

FORM 1

COVER SHEET
NEW DEGREE PROGRAM PLANNING NOTIFICATION OF INTENT
PLANNING NOI Cover for:
Master of Arts in Community and Metropolitan Studies

Program Information

Program Name: MA in Community and Metropolitan Studies
Institution Name: University of Washington Tacoma
Degree Granting Unit: Urban Studies
Degree: MA Community and Metropolitan Studies Level: Masters Type: Arts
Major: Community and Metropolitan Studies CIP Code: 45.1201
Minor: N/A
Concentration(s): N/A
Proposed Start Date: Fall 2010
Projected Enrollment (FTE) in Year One: 10 At Full Enrollment by Year 3: 30
Proposed New Funding: \$251,116 (details attached)
Funding Source: State FTE

Mode of Delivery

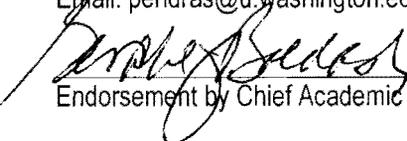
Single Campus Delivery Tacoma
Off-site N/A
Distance Learning N/A

Substantive Statement of Need

Attached

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Endorsement by Chief Academic Officer

2/12/05
Date

HECB
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Substantive Statement of Need

I. Degree Program Description

Background

Urbanization and metropolitanization of national populations are two of the most pervasive development trends facing contemporary society, with population patterns moving toward exponential urban growth and the effects of that growth shared globally across the economic and social landscape. Metropolitan communities world-wide are now increasingly faced with resolving issues around transportation management, housing, industrial transition and development, community development, social justice, and human rights, among many other challenges. The most explosive metropolitan growth is taking place in developing countries, but the challenges and problems associated with urbanization are not the least bit limited to explosive growth patterns. Indeed, population growth and shifting human settlement patterns raise a wide variety of challenges for cities and their environs throughout the world.

In the United States, where over 80% of the population now lives in urban areas, ¹ decades worth of steady urban growth has generated a wide range of concerns unique to this country's urban experience. In fact, it may be more accurate to characterize the U.S. as a 'metro-nation'² rather than as a primarily urban one, as suburbanization has been the principal development pattern for the past half-century. With suburbanization have come specific and stubborn challenges to cities and urban society—urban sprawl, urban decline and redevelopment, gentrification, homelessness and housing affordability, transportation and infrastructure needs, racial segregation and population diversity, political participation, environmental degradation and environmental justice, industrial transition—that demand creative, thoughtful engagement. National, regional, and local decision-makers are consistently tasked with finding solutions to these and other pressing development concerns.

The proposed Master of Arts in Community and Metropolitan Studies aims to develop strategies and solutions for assisting states, communities, and economies in their efforts to manage the challenges of urban growth and change in positive ways. Based in the Urban Studies program, but drawing on existing resources from across the UWT campus and potentially other University of Washington campuses, the proposed degree will train students to take a comprehensive approach to the study of metropolitan communities, emphasizing the importance of the wide range of social and economic policies and problems affecting cities. The degree title, Community and Metropolitan Studies, has been carefully and deliberately chosen to emphasize that in the twenty-first century “urban” conditions cannot be understood in isolation from surrounding suburban, exurban, and even rural politics and society. As development patterns and concerns are generated and experienced at the metropolitan scale, advanced study of the sort proposed in this new degree must take a similar approach. The term “community” here indicates the extent to

¹ United Nations World Urbanization Prospects, The 2007 Revision. http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/wup2007/2007WUP_Highlights_web.pdf (last accessed August 21, 2008).

² Markham, Victoria. 2006. *America's Supersized Footprint*. Business Week, October 30, Outside Shot; Pg. 132 Vol. 4007

which the proposed degree will emphasize the human and social dimensions of urban development.

In this program students will work on real-world challenges to urban societies using various approaches but focused on the interaction of political, economic, and social systems. Generally speaking, the curriculum will be structured around the strengths of the UWT Urban Studies faculty in the social dimensions of urban politics and development. Core courses and required seminars will aim to help students develop a critical understanding of the history and ongoing production of complex urban social problems and to build important problem-solving skills related to urban social justice and equity.

