

Appendix A

Answers from Open-Ended Questions

Listed in this appendix are all of the answers to the following open-ended questions:

Is there anything you wish you had known more about before entering your current masters program?

Many undergraduate students don't know about planning. What are the one or two things that you think would excite them the most to learn about planning?

What one thing do you wish someone would have told you about the PROFESSION of planning that might have affected your decision to go to planning school?

Is there anything you wish you had known more about before entering your current masters program?

- ♦ 1. Why so many plans are never realized. 2. Why planners continue to pursue rational planning. 3. Physical planning skills. 4. More training in economics
- ♦ a great amount
- ♦ a little more about the field of planning in general
- ♦ relationship between public and private sectors. B. Finance
- ♦ About dual degree programs in planning and another field
- ♦ About the faculty, job opportunities
- ♦ assistantships not assigned with any regard to student's interest
- ♦ basic economics and environmental science
- ♦ better idea of concentration
- ♦ Community organization principles.
- ♦ computer skills
- ♦ COMPUTERS
- ♦ could use more graphics skills
- ♦ course arrangement
- ♦ current breadth of planning topics
- ♦ dept in between XX planning professors
- ♦ Design - it's not taught.
- ♦ design techniques, land arch, stats, comp. Programs
- ♦ econ and stats
- ♦ Economic devt. I'm getting more in depth now, at the end of the program, but if I had known more going in I would have focused on it more.
- ♦ Economics
- ♦ economics, sociology
- ♦ economics, statistics
- ♦ exploration of city planning vs. public policy program
- ♦ few evening classes, small faculty, few diverse classes
- ♦ Few people in my field of interest in the program
- ♦ final paper

- ♦ financial aid
- ♦ Funding opportunities
- ♦ funding sources for research; how tos on basics, e.g. research, workshops, tutor possibilities
- ♦ general theory, general history, history of planning and arch, politics, sociology, anthropology
- ♦ GIS
- ♦ GIS
- ♦ GIS
- ♦ GIS
- ♦ GIS skills, economics
- ♦ hard time getting a decent job
- ♦ historical planning knowledge, econ and stats
- ♦ housing costs
- ♦ how bad my program was going to be
- ♦ how entrenched program is in the status quo
- ♦ How extremely one-dimensional this program is.
- ♦ How little power planners have to change devt trends - that most planners do not plan, but react.
- ♦ How many classes and credits were involved
- ♦ How many of the faculty had professional planning experience
- ♦ how old my fellow classmates were going to be
- ♦ how political it is
- ♦ how the university plans its programs
- ♦ how to get by on less sleep
- ♦ how to go about obtaining a GRA position...
- ♦ I had a lot of overlap in my undergrad education and the 1st year of planning core courses
- ♦ I wish I had decided on planning prior to enrolling in [other field] graduate studies. How planning gives them (personally) a better life in an increasingly complex and difficult to manage society. They need to see its direct impact before they'll care.
- ♦ I wish I had know a bit more about the field of planning
- ♦ I wish I had know how narrowly education most of my planning professor are
- ♦ I wish I had known how long term planning is, how important it is to the future environment and how it relates to every aspect of the real world.
- ♦ I wish I had known that the area was populated with so many liberals; it lacks diversity of the political ilk of students and faculty.
- ♦ I wish I had known the dept was in transition and then maybe waited for the new MURP program or applied elsewhere
- ♦ I wish I had more info about all the other universities that offer planning degrees
- ♦ I wish I had more of a background in planning related disciplines
- ♦ I wish I had more professional work experience in planning before I enrolled in this program. But then again, if I had worked for a few years, I may not have had the discipline to get a masters degree.
- ♦ I wish I had taken more micro and macro economics, and more statistics
- ♦ I wish I would have talked to some current students and got their feedback on the dept.
- ♦ I wish that I had a laser printer and a really nice fast computer at my house rather than trying to maneuver around lab schedules and different versions of programs at school
- ♦ I would have liked to see a US News and World report type ranking of planning schools. I have little idea how XXX stands up to other planning schools.
- ♦ Importance of economics

