



Urban Studies Careers

Urban planners literally help shape our future. Their work often defines the shape and quality of neighborhoods and of whole communities. Urban planners develop long- and short-term land-use plans and identify corridors for roads and utilities. In league with others, they assess ways to improve the environment and to lessen the impact of progress upon it.

Their work helps elected and appointed officials deal with social, economic, structural and environmental issues. Through research and planning, they devise ways for the best use of a community's land and resources for residential, commercial and recreational activities.

They address issues such as traffic congestion, air pollution, and the effect of growth and change on a community.

They may formulate plans relating to the construction of new school buildings, public housing, or other infrastructure. Some planners are involved in environmental issues ranging from pollution control to wetland preservation, forest conservation, or the location of new landfills. Planners

also may be involved with drafting legislation on environmental, social, and economic issues, such as sheltering the homeless, planning a new park, or meeting the demand for new correctional facilities.

Planners examine proposed community facilities such as schools to be sure these facilities will meet the changing demands placed upon them over time.

They keep abreast of economic and legal issues involved in zoning codes, building codes, and environmental regulations. They ensure that builders and developers follow these codes and regulations. Planners also deal with land-use issues created by population

movements. For example, as suburban growth and economic development create more new jobs outside cities, the need for public transportation that enables workers to get to these jobs increases. In response, planners develop transportation models for possible implementation and explain their details to planning boards and the general public.

Job Outlook

Employment of urban and regional planners is expected to grow about as fast as the average for all occupations through 2010. Employment growth will be driven by the need for state and local governments to provide public services such as regulation of commercial development, the environment, transportation, housing, and land use and development. Nongovernmental initiatives dealing with historic preservation and redevelopment will provide additional openings.

Most new jobs for urban and regional planners will arise with rapidly expanding communities. Local governments need planners to address an array of problems associated with population growth. An advanced degree is the key to many of these jobs.

Earnings

Median annual earnings of urban and regional planners were \$46,500 in 2000. The middle 50 percent earned between \$36,510 and \$57,900. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$29,890, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$72,090. Median annual earnings in local government, which employs the largest numbers of urban and regional planners, were \$45,300.

Related Careers

- Architect
- Civil Engineer
- Environmental Engineer

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Educational Opportunities in Urban Studies at LCCC

Associate of Arts

The associate of arts is for students who want to pursue bachelor's degrees in urban studies by completing the first two or more years at LCCC. Students completing the associate of arts degree may transfer with junior (or higher) standing to the four-year university or college of their choice. The associate of arts is intended for students who wish to complete the first two or more years of a bachelor's degree at LCCC in a program field such as Urban Studies.

There are virtually no limitations to the programs that can be pursued as LCCC can customize associate of arts programs to meet the transfer college/university's requirements. The associate of arts program may be completed in two years, if taken on a full-time basis. Many LCCC students choose to study on a part-time basis.

Students in the associate of arts program may also select electives, or complement their curriculums, by choosing courses from such areas as introduction to public administration, poverty and social welfare, human behavior and the social environment, introduction to urban studies and contemporary urban studies.

Other Educational Opportunities through LCCC's University Partnership

Cleveland State University

Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies/Public Safety Management

Offered through the University Partnership at LCCC by Cleveland State University, students in this program learn about the cultural, political and historical aspects of urban living and the influence of these factors on the growth and decline of businesses and neighborhoods. This program in urban studies is an interdisciplinary program which includes a foundation in urban geography, urban economics, political systems and urban social issues. Cleveland State's program in urban studies is well-known throughout the nation, and its graduates are recognized as among the best prepared and most capable. The public safety management portion of the program prepares graduates for careers in public-safety services.

Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies/Urban Services Administration

Offered through the University Partnership at LCCC by Cleveland State University, this program provides a comprehensive study of the administration of service delivery, particularly in governmental and non-profit agencies. The curriculum contains issues and problems confronting contemporary urban society and the skills and knowledge needed to administer programs that address them. It focuses on the educational demands of those professionals currently working in the human-services field. The urban services administration portion of the program develops leadership in urban policy development and administrative skills in human services for these professionals, as well as prepares students for positions in related fields.

About Lorain County Community College

Lorain County Community College is one of Ohio's leading colleges delivering distance learning education via the Internet. The College has expanded its delivery of programs and services through the 2001 opening of the LCCC Learning Center in Lorain. Partnerships with Lorain County's K-12 school districts have also led to important developments for the community. More than 800 high school students participate in the Post Secondary Enrollment Options Program by enrolling in LCCC classes, making LCCC the state's largest community college provider of PSEO. More than 30 percent of Lorain County's top high school graduates choose to attend LCCC.

LCCC is one of Ohio's fastest growing colleges because of the variety of learning opportunities it provides. Students can choose from more than 80 educational programs. Students can complete the first half — and sometimes more — of a bachelor's degree. The University Partnership brings eight universities to the LCCC campus to offering 30 bachelor's and master's degree programs. With the University Partnership at LCCC, the College partners with the state's finest universities to bring the best in bachelor's and master's degree programs right to the LCCC campus. Students can earn degrees that get them jobs immediately. Students can upgrade, retrain and improve current life skills. Students can learn in the classroom, at home and over the Internet.

LCCC offers a complete college experience. We understand that there's more to college life than attending classes. We offer many of the programs, sports, and activities available at large four-year universities and colleges. But, students will not have to stand in line behind juniors and seniors in the classroom, on the playing field, or in leadership positions. Students can immediately act in a play, sing in a musical group, serve as editor for the college newspaper, plan social activities, compete on the playing field, or set policy as a student government member.

In addition to providing a great education for those who enter college with aspirations of a degree, LCCC helps those who have changed their career goals, who want to broaden their horizons, and who want to return to work. LCCC provides learning and training for those who want to move up but find they need new or improved skills for the kind of professional opportunities they seek.

LCCC faculty is recognized locally and nationally for their work as professors and in other areas. They all have advanced degrees and real-world experience and understand their primary responsibility at LCCC is to teach classes. Classes are small. Individual attention is plentiful.

An LCCC education, as the slogan says, leads students into "real jobs and real futures." To find out more, call (800) 995-LCCC or visit LCCC's Connections Center or the LCCC Learning Center in Lorain for all of your enrollment service needs, including admissions, registration, advising and counseling.



**Lorain County
Community College**



**The University
Partnership**

of Lorain County Community College

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