Master’s of City & Regional Planning

Fall 2020 Admissions Webinar | October 14, 2020

Dr. Yan Song, MCRP Admissions Director
Sandra Lazo de la Vega, Program Coordinator
Olivia Raines, Student Admissions Coordinator
Marc Moore, Student Admissions Coordinator
Roadmap

- Why Carolina
- Program overview
- Admissions process overview
- Questions
Why Carolina?

One of the oldest and most consistently top-ranked planning programs in North America.

Producing leaders in Planning since 1946.
UNC is consistently ranked **best-value** in American higher education.

UNC named **third top** public University in WSJ /Times Higher Ed.

Carolina Planning is ranked **#5 by Planetizen** among U.S. Planning Programs.

1:8 Faculty-Student ratio
World-Class faculty & research

4 Distinguished Educator Awards for Lifetime Scholarship from the American Collegiate Schools of Planning

Diverse faculty working on cutting-edge research

Innovative teaching and courses

Embedded in the community and the world
In The Shadows of Ferguson: How have redlining, restrictive covenants & other housing and urban policies shaped the lives of African-Americans?

What is the impact of student debt on opportunity for minority students?

Can home loans to low-income borrowers work out well for the lender and the borrower?

How have manufacturers re-tooled in response to the COVID–19 pandemic?

How do manufacturers support an equitable environment for their workforce?
Research Centers

- Serve as learning labs
- Students and faculty engage in research together;
- Students hold paid research positions here
Prepared to lead globally

• Faculty and graduate students conduct research across the country and the world.
• Current projects include work on China, India, Vietnam, Colombia, Bolivia, Argentina, and the UK.
• DCRP-China Program
• Fulbright funded research program in Vietnam
• Rockefeller funded research in India
Top-quality & affordable

- Lowest tuition rates amongst top planning schools
- Of the top 5 schools, Carolina Planning has the largest proportion of students who receive funding
  - Competitive, merit-based funding
  - Teaching & Research Assistantships
  - Work at affiliated institutes and organizations
- Chapel Hill is one of the most affordable places to get your graduate education. Compare the cost of living in Chapel Hill to other cities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Residency Classification*</th>
<th>Tuition Rate Per Academic Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina Residents</td>
<td>$12,580</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-North Carolina Residents</td>
<td>$30,241</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Funding opportunities

53% of MCRP students receive some type of merit-based aid

$19,340 average MCRP merit aid award (tuition, fees, stipends, scholarships, etc.)

25% of MCRP students received loans | average loan $22k

$1.4 million in merit aid last cycle (MCRP&PHD)

All applicants are considered for merit aid from department - no separate application
Professional Development

• Dedicated career services staff
• One-on-one career advising
  • Resume reviews
  • Cover letter review
  • Mock interviews
  • Interview preparation
• Internship panels
• Workshops
• Alumni panels
• Bi-weekly job and internship postings
• Conference travel funding
Jobs after Carolina

- Government
  - Federal state and local
- Non-Profit sector
- Private sector
- Consulting
- Education
Alumni Network

2,000+ alumni in every region of the United States...
Alumni Network

2,000+ alumni in every region of the United States

...and working globally
Vibrant & engaged students

Your colleagues:
Top Notch, Creative, Committed, from all around the US and Globe
Inclusive & supportive environment

Prof. Todd BenDor & Mike Everhart (MCRP’19) work on a joint project, which became Mike's MP

MCRP students complete ULI project, Spring 2019

Placemakers host tea-time, Fall 2019
Sustaining our community

MCRP students complete ULI project, Spring 2019
## MCRP Curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MCRP CORE</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>When to take it</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MICROECON</td>
<td>Students can place out of these</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fall year 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METHODS</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fall year 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URBAN SPATIAL STRUCTURE</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fall year 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEORY</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Spring year 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>LAW</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SPECIALIZATION</strong></td>
<td>12 CREDITS / 4 CLASSES</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CAPSTONE</strong></td>
<td>WORKSHOP</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Last year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MASTER'S PROJECT</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Last semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ELECTIVES</strong></td>
<td>Any course @ the 500 level or above</td>
<td>18+</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total credits</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>51+</strong></td>
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Specializations

- Economic Development
- Housing & Community Development
- Land Use & Environmental Planning
- Transportation Planning
Collaboration

Cross-cutting projects, intersections, sharing resources and paths to *interdisciplinary* knowledge

Tracks and Certificates
- Natural Hazards
- GIS
- Real Estate Development
- Design
Dual Degrees

- 2 separate degrees in less time
- Carolina Planning students can take courses at Duke and NC State at no additional cost, even if not enrolled in a dual degree program
COVID-19

Murder of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and too many other black lives
Our process

What are our values?

