scientific method, statistics, hypothesis testing, regression analysis, spatial analysis, qualitative analysis, and design methods; giving students a feel for power and limitations of each.

BIOP 523 Planning Sustainable Places  
3 credits  
Joint-listed with BIOP 423  
This course discusses the concept of sustainable development and its promises and pitfalls as a leading concept for the planning and design of communities. The course provides an overview of the different interpretations of sustainability and discusses the usefulness of these interpretations for planning in the context of the communities in which we live. Additional work required for graduate credit.

BIOP 530 Public Planning Theory and Process  
2 to 3 credits  
Seminar provides a historical and theoretical basis to address the application of knowledge to public and political decisions and the ethics of professional practice within public and non-governmental settings. Readings, discussions, and essays will focus on underlying traditions and assumptions, cultural contexts, social justice and “planner” roles. Non-majors may choose to take the course for two credits, which will not include a professional ethics segment.

BIOP 560 Bioregional Planning Studio I  
4 credits  
Students will work on one or more projects that target the needs of an Idaho community or regional agency. The projects will involve the application of various tools including GIS, comprehensive planning, physical design, economic development, transportation systems or other relevant methods in the creation of products or proposals. In this course, students will learn a variety of skills related to facilitation, negotiation, community politics, conflict management and assessment tools such as social impact or environmental impact assessments. (Spring only)

BIOP 561 Bioregional Planning Studio II  
4 credits  
This course is intended to allow students to integrate a number of skill sets by choosing a project that builds on their program specialization. Students work with faculty advisors to develop and complete final projects. Students will also have the opportunity to interact with first year students in BIOP 560 at regular intervals throughout the semester to discuss common readings, provide mutual assistance on projects and peer-to-peer evaluation of completed work. (Spring only)  
Prereq: BIOP 560.

BIOP 598 (s) Internship  
Credit arranged.

BIOP 599 (s) Non-thesis Master's Research  
Credit arranged.