Program goals

Broadly defined, the goals of the proposed degree are to ensure that upon completion of the program graduating students are able to:

- Demonstrate a broad but concrete understanding of the various linkages between urban systems and the multi-dimensional and multi-scalar challenges of urbanization;
- Integrate substantive knowledge of urban politics, economics, culture, and social concerns in ways that can positively inform public policy and urban advocacy and advance the cause of social justice;
- Compare and contrast the impacts of urban development on all parts of the urban setting and find innovative solutions to complex problems facing urban communities both within and outside of the South Sound region;
- Demonstrate strong skills in written and oral communication, critical thinking, and the generation and application of theory related to urban society and development;
- Demonstrate the deep theoretical knowledge, practical expertise, and research skills needed to successfully pursue careers related to the multifaceted and dynamic nature of urban development.

Curriculum

The curriculum of the MA in Community and Metropolitan Studies will seek to advance student learning goals through a set of required core courses, seminars, and electives that students can choose with their adviser. Core courses will emphasize the foundations of the discipline and the key debates surrounding the urban condition more generally, including history and theory of metropolitan development, metropolitan political economy, urban social problems and solutions, metropolitan policy and government, and international urbanism. Seminars will supplement the core foundations through a focus on a range of specific thematic areas that reflect the expertise of the faculty, such as gender and identity in the urban landscape, community development, urban poverty, land use law and planning, and urban sustainability. Students may then select electives to broaden or deepen their understanding of any particular area of study, drawn from a range of disciplines that includes Urban Studies, Social Work, Education, and Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, as well as other departments on other campuses of the University of Washington.

In addition to their core requirements, seminars, and electives, students will also have the opportunity to choose between a thesis or a practicum as a culminating experience. Both

experiences will aim to advance urban development theory and practice: the thesis option will do so through an emphasis on independent research, while the practicum will focus more on working directly on specific challenges facing existing urban communities and institutions.

The proposed program is designed for full-time students. However, it is anticipated that many students will also enroll on a part-time basis. Full-time students can expect to graduate after five (5) quarters of study. The duration of the program for part-time students will depend on their enrollment schedule.

Summary: **18 credits of Core**
 9 credits of thesis/practicum
 9 credits of rotating seminar
 9 credits of electives
 45 credits

Graduates of the program will be prepared to move on to doctoral-degree programs or gain employment with local, state, or federal government or with private consultancies, non-profit organizations, and community advocacy groups.

II. Relationship to Institutional and Unit Priorities

As a metropolitan research university the University of Washington Tacoma (UWT) defines itself as an institution that “educates diverse learners and transforms communities by expanding the boundaries of knowledge and discovery.”³ That general mission is guided by clearly articulated commitments to *excellence* in the production and distribution of knowledge, to public service and the advancement of *community*, to the appreciation and preservation of a *diversity* of people, ideas, experiences, and perspectives both on- and off-campus, and to innovative approaches to teaching and learning. Further dedication to interdisciplinary cooperation between programs and academic units within the University and to the development of student competencies in critical thinking and oral and written communication help the UWT to create a strong learning community in the South Sound region and to “educate students for life as global citizens.”⁴

The proposed Master of Arts degree in Community and Metropolitan Studies will strengthen the overall mission of UWT as a metropolitan research university by providing society with well-trained students whose knowledge and skills inform societal goals and advance positive urban change. The program’s emphasis on urban social issues, community development, and urban problem solving, and its commitment to training students to think critically and creatively and to effectively communicate knowledge in a variety of ways situates it squarely within the UWT mission. In terms of resources, as the program will be housed in the Urban Studies program and will utilize existing resources currently dedicated to the Urban Studies undergraduate program,

³ UWT Mission & Vision statement. <http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/chancellor/mission.html> (last accessed September 3, 2008).

⁴ UWT Mission & Vision statement. <http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/chancellor/mission.html> (last accessed September 3, 2008).

as well as resources and faculty expertise in other existing programs across the University of Washington, it will be well positioned to offer substantial benefits to the UWT learning community with relatively modest initial resource commitments (See below).