- ♦ It would have been nice to know more about the program's international projects
- ♦ Its emphasis and philosophy of planning education
- ♦ job prospects
- ♦ lack of international program
- ♦ Lack of specific planning skills. I wish I would have known what I would have to seek assistance outside of the program to get beyond the basic concepts, with specific skill development.
- ♦ more about law and economics
- ♦ more about other planning programs
- ♦ More about the faculty and planning in general
- ♦ More about the planning profession
- ♦ More about the problems listed in earlier question. More about other programs in the US.
- ♦ more about the Univ. as a whole
- ♦ more computer skills
- ♦ more details about different specializations and skills demands of them in the job market
- ♦ more info about faculty
- ♦ more info on financial aid.
- ♦ more social sci knowledge
- ♦ more understanding of profession
- ♦ my time would go VERY quickly
- ♦ not a 2 yr prog, 2.5 years
- ♦ number of elective classes is so restricted
- ♦ planners salaries
- ♦ Planners salary level is not going to make me ultra rich
- ♦ political and legal aspect of planning
- ♦ political involvement needed
- ♦ precise info on professors and their accessibility; offered course content; detail on reqts for degree
- ♦ problems of financial aid
- ♦ program focus on a particular specialty area
- ♦ program reputation affects job prospects
- ♦ program was very locally focussed and not planning to prepare us for BIG jobs
- ♦ pursuing my artistic talent in undergrad would have paid off in designing a grad career
- ♦ screening of incoming students not very selective, resulting in many inexperienced, low quality students
- ♦ Social sciences
- ♦ Some basic background info on planning history
- ♦ Sometimes your professors could care less if you really learn something. More interested in their research or outside work than students.
- ♦ spreadsheets, graphic design
- ♦ statistics
- ♦ Statistics, govt, sociology
- ♦ stats, economics, political setup of the city
- ♦ Still don't have a clear understanding of the day to day job duties of a planner and what skills I'll need.
- ♦ That there are few jobs that don't work for the govt
- ♦ That there are so many core classes that are not related to my interest, Int'l Devt Planning
- ♦ The almost universal absence of intellectual thinking and creative thought in XXX program
- ♦ The availability of classes. Not many classes to choose from.

- ♦ The lack of interaction between depts and tension between one another.
- ♦ the limited inclinations of faculty toward preparing students for urban POLICY jobs
- ♦ The nature of grad school in general; the constant stress, volatile finances, lack of structure, etc.; The lack of a PAB rating, planning-oriented faculty in general. More courses in planning
- ♦ The program is best suited for self starters -- you have to take all the initiative to complete the program and design it to your liking
- ♦ The program itself
- ♦ The repetition of classes from undergrad to grad programs (from different schools)
- ♦ There is so much work for each class and they are all jammed into 2 years
- ♦ too many things unrelated to a masters program
- ♦ too many to list
- ♦ too optimistic that there would be more support for issues related to social justice and envtl integrity.
- ♦ transportation system
- ♦ University not very supportive of program
- ♦ what a non-profession it really is, don't get much respect in States
- ♦ what exactly planners do on a day to day basis
- ♦ Where the programs are, what reputation they have, and what the programs are really like.
- ♦ Yes - how much time it takes to be a grad student!
- ♦ Yes - that no one on the faculty was interested in urban env planning
- ♦ Yes, computer applications
- ♦ Yes, how little the professors actually care about your success or failure
- ♦ yes, I wish I had taken some economic and political science related courses as an undergrad. I had no experience or knowledge within this area before coming to the masters program.
- ♦ Yes, the fact that many professors were retiring or leaving for sabbatical. I also should have looked more closely at the difference in programs located in the arch dept vs. the social science dept - but I should have realized that from the beginning.
- ♦ Yes. I could have taken pre-requisite courses that would better prepare me for the core planning courses
- ♦ zoning and comp plans

Many undergraduate students don't know about planning. What are the one or two things that you think would excite them the most to learn about planning?

