

UEP Policy and Planning Competency Grid

Course Name/Number: UEP 213
Housing Policy

Instructor: Rachel Bratt

Semester: Fall

a) Knowledge Competencies	Specific sub-competencies or examples as developed in this course
1. History, structure, function of urban and metropolitan settlements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of U.S. housing policies and programs as they relate to trends in urbanization, suburbanization
2. Economic influences on policy and planning (e.g. 'market' and 'polis' relationships)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How housing is connected to larger political and economic forces/policies • How different policies are more/less appropriate in various market conditions
3. Environmental, social and cultural influences on policy and planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ways in which racial issues have permeated housing programs and how government has sought to address this area of concern • Cultural roots of housing preferences (e.g., homeownership) • How housing is intimately connected both to personal/family well-being and to community revitalization
4. Understanding different roles in policy and planning	
i) Levels of government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roles of federal, state, and local governments in addressing housing problems
ii) Governance structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differential advantages of housing development and management through public, nonprofit and for-profit sponsorship
iii) Citizens and residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roles of residents in federal, local initiatives
iv) NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range of nonprofits involved with housing development and management • different nonprofit strategies

5. History, theory and processes of policymaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History of U.S. housing policies and programs
6. History, theory and process of planning	
7. Implementation of policy and planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How housing programs have been implemented
8. Evaluation of policy and planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Different mechanisms for subsidizing housing programs and their relative advantages/disadvantages; beneficiaries of federal housing subsidies
9. Administrative and legal aspects of policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fair housing laws discussed
10. Administrative and legal aspects of planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How subsidized housing is developed – introduction to subsidy mechanics and financing
11. Politics of policy and planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Role of the private for-profit sector in the development of housing policies The banking industry and federal supports for housing The subprime crisis and the roles of key public and private actors and institutions Key policy debates, strategies being utilized, ideas for new interventions (refinancing of defaulting mortgages; what to do with existing subsidized housing; dispersal of subsidized units vs. dispersal of low-income households throughout a metropolitan area)
b) Skills Competencies	Specific sub-competencies or examples as developed in this course
1. Critical thinking i) Defining problem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple aspects of housing problems defined
ii) Documenting the extent of a problem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing affordability, adequacy, availability are discussed, as they relate to different segments of the population
iii) Documenting the political and social context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing issues are examined in the context of the period in which they are being discussed

iv) Documenting the environmental and spatial context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spatial components are central, such as discussions of challenges siting subsidized housing in affluent communities
v) Identifying possible analysis strategies and their implications	
vi) Identifying criteria for proposing solutions	
vii) Identifying criteria for selecting solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions about how different proposals could be assessed and the basis on which various approaches may be advantageous
viii) Evaluating the development and results of policies and plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occasional reference to specific developments
2. Research skills	
i) Understanding research design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research papers published in top-tier journals are critiqued in class discussions.
ii) Collecting relevant literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant literature must be cited and used appropriately in policy memo assignment
iii) Analyzing relevant literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant literature must be cited and used appropriately in both take-home exams
iv) Identifying and assessing data sources and limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exposure to different types of housing data familiarizes students with good sources for information and about how data can be manipulated to tell the desired story
v) Developing data collection instruments and tools	
3. Data Analysis skills	
i) Interpreting and synthesizing data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two exams provide experience in using and explaining data
ii) Drawing inferences from specific observations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy memo requires students to make policy recommendations concerning the selected topic
iii) More generalizable findings	
iv) Comparative analysis	

v) Longitudinal analysis	
vi) Recognizing and accounting for limitations to findings	
4. Qualitative Analysis skills	
i) Direct observation	
ii) Analysis of primary qualitative data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use and synthesis of relevant data required in two take-home exams
iii) Analysis of secondary qualitative data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See above
5. Quantitative Analysis skills	
i) Descriptive statistics	
ii) Inferential statistics	
iii) Basic forecasting	
iv) Use of spreadsheets and statistical software	
6. Spatial Analysis skills	
i) Understand how to identify spatial problems and frame spatial questions for analysis and research	
ii) Use Geographic Information System for basic spatial analysis and mapping	
7. Communication skills	
i) Writing skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written communication skills improved by written exercises total 25 pages (two take-home exams) • Policy memo (part I of final) provides opportunity to explore area of interest and to practice a professional style of writing

ii) Speaking skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion format encourages participation and students “finding their voice”
iii) Graphic presentation skills	
iv) Presentation strategies and methods	
c) Policy and Planning in Practice Competencies	Specific sub-competencies or examples as developed in this course
1. Collaboration skills	
i) Negotiation	
ii) Group project management	
iii) Group problem solving	
iv) Perspective-taking	
v) Adaptability, flexibility	
vi) Networking	
2. Organizational management skills	
i) Decision making	
ii) Strategic problem solving and adapting to change	
iii) Human resource development	
iv) Financial management and resource development	

<p>3. Political and economic power mapping skills</p> <p>i) Understanding political and economic power structures and dynamics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of the private for-profit sector in the development of housing policies • The banking industry and federal supports for housing • The subprime crisis and the roles of key public and private actors and institutions • Key policy debates, strategies being utilized, ideas for new interventions (e.g., subprime crisis; refinancing of defaulting mortgages; what to do with existing subsidized housing; dispersal of subsidized units vs. dispersal of low-income households throughout a metropolitan area)
<p>ii) Modes of influencing their use</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some discussion of organizing, lobbying, community development approaches to gaining political power in housing controversies
<p>4. Ethical and professional behavior skills</p> <p>i) Understanding and upholding the role of ethics and accountability in professional policy and planning processes, practices, and behavior</p>	