III. Demand

In addition to the overall policy context that calls for graduates with the critical thinking and problem solving skills needed to address complex urban development issues, several factors provide justification for the proposed Master of Arts in Community and Metropolitan Studies.

Student demand

UWT now draws its undergraduate students from local high schools and seven community colleges in the South Sound region. Similarly, approximately 85% of UWT graduate students come from Pierce County and/or immediately neighboring counties. As this region is growing at approximately 1.5% per annum, between now and 2015 the UWT student population is expected to more than double in size, adding almost 3,000 upper-division FTEs and 400 graduate FTEs. Assuming the ratio of students to FTEs remains about the same, this translates into a total headcount growth of more than 4,300. Some of this growth will be absorbed by existing programs, including Urban Studies. However, it is clear that new academic programs are needed to meet the growing academic demands of this future student population.

As illustrated in Tables 1 and 2, below, demand for UW programs with urban components has been consistently strong over the past eight years, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. A recent survey of approximately 100 Urban Studies majors and alumni also revealed that 56% would apply to a graduate program in urban studies if it were established. It is expected that such a program would also appeal to others in the community who are working in related fields. Another, more focused survey of UWT Urban Studies alumni is currently under design. That survey is scheduled to be administered in time to incorporate the findings into the final, full proposal for the degree program. However, it is already clear that the proposed degree in Community and Metropolitan Studies will be well-positioned to absorb rising student demand.

Table 1. UW course enrollments for urban programs

UW Seattle Course Enrollments (Undergraduate)								
	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	Totals
Urban Design & Planning	124	193	214	219	200	204	216	1370
Community & Env. Planning	153	206	135	194	219	268	248	1423
Other Urban-related	539	555	660	589	540	609	520	4012
UW Tacoma Course Enrollments (Undergraduate)								
	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	Totals
Urban Studies	171	312	361	360	428	319	685	2636
Other Urban-related	276	201	86	182	148	191	186	1270

Table 2. UW majors in urban programs

UW Seattle Majors								
	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	Totals
Graduate								
Urban Design & Planning	62	102	99	106	99	108	114	690
Urban Planning/Public Administration	6	6	7	6	5	6	10	49
Strategic Planning for Urban Infrastructure	0	0	34	55	57	43	34	223
Undergraduate								
Community, Environment, and Planning	55	56	64	62	66	70	73	446
UW Tacoma Majors								
	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	Totals
Undergraduate								
Urban Studies	54	87	100	113	106	79	73	612

Workforce demand

Throughout the country employment demand for individuals with the advanced training needed to address urban development issues is on the rise. The most recent edition of the Department of Labor's *Occupational Outlook Handbook*⁵ reflects that trend:

“Employment of urban and regional planners is expected to grow 15 percent from 2006 to 2016, faster than the average for all occupations. Employment growth will be driven by the need for State and local governments to provide public services such as regulation of commercial development, the environment, transportation, housing, and land use and development for an expanding population. Nongovernmental initiatives dealing with historic preservation and redevelopment will also create employment growth.”

As the report clarifies that “[j]ob prospects will be best for those with a master’s degree and strong computer skills,” students hoping to gain access to this growth sector will be in need of advanced training opportunities. The proposed degree is *not* an urban planning degree, but it will train students to address similar issues to those identified in the report, especially those issues—like public service provision, transportation, housing, and other redevelopment concerns—related to the social dimensions of urban population growth.

Within the state of Washington, as the South Sound region continues to grow, state and local policy makers, not-for-profits, environmental agencies and organizations, and private consultancy and land-development firms will require creative workers with the skills, orientation, and training that a Masters degree in Community and Metropolitan Studies offers. In particular, according to the most recent edition of the Washington State Employment Security Department’s *Washington State Labor Market and Economic Report*,⁶ some of the strongest employment growth projections in the state will be in the area of *Community and Social Services*, a sector for which the proposed program’s coursework in community development, social justice, and urban policy will prepare graduates.