- ♦ 1. Application of scientific principles to land use planning (esp. geology, ecology, economics)
- ♦ 1. Direct way to participate in your immediate life and in your communities future; 2. Planning is frustrating at times but allows you to be action on issues which you feel are important for you
- ♦ 1. Diversity of issues; 2. So many fields makes it a highly satisfying experience
- ♦ 1. Opportunities to create some meaningful change for people in urban areas. 2. Interplay between humans and the built envt that is so often described as a series of abstract economic relationships
- ♦ 1. Planning inherently involves issues which affect our lives on a daily basis. 2. Planning plays a large role in building the environments in which we live.
- ♦ 1. Planning related courses. 2. Inject planning related themes into social and nat sci courses
- ♦ 1. Require them to attend a local meeting on planning issue; 2. Expose them to local land use issues, particularly those with envtl impact; 3. Do a walking tour of a depressed neighborhood contrasting with a tour of a local planning success story to demon
- ♦ 1. You can help shape the future of your community in order to make it more livable 2. No plan or policy is carved in stone.
- ♦ a chance to look at the big picture and impact the future.
- ♦ a current, hands on project
- ♦ A la Liberal Arts it encompasses many disciplines/fields of study and the job prospects are very good all over the world.
- ♦ a really diverse field that is useful within most other fields - very interdisciplinary and very applied
- ♦ A very diverse field, in which you get to apply knowledge of a specific subject matter to impact daily lives of people
- ♦ ability and potential to shape the world
- ♦ Ability to affect the design of the future envt and ability to use you intellect to increase the quality of life for an abundant amount of people.
- ♦ Ability to facilitate positive change
- ♦ Ability to get involved in complex, multi-dimensional issues and challenged to trying to solve problems from that multi-disc perspective.
- ♦ Ability to impact the future
- ♦ Ability to work in a field that significantly impacts the community
- ♦ Actually developing a community and helping the impoverished
- ♦ Addressing the issues that planner talk about (urban sprawl, community development) in a multidisciplinary context at the undergrad level, such as in Political Science and Wildlife Mgt. It's a start for those interested in becoming planners.
- ♦ all of the opportunities to affect the future
- ♦ an exciting class about planning
- ♦ Better Midler said that she would have become an urban planner, had she not gone into entertainment. She said this in a Charlie Rose Show interview.
- ♦ big ticket items to get their interest, mainly dealing with urban design
- ♦ broad field with much potential for making a difference in peoples' lives. More than just deciding where to put streets and street signs.
- ♦ broad field, range in specialties
- ♦ broad range of issues
- ♦ Broad range of issues and ability to make concrete changes in the world
- ♦ broad range of issues makes it interesting and offers diverse job opportunities
- ♦ Broad range of topics/themes - very diverse field with people from many different backgrounds

- ♦ broadness of issues and impact
- ♦ career day at school
- ♦ Clueing them in to knowing that planning affects every part of their lives and it represents the procedural aspects of the decision-making.
- ♦ college courses, marketing video
- ♦ community planning workshops
- ♦ comprehensive understanding of urban places. A practical application of academics
- ♦ creativity of planning, the challenges, hope of effecting quality of life in the community
- ♦ Current planning decision effecting future generations. The benefits and costs of these decisions.
- ♦ daily impact on public life and practical applications
- ♦ Design features, conflict resolution
- ♦ Diversity of planning applications; job opportunities and challenges
- ♦ diverse directions, power to influence
- ♦ diverse employment opportunities
- ♦ diverse issues, opportunity to work in specific areas that are of personal interest
- ♦ Diverse opportunities within the field
- ♦ diversification
- ♦ Diversity and breadth of scope of the field
- ♦ diversity in the field
- ♦ diversity of issue, opportunities to make change
- ♦ diversity of issues
- ♦ diversity of issues
- ♦ Diversity of issues, complex decision making, blend of technical and political
- ♦ Diversity of issues, technical aspects, broad range of job opportunities.
- ♦ Diversity of job opportunities, ability to meld undergrad degree with a masters in planning
- ♦ diversity of jobs
- ♦ diversity of jobs
- ♦ diversity of jobs and people in planning
- ♦ diversity of options after graduation.
- ♦ diversity of social issues. Impact of social change.
- ♦ Do a site visit and study the development
- ♦ Dynamic opportunities, community advocacy, job satisfaction
- ♦ dynamics of growth
- ♦ Economic development
- ♦ Emphasize multi-disciplinary nature. Emphasize opportunity to impact people/the future.
- ♦ envtl issues
- ♦ examples of professionals who admit to being planners
- ♦ Exciting prof asked us to work on a community-based project and attend a planning meeting. What a great experience!
- ♦ expose them to more planning-related classes
- ♦ Go to grad school fairs
- ♦ Grandiose yearly conference balls.
- ♦ growth mgt and trans issues as it applies to where students live
- ♦ History of cities
- ♦ history of planning

- ♦ hold more campus events
- ♦ How a "real" city operates - not in theory, but in practice
- ♦ How broad it is, how many different things are interweaved; the potential to have a major impact on a given area.
- ♦ How diverse the field is
- ♦ how good planning can actually impact their quality of life...specifically the value of place
- ♦ how important it is to the future; how it is involved in our everyday lives
- ♦ How interdisciplinary it is. How applied it is. How geared to making a daily difference in the world.
- ♦ how it impacts their lives, the wide variety of issues that it deals with
- ♦ how it relates to conservation
- ♦ how much interaction you would have with so many other field
- ♦ how planners affect life
- ♦ human relations and communication
- ♦ I don't think you should wait to talk to undergrads; I think you should be talking to students in high schools and middle schools. I think you should be asking them to think about what their ideal schools, towns, cities, etc. should look like and how they should look like
- ♦ I feel that its interdisciplinary nature and big picture scope are the most attractive features. Also the complexity of the issues is very interesting.
- ♦ I found out when I was in a sociology class and a Grad Planning student came to speak in our class. This was my first exposure to planning and the Grad student stressed that planners were "movers and shakers" and had a key role in influencing change in so
- ♦ I think targeting students in social science fields would be best. Introduce them to housing programs, community development programs -- these are areas where people work with local people, 'making a difference.' I think land use can bore them.
- ♦ impact on peoples lives
- ♦ impact on people's lives, div of job opportunities
- ♦ impact on the future
- ♦ Interconnection of planning to many fields. Planning and the "big picture"
- ♦ interdisciplinary field
- ♦ interdisciplinary nature
- ♦ Interdisciplinary nature and diversity of job opportunities
- ♦ interdisciplinary nature of planning
- ♦ Interdisciplinary nature of the field
- ♦ interdisciplinary nature of the field and or planning depts; potential for effecting positive change
- ♦ interdisciplinary nature, changing things
- ♦ interdisciplinary study, internships
- ♦ interdisciplinary urban design studios, planning history
- ♦ Interdisciplinarity
- ♦ International planning history - to show them how planning affects cities and city form, and what types of careers are available to planners along with a description of the different planning specialties.
- ♦ Introduce planning at the undergrad or high school level
- ♦ It all depends on the student... planning doesn't have a "hook"... the field of planning is so diverse that is hard to exemplify just one or two
- ♦ it can change societal circumstances if applied rigorously and with political support
- ♦ It is a broad discipline that draws from so many others that it leaves a lot of room to explore individual interests. It is an avenue to tackling some of the most pressing issues in society today and to impact change.

- ♦ It is a mixture of many different fields. When you are an undergrad you feel as though your major is very limiting -- your career choices are narrow. Planning broadens that view and marries many fields in interesting ways.
- ♦ It is a profession in which you can have a real, substantive impact on human lives and the environment
- ♦ it is so multidisc and exciting
- ♦ it really can be anything you want
- ♦ It will help them thoroughly understand everything they read in the newspaper.
- ♦ it's a way to incorporate liberal arts thinking into a prof program
- ♦ its broad applications
- ♦ It's far from being a boring topic. You have the opportunities to get involved in far-reaching issues that may have an effect on our lives for a long time to come. It's always a challenge, but it feels good to be a part of the process.
- ♦ It's like internal consulting - for local govts, citizens and natural resources. It's not the typical short term thinking it's strategic and long term
- ♦ its relationship and connection to many other fields -- arch, land arch, engineering
- ♦ Its vital importance to quality of life issues in all areas
- ♦ Job opportunities available in the planning profession -- and the wide array of interest areas that can be studied. Also, to highlight the increasing "professionalism" of a planning career.
- ♦ Job opportunities, diversity of jobs and locations
- ♦ knowing more about it
- ♦ Knowing the variety of decisions that planners make that affect people's daily lives
- ♦ lives are impacted for better or worse
- ♦ living in a city
- ♦ Looking at the big picture to help everyday people
- ♦ Looking at the big picture. A wide variety of important issues which affect the way we perceive our world.
- ♦ Making a difference on timely issues
- ♦ Mention the diversity of topics of study and practice under planning, so that an impression of planners can be seen as diverse and wide-ranging, not just a small dept in a govt office.
- ♦ money potential
- ♦ more info about local politics and services
- ♦ More publicity about the different areas students can focus on: international, housing/community devt, trans, etc. it is SO MUCH MORE THAN "CITY PLANNING"!!! To me, that is one of the dullest aspects of the profession, and I'm sure a lot of other people respond that way
- ♦ Most people might think that planning is all design, but it covers a diverse range of subjects.
- ♦ mostly for female undergraduates - there seems to be real gender equity (no a "male-dominated" field) The rewards are often better than money - flexible work, making an impact on peoples and communities lives
- ♦ My personal experience is that when every I talk about GIS, students get excited. Other exiting thing would be environmental issues.
- ♦ needs people from many disciplines, considers wide range of topics and issues
- ♦ never before have I met so many truly nice, down to earth professionals
- ♦ opportunities to interact with many other professionals form other fields, broad kind of problems and approaches
- ♦ opportunities to make a tangible beneficial impact on society
- ♦ opportunities to work with broad issues that shape people lives
- ♦ Overall applicability of planning topics in any industry.
- ♦ pay potential
- ♦ planners are advocates for communities can as such can make a big different

- ♦ Planners make excellent translators and advocates, if they are brave enough
- ♦ Planning allows you so many opportunities and people who are in planning are prone to being good hearted
- ♦ planning applies a number of disc in the real world, to have a practical, application experience in the classroom using planning projects
- ♦ Planning attracts people who like to think outside the box and tend to be generalists with a variety of interests and abilities.
- ♦ Planning covers a broad range of interests and career choices, including community devt and envtl issues
- ♦ Planning covers many subjects and can fit into many different interests
- ♦ Planning doesn't mean inner city urban issues; it can mean the natural world too!
- ♦ Planning education offers a basis for understanding the broad range of urban experiences -- the unified field theory of cities.
- ♦ Planning embraces all walks of life. It deals with real situations faced in the world and comes with alternatives to such situations.
- ♦ Planning impacts your life in every way. Thus, planners wield great control over what people do and how they do it.
- ♦ Planning incorporates many of their interests
- ♦ Planning is a pervasive forum. Broad area that allows for specific studies. Good ancillary degree with JD or MBA or alternative to JD or MBA
- ♦ Planning is a proactive field. We plan for the future, environmentally and socially. There are also incredible array of job possibilities open to planners.
- ♦ Planning is fun and professional. After talking to residents in a city, you can know a lot of thing from them.
- ♦ Planning is important on so many levels
- ♦ Planning provides an opportunity to see how a community really works and provides an opportunity to hopefully change things for the better
- ♦ planning tools, such as GIS
- ♦ Playing a role in the allocation/planning of resources and the possibility of making an impact on future communities/land use planning issues
- ♦ possibility of elaborating solutions to deal with very complex problems.
- ♦ Possibility to shape the external envt - to make it a better place. Broad range of planning
- ♦ potential for activist planning and affecting people's lives in positive ways
- ♦ potential for positive impact (livable cities)
- ♦ Potential for social change, the broad range of jobs filled by planners
- ♦ practical application of economics, sociology, and politics
- ♦ range of issues addressed and it's importance in everyone's day life
- ♦ relevancy and abundant/diverse prof opportunities
- ♦ require them to take one class in plng
- ♦ role of planning in shaping growth and development
- ♦ social impact and social service aspect
- ♦ Social sci field oriented towards practice. Creates climate where hard questions are given thought in a deeper way.
- ♦ Social welfare
- ♦ Students often have employment in mind. Once employment avenues are created and they are sure of ready employment, they would be excited to offer the course. Know what planning is about and the possible job opportunities.
- ♦ Such a huge opportunity exists here. Planning departments should publicize themselves by having the best professors teach undergrad intro planning classes. Doing projects with the local municipality and getting the depts name in the student newspaper is also c

- ♦ Take a look at their own lives and realize the influence of planning. Realize the wide range of knowledge and opportunities of the planning prof
- ♦ talking with current planners
- ♦ Target students in social sciences like psychology.
- ♦ that they can have a positive impact on where they live and people's lives
- ♦ that it doesn't have to be "city planning." There are so many opportunities in which to apply a planning degree
- ♦ That it gives them an opportunity to understand and effect the community in which they live. That provides versatile career options.
- ♦ That it is an ideal way to apply their current fields in the real world.
- ♦ That it's a field that combines a number of areas and that it touches so many areas of people's lives without their realizing it.
- ♦ That planning need not be just physically oriented, but also socially, environmentally
- ♦ That there is a real opportunity to affect peoples' lives and the quality of their environment.
- ♦ That you can have an impact on people's lives, on the future
- ♦ The ability to pull in such a great diversity of talents and skills and to work in many different fields
- ♦ The ability to put into practice what a lot of political and environmental theorists (in undergrad classes) talk about. The ability to merge many diverse interests into one career, e.g. sociology, politics, public health, environment, engineering, arch.
- ♦ The advantages of a liberal arts education apply very much to planning, in the sense that it is a multi-disciplinary approach to a profession, where many other professions are of a narrow focus.
- ♦ The application of scientific knowledge to social, environmental, and economic problems is very challenging, so challenging that most planning depts do a poor job of it. The most challenging aspect of planning is to meet community needs in a sustainable (
 - ♦ the breadth and complexity of issues involved in how they affect our daily lives
 - ♦ The breadth of issues that are covered. Most people don't realize the planning implications.
 - ♦ the broad range of potential issues and task environment
 - ♦ The connections to a broad array of other fields. These diverse issues are not conveyed in common articles about planning.
 - ♦ The diversity of jobs available
 - ♦ The diversity of the field. The ability to make a difference.
 - ♦ The excitement of solving real world problems through a systematic process of information gathering and solutions application.
 - ♦ The fact that it is so broad, and the fact that it touches on everything that happens in our daily lives
 - ♦ The impact planning can have upon our daily lives; The broad range of issues that planners work within
 - ♦ The importance of planning, and its ability to affect a multitude of other aspects of life. Stress it as a way to change things for the better.
 - ♦ the job potential is incredible, you get a chance to shape the environment in which you live, you get to help people, you are open to a very wide range of job opportunities
- ♦ The movement of land use planning is going to cause every state to require local comp plans - there will be an abundance of planning opportunities in the next 5-10 years
- ♦ the new technology (like GIS) that is available. That planners will be on the front line of important issues for which it will become increasingly imperative to plan in the next century. That planner usually work in teams.
- ♦ the notion that you can (possibly!) affect the envt, public health, poverty, and the lives of people in general through this field. Planners can bring these ideas into the mainstream and have them acted out in the general plan, law, and policy.
- ♦ the opportunity to constructively, intelligently make a difference in lives. Planning lets me develop a better understanding of how the world works and what my role in it is.

- ♦ the opportunities that are out there which can allow one to have a significant influence in the operation of an area
- ♦ The potential to help communities switch from 19th century, petroleum-based energy reliance to sustainable principles
- ♦ The potential to work in many different fields.
- ♦ The range of jobs and fields are diverse. Unlike many business occupations, using personal beliefs is an acceptable, and often celebrated, way of operating as a planner. You are free to think and disagree.
- ♦ The rewards of having a positive impact on the community, of being able to leave your "fingerprint" on the landscape
- ♦ The scope of issues involved in planning
- ♦ The skills you learn about managing change
- ♦ The variety of opportunities that are available in planning. That it is not simply limited to city zoning and subdivisions.
- ♦ the variety of practice and ability to use multi-disc approach.
- ♦ The variety of topics and jobs that are possible
- ♦ There are so many current issues that face urban life today in our cities. It's wonderful that planning gives people the chance to put input into what interests them the most.
- ♦ There is a broad range of issues that you have to think about and plan for, but after planning you have to implement your plans.
- ♦ There's so much more to planning than the architectural and physical aspects.
- ♦ This is a field from which you have the power to make a positive difference in the world.
- ♦ too many students associate it with engineering
- ♦ Undergrad survey course worked for me
- ♦ Undergrads need to be made aware of the extent to which planning issues impact their everyday lives. In California at least, the alternative, and sometimes mainstream, press do a pretty good job of covering planning issues. Students should be kept apprised
- ♦ Undergraduate degree programs
- ♦ urban sprawl and new urbanism
- ♦ variety of applications and approaches
- ♦ variety of employment opportunities and combination of disciplines
- ♦ variety of issues
- ♦ variety of jobs, impact on individual lives
- ♦ versatility of program
- ♦ very broad
- ♦ very nice mixture of social science and physical design, statistical methods, and qualitative methods, and yet there is the very real possibility of influencing people's lives in a positive way. Diversity of options.
- ♦ virtual reality/city simulation. Community outreach/volunteer work
- ♦ Visioning a better future. Helping the world be a better place to live
- ♦ way to meld interests in public policy, politics, economics, history, social issues
- ♦ what planners actually do
- ♦ what planning actually is
- ♦ What you do after graduating...exact work
- ♦ working on the seams of traditional job/subject specializations incorporating many skills
- ♦ You can get a job doing it, you may be able to make a difference in the world
- ♦ You learn how to work around bureaucracy
- ♦ you may get lucky and have wonderful classmates.

What one thing do you wish someone would have told you about the PROFESSION of planning that might have affected your decision to go to planning school?

- ♦ \$\$\$\$
- ♦ A big part of planning may be community development issue that go well beyond the traditional boundaries of "city planning"
- ♦ A deep understanding of local issues may make it more difficult to learn universal concepts.
- ♦ a lot of politics involved. I hate politics
- ♦ Alternative degrees to get into planning activities
- ♦ amount of politics involved
- ♦ Broad range of interests
- ♦ Constant, endless meeting schedules
- ♦ different between planners who look at policy and urban planning design professionals.
- ♦ disproportionately policy and regulatory based, rather than technically oriented
- ♦ Diversity of opportunities (what do you do with a degree?)
- ♦ diversity of options; potential to change lives
- ♦ division between private and public sector planning professionals
- ♦ Doing the right thing for society will get you fired sometimes
- ♦ don't need any particular background to go into it
- ♦ Figure out work and livelihood issues early - do not wait til graduation
- ♦ Friends in the field told me that US-style planning (regulating everything) is not the way to go. They are right, but I've learned quite a bit about environmental and international planning anyway.
- ♦ geographers can be planners. Economists can be planners. Engineers can be planners. However, planners cannot be geographers, economists, etc.
- ♦ Get an internship in planning before entering school
- ♦ Get involved in the field before thinking about school. Many of the student come with experience, and that's how their interest was fostered. This give them a competitive advantage in terms of GTFs and prime internship opportunities. If I had to do over, I would
- ♦ Go into planning with a broader perspective to allow myself to explore more options
- ♦ Good old boy network still exists.
- ♦ govt style vs. private
- ♦ how closely linked/constrained it is by politics
- ♦ How important physical planning is, even when you're doing community or economic development
- ♦ How incredibly frustrating it can become; the vagaries of politics in he planning process; the uncertainties of the job market in planning.
- ♦ How it can be a political quagmire - you can't get a job unless you know the right people, have the right political connections, etc. No one seems to look at skill.
- ♦ how little planners are paid. How little respect planners get in an engineering context.
- ♦ how long it takes to get things done. Politics.
- ♦ how much planning is just property rights and land use bureaucracy
- ♦ how much politics actually played a role in trying to get things accomplished in the real world
- ♦ how political planning is and the level of public involvement
- ♦ how the political process and short term fiscal considerations often prevent true and positive progress
- ♦ I am still unsure of what the future employment picture is like. Do employers seek planning students, or a more common science or social degree a better asset?

- ♦ I did not give much consideration to the type of degree (MA or MUP or MCRP) I wish I would have known more about if the professional degree was more valuable after graduation.
- ♦ I did not regret getting into planning school. I think I made the right choice.
- ♦ I didn't make the connection between geography and planning until late high school/early college. Just having more info about planning and its potential would have been helpful.
- ♦ I met with a lot of prof planners first, but I did not realize how political govt planning offices can be.
- ♦ I really wish I would have gone to see some agencies and how things work in them
- ♦ I thought planning job would have a lot to do with field research, but the planning I learned at my school is heavily policy oriented and I was a little disappointed. I am concerned about the envt and natural resources and I sometimes feel I should have b
- ♦ I wanted to do this regardless of what people could have told me.
- ♦ I wish I had known more about job opportunities outside of local govt
- ♦ I wish I have been better informed of what roles APA and AICP play in planning
- ♦ I wish I would have understood the broad scope of the profession better.
- ♦ I wish someone had told me about planning period
- ♦ I wish someone would have explained more about the skills needed in the professions such as political knowledge. But now that I'm learning about the politics I hope to lead into a career more knowledgeable in this area.
- ♦ I wish someone would have explained to me the variety of fields that planning is related to the breadth of related fields to become an expert in.
- ♦ I would have liked to have known what planning was and what planner do, the diversity of the field and job opportunities available to planning professionals.
- ♦ Identify the many interests area where planner are found in society
- ♦ If someone had told me: most planners who practice at the local planning level are stuck spending a lot of time in political in-fighting or doing zoning admin/subdivision review, I would have said to hell the MCP degree and gone directly for the 1 year MS
- ♦ If you aren't ready to break down some barriers, to try to tackle the traditional planning field, then you should reconsider
- ♦ Integrate theory with practice and methods throughout the coursework
- ♦ It does not have to be a design profession. I think the analytical side often gets overlooked by prospective students as not as sexy as the design side.
- ♦ It is a very broad and diverse field with many possibilities and applications.
- ♦ It is not easy to get a job even though you have a Masters degree
- ♦ it'll e better for have integrated courses with land/arch programs
- ♦ It's very land use oriented
- ♦ lack of interest in developing theories of practice
- ♦ Low paying jobs in the public sector (but still wouldn't have affected my decision)
- ♦ many of the available jobs in muni govt focus on land use and zoning issues
- ♦ more info on actual skills planners use would have helped me to better pick school
- ♦ Much local work in planning is centered around 2 areas -- community interaction and regulatory functions.
- ♦ much of what is done is political
- ♦ Much of what is done is political
- ♦ no job opportunities, maybe
- ♦ not well recognized in the world, at least not in my country
- ♦ nothing, my five years of work experience led me to planning, and I'm glad I didn't enter grad school any earlier. I think I'll be a better planner because of the diverse, yet related to planning, background I had (my background includes lots of volunteer