What do they mean in the context of these crises?

What policies and practices should be in place?
Our values are...

High-impact, engaged social science

Diversity & inclusion in planning

Career-launching teaching & mentorship

From our strategic plan, adopted by the faculty in February 2020
Engaged Social Science

WHAT DOES IT MEAN IN THE CONTEXT OF THESE CRISSES?
• Engage our students and our research with the issues we are facing
• Address the elephant in the room

Support faculty research efforts around COVID-19 and Racism & Equity

Develop a Master’s Project fund to support student research that engages with Race, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Planning

Survey the faculty for DEI content in their courses ahead of registration, share this information with students so they can register in courses that address these issues

Incorporate/address the pandemic and its implications for Planning in our courses.
Diversity & Inclusion in Planning

WHAT DOES IT MEAN IN THE CONTEXT OF THESE CRISSES?
• Take care of ourselves and each other
• Prioritize the needs/voices of those amongst us who are most at risk

- Stop requiring GRE for admissions
- Support Excellence in Diversity Fellowships
- Give our faculty, students and TA a choice in how they want to teach and learn (remote vs. in-person) to best meet learning objectives and personal and family situations.
- Form student, faculty & staff Racial Equity committee
- Our building (New East) is open, but masks and physical distancing are required
- In-person meetings in small, indoor spaces (i.e. offices) are not allowed
- TAs are not required to teach recitations in person
- All fall 2020 courses had a remote option from day 1
### Career-launching teaching & mentorship

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN IN THE CONTEXT OF THESE CRISSES?**
- Support our students and advisees
- Adapt our teaching and mentorship to the reality we face

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey the faculty for DEI content in their courses ahead of registration, share this information with students so they can register in courses that address these issues</th>
<th>Create a place where faculty and students can share anti-racist teaching and engagement tools</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instructors revise courses to accommodate the unique conditions created by COVID-19 using University resources and innovate strategies to safely provide the best learning environment possible</td>
<td>Faculty will continue to advise students using remote-meeting platforms</td>
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We will be intentional in cultivating relationships and our community
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Fall 2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E-mail us at <a href="mailto:dcrp-admissions@unc.edu">dcrp-admissions@unc.edu</a> with any questions!</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 12, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application deadline (applynow.unc.edu)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admissions decisions announced</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admitted Students (Virtual*) Open House</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 15 2021</td>
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<td>Enrollment decisions and deposits due</td>
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Application requirements

✓ Transcripts
✓ Statement of Purpose
✓ 3 Letters of Recommendations
✓ Resume/CV
✓ Carolina Planning Supplemental Questionnaire
✓ TOEFL or IELTS Scores (International Applicants Only)
✓ $95.00 Non-Refundable Application Fee

No single factor is disqualifying

For example, a transcript that shows a semester with poor grades does not disqualify an applicant with excellent recommendation letters who is able to communicate in their statement what happened during that semester.
How to apply?

applynow.unc.edu

Your letters of recommendation can take up to two weeks from the day you complete your application to appear in the UNC system. We recommend submitting your application as soon as possible (do not wait for January 12th).
What’s next?

Admitted Student Open House in March!

- How will COVID-19 impact Open House?
- Socialize *virtually* with faculty, students, & alumni

Get more info on:
- Student Life
- Internships
- Career Resources

- Curriculum
- Specializations
- Research
Questions?

gradschool.unc.edu/admissions/instructions
planning.unc.edu/admissions
dcrp-admissions@unc.edu

Dr. Yan Song – Faculty Admissions Director
quercia@email.unc.edu

Sandra Lazo de la Vega – Program Coordinator
sandral@unc.edu

Olivia Raines & Marc Moore – Student Admissions Coordinators
oraines@live.unc.edu; mmoor183@email.unc.edu
THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL