

Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Community Development and Planning



The Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Geographic Information Sciences at Western Illinois University offers a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Community Development and Planning, available at the Macomb campus. The 18-semester hour certificate program features courses in community development, planning, and Geographic Information Systems. These courses are essential to the practice of community development. The courses provide students with a broad range of skills necessary to deal effectively with growth and development challenges in rural and urban areas. Students gain analytic training, hands-on experiences and a myriad of other skills, including creating purposeful, positive social, economic and physical changes and developing better communities with diverse populations. Courses taken in the certificate program can be applied toward a master's degree in Geography. It is also open to any graduate student in good academic standing.

Admission Requirements

Students applying for the certificate must have the following:

- A cumulative undergraduate grade point average of 2.75 or higher
- Non-degree seeking students must meet the admission requirements of the WIU School of Graduate Studies
- Maintain a cumulative 3.0 GPA for all coursework required for the certificate
- Course substitutions are not allowed in the certificate program
- All program requirements must be completed within three years

Required Courses (12-18 SH)

- ECON 460G Urban/Regional Economic Analysis or IIRA 501 Principles of Community Development (3 SH)
- ECON 535 Small Community Development (3 SH)
- GEOG 549 Nonmetropolitan Planning or GEOG 580 Community Development (3 SH)
- GEOG 557 Planning Implementation (3 SH)
- Internship (course name and number specific to department) (6 SH) OR

Select any two courses with the approval of the Graduate Program Coordinator in Geography (6 SH)

- GEOG 508 GIS Cartographic Design, GEOG 509 Fundamentals of GIS Analysis, GEOG 510 Environmental Impact Assessment,

GEOG 548 Urban Planning, GEOG 596 Internship in Applied Geography, GEOG 597 Internship in Planning, GEOG 598 Directed Study—Research (special project), and GEOG 650 Seminar in Cultural Geography

Total: 18 SH

Career Opportunities

- Local, state and federal government
- Economic development agencies
- Regional planning agencies
- Rural community development agencies
- Land-use planning agencies
- Environmental planning agencies
- Transportation planning agencies
- Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs)
- Law firms

“As a Peace Corps Fellow, the Community Development certificate was a bonus to the Master’s in Geography. Now that I’m in my internship—working for the City of LaSalle—I’m glad I decided to pursue this route. The concepts taught in class have been really helpful in understanding things like developing a Comprehensive Plan, zoning and code enforcement and Tax Increment Financing. I’ve gained hands-on experience that I’m confident will give me a competitive advantage when it comes time to look for a job.”

—Kara Garten, current student

Program Location:
Macomb

Contact Information

Questions about the program:

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and Geographic Information Sciences
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-or-

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General admission questions:

School of Graduate Studies
(309) 298-1806 or (877) WIU GRAD
Grad-Office@wiu.edu
wiu.edu/grad