Community demand

While identifying existing employment opportunities for future graduates is extremely important when planning new degree offerings, it is also important to recognize the range of societal demands that require attention but which do not correspond to readily identifiable occupational titles and are not tracked by employment statistics. In many ways a key role for higher education is to help identify and articulate societal needs and to train students to *create* the employment and engagement opportunities that otherwise go unrealized. For example, in the State of Washington political and legislative interest in the knowledge and skills needed to address metropolitan development challenges has grown exponentially in recent years. In particular,

⁵ U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, 2008-09 Edition. <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos057.htm>. (Last accessed September 9, 2008)

⁶ 2007 Washington State Labor Market and Economic Report. Washington State Employment Security Department. http://www.workforceexplorer.com/admin/uploadedPublications/8670_2007_Annual_ReportWex.pdf. (Last accessed September 9, 2008)

since the passage of the Growth Management Act in 1990, demand has been especially acute for individuals trained to confront “uncoordinated and unplanned growth,” to understand and address the complex social dimensions of land use conflicts, and to otherwise “manage Washington’s growth by identifying and protecting critical areas and natural resource lands, designating urban growth areas, preparing comprehensive plans and implementing them through capital investments and development regulations.”⁷ The Governor has also called for collaborative solutions to state-wide urban development challenges by improving the development and coordination of the state’s infrastructure (transportation, communication, energy), managing critical natural resources, addressing population diversity issues, and tackling homelessness and housing affordability concerns. Some of these tasks may be addressed by formally employed urban planners, but many will instead be taken on by community groups, nonprofit organizations, and other stakeholders involved in metropolitan governance.

Similar demands have been voiced at the county and municipal levels of government. Citing robust population growth projections, Pierce County has been particularly vocal about the need to identify new and innovative economic development strategies, effective infrastructure designs, new strategies for encouraging and incorporating citizen involvement, and new ideas about how to balance urban development with environmental protection both within Pierce County and throughout the Puget Sound region.⁸ The city of Tacoma echoes many of these same needs while also emphasizing the importance of sensitivity to community development concerns and cultural and historical preservation.⁹ There is consequently rising demand for citizens and professionals trained to navigate these complex issues, to mobilize new knowledge of urban landscapes, and to find creative solutions to this wide range of urban development pressures.

Finally, the state of Washington’s position as the most trade dependent state in the country,¹⁰ and the city of Tacoma’s status as a port city with a very large and vibrant port, serve as constant reminders that citizens and workers must be aware of the numerous ways that local social, political, and economic conditions are connected to global processes, from the operation of global markets, international trading patterns, and labor conditions, to immigration flows, cultural developments, and changing social conditions around the world.

The proposed Community and Metropolitan Studies degree program will engage these trends and demands by blending a decidedly global focus with attention to local development issues in ways that help to develop strategies and solutions for managing urban growth and confronting urban social problems in positive ways. Graduates of the program will be equipped with a range of skills enabling them to address these and other issues related to urban development both within and outside of South Sound communities.

⁷ Chapter 36.70A RCW—Growth Management Act of Washington State. <http://www.gmhb.wa.gov/gma/> (last accessed August 20, 2008).

⁸ Pierce County Comprehensive Plan. <http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/pc/services/home/property/pals/landuse/landuse.htm> (last accessed August 20, 2008).

⁹ City of Tacoma, Comprehensive Plan. <http://www.cityoftacoma.org/Page.aspx?hid=2241> (last accessed August 20, 2008).

¹⁰ Heim, Kristi, “Expanding view of trade called a must for state.” *The Seattle Times*, Saturday, March 25, 2006.

IV. Relationship to Other institutions

Duplication

The proposed MA in Community and Metropolitan Studies will not result in duplication across any of the University of Washington campuses nor in the State of Washington. Neither the Seattle nor Bothell campuses offer any graduate programs that overlap with this proposal. Portland State University, in Portland, Oregon, offers a Masters degree in Urban Studies; however, that program channels students into narrow specializations within the urban studies field (for example in Gerontology, Policy Analysis, or Social Demography). In contrast, the degree proposed here will offer a broader-based training focused on general urban development dynamics, labor and immigration concerns, urban social issues, and urban problem solving. By providing a different substantive focus and serving a different demographic, the proposed degree program avoids duplication within the region.

