



MCRP Professional Deliverable Competency Requirement

Spatial Analysis and Professional Deliverable Competencies

MCRP students must be prepared to deliver professional quality work to stakeholders whether the stakeholders are community members, clients, coworkers at their agencies, public officials or others involved in a given initiative or planning process. This competency is assessed through the capstone studio project or the final professional project or thesis.

Explanation of the Professional Deliverable Competency: Professional deliverables often takes the form of strategic documents developed for intermediate or long term planning. While the word “plan” often invokes a city’s comprehensive plan, and this is one important strategic document, strategic documents are produced for more purposes by different groups of stakeholders, and influence planning in multiple ways.

Strategic planning documents are collectively developed to guide future action that aligns with impacted communities’ vision. A community can be a city or larger region, or a neighborhood based community or a community of interest. Most strategic documents are developed through discussion by people with multiple, intersecting and at times conflicting community affiliations. Strategic planning documents are grounded in values, visions for the future, and based in evidence to support effective action. Strategic planning documents must be written and presented appropriately for the intended audiences.

Skills and Expertise for the Professional Deliverable Competency: Students learn about plan creation and implementation in different core courses. CRP 536 teaches visualization tools, CRP 580 covers zoning, comprehensive planning, and the legal basis for plan creation and implementation, and CRP 500 discusses different planning approaches and how they intersect with formal planmaking processes. In addition, the concentration Foundation courses explore the creation of strategic documents in the specific subdisciplines. These skills coalesce in the capstone studio, professional project or thesis.

Demonstrating Professional Competency through a Strategic Document Deliverable: MCRP students must demonstrate their ability to produce a professional planning deliverable.

Completing with a Studio Project: Students in CRP 597 or 598 demonstrate their professional competency by completing the designated client or community-based project. In this process, students present and deliver professional quality documents to the client and often create documents for additional community members and stakeholders.

Professional Project or Thesis: To complete this competency requirement, students assess the components, action and purpose of a relevant strategic planning document to show how their analysis contributes to a planning process or initiative. Students in CRP 589 or 599 must include the following two components in their thesis or professional project: 1) A plan analysis that locates their topic within current or proposed strategic planning documents; and 2) a proposal, plan chapter or professional comments for submittal to planning agencies or actors about how the project findings contribute to current or proposed strategic planning documents.

Timelines for Studio Projects and Professional Projects / Theses

Completing with a Studio Project: CRP 597 and CRP 598 alternate each spring semester. You take the course your last spring semester in the program. You must complete CRP 588 *prior* to completing CRP 597 or CRP 598.

Professional Project or Thesis: A thesis or professional project takes a year to complete. You must work with your chair the spring semester prior to the spring that you intend to finish, or the fall semester prior to the fall semester you intend to finish. You develop your project proposal and establish a committee by the beginning of fall semester for a spring graduation or spring semester for a fall graduation. The final date to defend your thesis or dissertation is Nov 15 for fall, April 15 for spring or July 15 for summer. Working back from those dates, you establish a timeline with your committee that allows *at least* six weeks for reviews and revisions. You may take CRP 588 as early as the fall semester of your second year. You must complete it by the semester *prior* to your last semester. CRP 588 is offered each fall semester. For a spring graduation, you must take CRP 588 by the prior fall semester; for a fall semester graduation, you must take CRP 588 the previous year.