- ♦ places planners are employed and what they do
- ♦ Planners don't really make the changes themselves. They are only advisors.
- ♦ Planners have a reputation of being rigid and too "by the book".
- ♦ Planners in the US are not decision makers
- ♦ planners may not wield as much power as is generally thought
- ♦ planners rarely make direct impacts on decision making
- ♦ Planning is a luxury
- ♦ Planning is political, and planners are in fact not objective!
- ♦ Planning is such an interdisciplinary field that encompasses a broad range of social, cultural, and envtl issues that our current population faces, and by being involved in the planning field we become more aware of the interrelationships and have the opportunities to make
- ♦ policy and politics issues
- ♦ politics
- ♦ politics of planning
- ♦ politics of the job and lack of public knowledge for the profession
- ♦ possibilities and variety of jobs planners are doing
- ♦ potential for full jobs and lots of "politics"
- ♦ salary drawbacks
- ♦ Salary levels are moderate. You probably won't be able to won your own plane. Also, in my region, you are expected to have practical experience before you become full time. A master degree alone does not mean much. You need a lot of internship experience j
- ♦ salary limitations
- ♦ salary of planners
- ♦ send undergrads to APA conf
- ♦ skills I would learn, maps, charts, graphs
- ♦ take more quant/tech coursework
- ♦ that computer literacy is very important
- ♦ that it can be a very boring field
- ♦ That it has become a profession and is not the innovative field I thought it was, but has become very bureaucratic
- ♦ That it is often a thankless job.
- ♦ That most of planning, at least in STATE, is concerned with helping residential developers build sprawling suburbs
- ♦ That planning is a long-term process, and that it may be a long time before you get to see the results of you work. Also, planning is on-going, so patience and persistence is key. The best way to see this for yourself is to get an internship or job in the
- ♦ That planning is controlled by state legislators than are not educated in planning and do no see that public interest is more important than private interest.
- ♦ That public planners rarely affect the built environmental, the market rules the development process
- ♦ That the focus of planning is very much related to public sector work
- ♦ That the planning code of ethics has as its foundation inherent political activism by the planner, e.g. directs the planner to attempt to empower the poor regardless of whether they are deserving
- ♦ that there was a profession of planning
- ♦ that what I had been doing was called planning
- ♦ that you are even more expendable than architects
- ♦ that you run the risk of becoming a bureaucrat

- ♦ That you're probably better off working after undergrad and earning the MCP later
- ♦ The amount of politics involved in the profession
- ♦ the boring nature of site plans
- ♦ The disparity between academia and the professionals. The bias towards urbanite ideology. Rural perspectives generally left off the table.
- ♦ the envtl planning should be supplemented with a strong science background
- ♦ the money isn't great
- ♦ The opportunities available
- ♦ the politics
- ♦ the politics
- ♦ The politics of it
- ♦ The realities between the gulf of the academic world and the professional world. The two are often at either extreme.
- ♦ the types and availabilities of specific career paths
- ♦ there are a lot of bad planners out there. Progressive thinking about participation, citizenship, community and those who are disenfranchised are rare in planning professionals.
- ♦ There are a lot of controversial issues that deal with race and ethnicity
- ♦ To plan on having a leeway of a few months when you are done when you can look for jobs so you don't feel pressured to get on the day after you graduate.
- ♦ too much politics
- ♦ Very little power, bureaucratic nature
- ♦ very political
- ♦ very political field
- ♦ Well, my undergrad professors said that planners play many roles...always something different...and that did affect my decision.
- ♦ While the profession like talking about change, it is actually more oriented to perpetuating the status quo behavior.
- ♦ You bang your head against the wall for 30 years, then you retire
- ♦ You can't make as much as you might with an MBA.
- ♦ You need skills
- ♦ you will live at your computer
- ♦ Your work life is not likely to be very stable