The other degree offering in the region most similar to the degree proposed here would be the Master of Urban Planning offered at the UW Seattle campus, and the Master of Urban and Regional Planning at Eastern Washington University within state, as well as similar master's degrees at Portland State University and the University of Oregon. While there are constructive synergies between Urban Planning and Community and Metropolitan Studies, the important difference is that a masters degree in Urban Planning is a professional degree that trains students specifically for careers as urban planners. The proposed MA in Community and Metropolitan Studies will be focused less on technical planning expertise and more on a training program that emphasizes broadly-based comprehension of the social issues related to urban development and mastery of the critical and creative thinking and complex problem solving skills needed not only for urban planning jobs, but also for jobs in other fields such as public administration, community and economic development, non-profit management, private consulting, and policy research.

Uniqueness of the program

No private or public college or university in Washington offers a MA in Community and Metropolitan Studies. Thus, this will be the first MA of its kind in the state. As mentioned above, there are other degree offerings in the state and region that complement and to a limited degree overlap with the proposed degree, but in both substance and structure the new degree will offer a unique learning opportunity to students.

V. Relationship to HECB Master Plan; State and Regional Needs Assessment

Citing continuing population growth, an aging workforce, and increasing demand for access to higher education, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, the Washington State Higher Education Coordinating Board's (HECB) *2008 Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education in Washington* states clearly the path ahead for higher education in Washington state: "We need more baccalaureate and advanced degrees."¹¹ Some concerted effort is needed to increase access to--and participation in--upper-division educational programs across the state.

¹¹ Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board. *2008 Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education in Washington*. <http://www.hecb.wa.gov/news/newsreports/documents/2008MasterPlan-fromPRT.pdf>. (Last accessed September 9, 2008).

Improved access to advanced academic and professional training is vital to the success of local communities in that it helps to “produce more engaged citizens who help make our society more stable and productive,” it helps to secure “higher wages for everyone,” and generally results in “exponentially greater public return in the future.”¹² It is also important for local businesses. According to the HECB,¹³ because Washington state currently produces fewer post-secondary graduates than are needed by the local labor market, “companies are forced to look outside the state to attract talented workers with the appropriate training to meet their needs, while many Washington residents are being left behind.”¹⁴ That claim is especially true for Pierce County, which the HECB’s revised 2006 *Regional Needs Assessment Report* notes “is significantly below state average upper-division participation rates.”¹⁵ The HECB’s ambitious goal of nearly doubling the annual advanced degree production in the state over the next ten years in an important step in addressing both the needs of previously underserved local residents and in helping to “reduce employers’ need to import people with advanced degrees or specialized skills from other states and countries.”¹⁶

By providing valuable and useful advanced training related to urban development problems, and preparing students to compete for employment in such fields as social services, government, transportation, and urban planning, all of which have been identified by the HECB as either impacted by the aging workforce or primed for growth, the proposed Master of Arts degree in Community and Metropolitan Studies fits squarely within the HECB’s goals for the production of advanced degrees needed in the state.

VI. Resources/Infrastructure

Proposed Budget Details

- Two tenure-track faculty lines:
 $\$65,000 + 22.3\% \text{ benefits} = \$79,495 \times 2 =$ \$158,990
- One half-time practicum coordinator
 (the other half of which position will be
 dedicated to serving as an undergraduate
 internship coordinator):
 $\$50,000 + 26.2\% \text{ benefits} = \$63,100/2 =$ \$ 31,550
- One adviser: \$48,000 + 26.2% benefits = \$ 60,576

Total: \$251,116

¹² Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board. *2008 Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education in Washington*. <http://www.hecb.wa.gov/news/newsreports/documents/2008MasterPlan-fromPRT.pdf>. (Last accessed September 9, 2008).

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board, *Regional Needs Assessment Report (February 2006, revised)*.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*