

## UEP Policy and Planning Competency Grid

**Course Name/Number: UEP 251    Instructor: Mary Davis**  
**Economics for Policy and Planning Analysis**

**Semester: Fall 2008**

<b>a) Knowledge Competencies</b>	<b>Specific sub-competencies or examples as developed in this course</b>
1. History, structure, function of urban and metropolitan settlements	
2. Economic influences on policy and planning (e.g. 'market' and 'polis' relationships)	Major focus on fundamental economic principles that impact all levels of society, including individuals, businesses (both large and small, private and non-profit), and government.
3. Environmental, social and cultural influences on policy and planning	Major focus on economic issues as they relate to environmental and social policy, as well as the influence of cultural background on economic institutions and decision-making.
4. Understanding different roles in policy and planning	
i) Levels of government	
ii) Governance structures	Major focus on the evaluation of government policies, such as taxes, subsidies, and regulations, and their impact on the overall US economy.
iii) Citizens and residents	Major focus on microeconomics and rational decision-making at the individual level, including a thorough discussion of the drawbacks of neoclassical economics.
iv) NGOs	
5. History, theory and processes of policymaking	
6. History, theory and process of planning	
7. Implementation of policy and planning	

8. Evaluation of policy and planning	
9. Administrative and legal aspects of policy	
10. Administrative and legal aspects of planning	
11. Politics of policy and planning	

<b>b) Skills Competencies</b>	<b>Specific sub-competencies or examples as developed in this course</b>
<b>1. Critical thinking</b>	
i) Defining problem	Major focus on constructing an economic argument and evaluating the outcomes of various economic policies and decisions.
ii) Documenting the extent of a problem	
iii) Documenting the political and social context	Major focus on the political and social context of economic decisions made by individuals, businesses, and government.
iv) Documenting the environmental and spatial context	Moderate focus on the relationship between economic growth and the environment. Moderate focus on the spatial context of income inequality, and the impact of factors such as educational attainment, race, etc. that vary across states and countries on income inequality in the US and the world.
v) Identifying possible analysis strategies and their implications	Major focus on the primary economic models and approaches in policy analysis.
vi) Identifying criteria for proposing solutions	
vii) Identifying criteria for selecting solutions	
viii) Evaluating the development and results of policies and plans	Major focus on the primary economic models and approaches in policy analysis.

<b>2. Research skills</b>	
i) Understanding research design	
ii) Collecting relevant literature	
iii) Analyzing relevant literature	
iv) Identifying and assessing data sources and limitations	
v) Developing data collection instruments and tools	
<b>3. Data Analysis skills</b>	
i) Interpreting and synthesizing data	
ii) Drawing inferences from specific observations to make	
iii) More generalizable findings	
iv) Comparative analysis	
v) Longitudinal analysis	
vi) Recognizing and accounting for limitations to findings	
<b>4. Qualitative Analysis skills</b>	
i) Direct observation	
ii) Analysis of primary qualitative data	
iii) Analysis of secondary qualitative data	

<b>5. Quantitative Analysis skills</b> i) Descriptive statistics	
ii) Inferential statistics	
iii) Basic forecasting	
iv) Use of spreadsheets and statistical software	
<b>6. Spatial Analysis skills</b> 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	
<b>7. Communication skills</b> i) Writing skills	Moderate focus on writing skills through short-answer problem sets and exams.
ii) Speaking skills	
iii) Graphic presentation skills	Major focus on graphical interpretations of economic phenomena.
iv) Presentation strategies and methods	

<b>c) Policy and Planning in Practice Competencies</b>	<b>Specific sub-competencies or examples as developed in this course</b>
<b>1. Collaboration skills</b> i) Negotiation	
ii) Group project management	
iii) Group problem solving	
iv) Perspective-taking	
v) Adaptability, flexibility	
vi) Networking	
<b>2. Organizational management skills</b> i) Decision making	
ii) Strategic problem solving and adapting to change	
iii) Human resource development	
iv) Financial management and resource development	
<b>3. Political and economic power mapping skills</b> i) Understanding political and economic power structures and dynamics	Major focus on the political and social context of economic decisions made by individuals, businesses, and government, and how these factors interact to determine policy outcomes.
ii) Modes of influencing their use	
<b>4. Ethical and professional behavior skills</b> i) Understanding and upholding the role of ethics and accountability in professional policy and planning processes, practices, and behavior	

