

UEP Policy and Planning Competency Grid

Course Name/Number: UEP 294-01 Regional Planning Instructor: Justin Hollander

Semester: Spring '09

a) Knowledge Competencies	Specific sub-competencies or examples as developed in this course
1. History, structure, function of urban and metropolitan settlements	Some focus paid to the history of regional planning, as well as the form and function of metropolitan areas.
2. Economic influences on policy and planning (e.g. 'market' and 'polis' relationships)	The role of private-sector decision-making in designing and implementing regional planning initiatives.
3. Environmental, social and cultural influences on policy and planning	The environmental, social, and cultural challenges associated with growth and decline in metropolitan areas.
4. Understanding different roles in policy and planning	Major focus on the distinct role of regional governmental and non-governmental organizations in addressing urban, social, and environmental challenges in metropolitan areas.
i) Levels of government	
ii) Governance structures	
iii) Citizens and residents	
iv) NGOs	
5. History, theory and processes of policymaking	
6. History, theory and process of planning	Some focus paid to the theories of regional planning, both historical and contemporary.
7. Implementation of policy and planning	Major emphasis on the tools and techniques of regional planning, where they have been implemented, and how successful they have been.

8. Evaluation of policy and planning	
9. Administrative and legal aspects of policy	
10. Administrative and legal aspects of planning	Major emphasis in reviewing the administrative and legal aspects of regional planning tools and techniques.
11. Politics of policy and planning	Some attention to the politics of regional planning.

b) Skills Competencies	Specific sub-competencies or examples as developed in this course
1. Critical thinking	Major focus in each class assignment to closely examine the conditions that metropolitan areas face and how to define the problem from there.
i) Defining problem	
ii) Documenting the extent of a problem	Some focus is paid to document conditions in metropolitan area.
iii) Documenting the political and social context	Some focus is paid to document the political and social context in metropolitan areas.
iv) Documenting the environmental and spatial context	Some focus is paid to document the environmental and spatial context of metropolitan areas.
v) Identifying possible analysis strategies and their implications	Major focus on identifying various strategies for analyzing conditions in metropolitan areas.
vi) Identifying criteria for proposing solutions	Some focus on identifying criteria for proposing tools and techniques for addressing problems in metropolitan areas.
vii) Identifying criteria for selecting solutions	Some focus on identifying criteria for selecting the appropriate tools and techniques for addressing problems in metropolitan areas.
viii) Evaluating the development and results of policies and plans	Major focus on reflecting on successes and failures in regional planning interventions.

2. Research skills	
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	
3. Data Analysis skills	
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	
4. Qualitative Analysis skills	
i) Direct observation	
ii) Analysis of primary qualitative data	
iii) Analysis of secondary qualitative data	

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	Major focus on development confidence as a writer and writing in a professional style.
ii) Speaking skills	Major focus on presenting to a “public” audience.
iii) Graphic presentation skills	Some focus on 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	
3. Political and economic power mapping skills i) Understanding political and economic power structures and dynamics	
ii) Modes of influencing their use	
4. Ethical and professional behavior skills i) Understanding and upholding the role of ethics and accountability in professional policy and planning processes, practices, and behavior	

