WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN … COMMUNITY & REGIONAL PLANNING

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW:
The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) (2012) explains that community and regional planners “develop plans and programs for the use of land. They use planning to create communities, accommodate growth, or revitalize physical facilities in towns, cities, counties, and metropolitan areas.”

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS:
BLS explains that most entry-level jobs require a master’s degree from an accredited program in urban or regional planning in addition to one to two years of work experience in a related field. BLS further explains that graduates with a bachelor’s degree may qualify for some assistant or junior planning positions if they have professional experience in planning, architecture, public policy, economic development, or an otherwise related field. BLS notes that, in order to gain experience, many students engage in part-time planning internships during school or full-time internships after completing their degree. BLS highlights that several years of work experience in planning is necessary to progress to mid- and senior-level planner positions. Consult O*Net for more information on the specific KSAs (Knowledge, Skill, Ability) that are needed for a career in community and regional planning.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO:
The University of New Mexico School of Architecture and Planning (SAAP) offers a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Planning and Design (BAEPD), an Undergraduate Minor in Community & Regional Planning, a Master of Community and Regional Planning (MCRP), three different dual Master degree programs, as well as a Graduate Minor in Community & Regional Planning.

INDUSTRIES & TARGET EMPLOYERS:
A variety of employers specifically recruit UNM students and alumni. Consult UNM’s Lobo Career Connection for a complete list of employers and current job postings. Speak with a Career Development Facilitator at the UNM Office of Career Services for help with identifying employers or additional resources for your occupation of choice.

Commercial

Education
University or college teaching, research

SUGGESTED STRATEGIES:
- Consider specializing your skill set through a double major or minor in another area.
- Gain related professional experience through involvement in internships, student employment, Co-ops, and/or volunteer opportunities.
- Foster an understanding of how government works.
- Shadow professionals in the field to gain a better understanding of the occupation and to build relationships with professional mentors.
- Build your network and get involved on campus through student organizations and campus events. Find organizations and events at the Student Activities Center website.
- Attend career related campus events such as career fairs, company information sessions, and or career workshops.
- Students who are interested in graduate school should maintain a high undergraduate GPA and develop relationships with faculty and community leaders.
- Speak with mentors and faculty about career opportunities.
- Job leads can be found on your department’s website, list-serv, newsletters, and social media sites.
STATE AND NATIONAL WAGES:
Adapted from CareerOneStop (2013)

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<th>Location</th>
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PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:
- Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning
- American Planning Association
- Planetizen: The Planning and Development Network
- The American Institute of Architects
- Arch Daily
- American Institute of Architects – New Mexico
- American Institute of Architects – Albuquerque
- City of Albuquerque – Planning Department

REFERENCES