THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Engineering

Undergraduate Education & Student Services

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Memo

To: Randy Smith, Vice Provost for Academic Programs, Office of Academic Affairs
From: Cory Matyas, Assistant Dean for Curriculum and Assessment
Date: February 25, 2026
Re: Informational Item - Update to City & Regional Planning Electives

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The City and Regional Planning program proposes an update to their elective requirement. The proposal reduces the required major elective hours from 21 to 18 and increases free electives from 18 to 21, keeping the total degree hours at 120. This adjustment is intended to improve scheduling flexibility, streamline degree process and better align the program with peer accredited planning degrees

They request this update be effective AU26.

The Engineering College Committee on Academic Affairs met on February 25, 2026 and reviewed this proposal as an Informational Item. There were no questions or concerns and a College-level record of support for this proposal was created.

BSCRP Curriculum Change - Proposal

To:	Randy Smith, Vice Provost for Academic Programs
Cc:	David Tomasko, Associate Dean for Academic Programs and Student Services Rachel Kleit, Interim Director, Knowlton School Jennifer Clark, Section Head of City and Regional Planning (CRP) Beth Blostein, Knowlton Academic Affairs Committee, Chair (KAA) Jessica Baer-Graves, Knowlton Academic Program Services Manager Lexi McCartney, Knowlton Academic Program Services Specialist 2
From:	Tijs van Maasakkers, Chair of Undergraduate Studies in City and Regional Planning
Date:	02/23/2026
Re:	Proposed Curriculum Change in BSCRP related to CRP Elective Requirement

Proposal:

To reduce the number of required CRPLAN elective credit hours in the Bachelor's in City and Regional Planning from 21 to 18 and increase the open electives requirement from 18 to 21. The overall number of credit hours required to graduate (120) will not change as a result of this proposed change.

Goal:

The intent of this proposed curriculum change is to enable students pursuing the Bachelor's in City and Regional Planning (BSCRP) to complete their degree more efficiently. This change is also intended to make transferring to the BSCRP from other degree programs, both at Ohio State and elsewhere, less onerous.

Context:

The Bachelor's in City and Regional Planning at Ohio State is an externally accredited degree program that was created in 2009. Over the last decade, an average of 36 students have graduated with the BSCRP per academic year. As of Autumn 2025, 105 students are enrolled as majors in the BSCRP, with an additional 8 students pursuing a Double Major (M2) in CRP. In 2022, the Bachelor's of City and Regional Planning increased the number of required CRPLAN elective credit hours from 12 to 21, as part of a broader curriculum revision. The 2022 curriculum change also included adding new required core courses in City and Regional Planning (total CRP Core credit hours was increased from 40 to 46) and two non-major requirements, in Computer Science and Public Affairs. Overall, the 2022 curriculum change has resulted in desired outcomes but the significant increase of required CRP elective credits has presented several challenges for our students, including course scheduling and overall flexibility in order to graduate in a timely fashion.

Key Considerations:

A. Comparable undergraduate programs in planning, also accredited by the Planning Accreditation Board, require fewer CRP-specific elective credit hours.
   a. The Bachelor's of Arts in Urban Studies and Planning at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign requires 15 CRP-specific elective credit hours. The required core in planning at UIUC consists of 37-39 credit hours, namely 28 for their "foundation" courses and 9-11 additional credit hours in a required concentration. https://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/faa/urban-studies-planning-ba/#degreerequirementstext
   b. Michigan State's PAB accredited Bachelor's of Science in Urban and Regional Planning requires 12 credit hours of CRP elective courses, on top of 35 credit hours of planning courses in their core. https://reg.msu.edu/AcademicPrograms/ProgramDetail.aspx?PType=UGRD&Program=UPCANR_BS1
B. The BSCRP attracts a significant number of transfer students who have taken elective courses, at Ohio State or elsewhere, prior to their decision to pursue the BSCRP as their major. A minority of BSCRP students start in our program in their first year in college. In the last 5 academic years, an average of 10 students have started their freshman year in college as a BSCRP major. This means that the degree program generally attracts an additional 26 students per graduating class after the first year. Based on anecdotal evidence, this appears fairly typical for undergraduate degree programs in planning, as a relatively unknown field, both academically and professionally. Many of these transfer students have already taken one or more elective courses prior to joining the BSCRP and seek to transfer these credits to their BSCRP requirements. This adds a significant workload to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies, as each course substitution request needs to be assessed individually. Reducing the CRP elective credit hour requirement will make it possible for these transfer students to use up to 3 additional credit hours for the "open" electives requirement in the BSCRP.

Implementation:

This proposal foresees the changed requirement to become effective at the start of Autumn 2026. The new Curriculum Sheet that is attached in Appendix A will become active in Autumn 2026 as well. Therefore, students graduating immediately following the Autumn 2026 semester can use that curriculum sheet.

Decision-making:

- On Monday, Jan. 25, 2026, the faculty members in the CRP Undergraduate Committee unanimously voted in support of changing the CRP elective credit hour requirement from 21 to 18, while increasing the Open elective credit hour requirement from 18 to 21.
- On Monday, Feb. 09, 2026, the CRP faculty voted in support of this curriculum change proposal.
- The Knowlton Academic Affairs Committee voted in support of this proposal on Wednesday, 02/18/26
- This proposal was forwarded to the College of Engineering on Monday, 02/20/26 for inclusion as an informational item.

Appendix A: Updated Curriculum Sheet for BSCRP

Bachelor of Science
City and Regional Planning

City and Regional Planning can be complex and difficult, and urban planners deal with big challenges such as climate change, economic and social inequality, and inclusive infrastructure planning. Students in planning learn about topics like land use planning, transportation, sustainability and resiliency, regional economic development, social justice, food systems, planning for housing, and equity planning.]. Students in this major will complete a minimum of 120 hours outlined as follows.

General Education Requirements

Requirement	Course Options	Hours
GE Launch Seminar	GenEd 1201	1
Foundations: Writing and Information Literacy	*Student Choice*	3
Foundations: Mathematical & Quantitative Reasoning/Data Analysis	*Student Choice**	0-5
Foundations: Literary, Visual and Performing Arts	*Student Choice*	3
Foundations: Historical & Cultural Studies	*Student Choice*	3
Foundations: Natural Science	*Student Choice*	4-5
Foundations: Social & Behavioral Sciences	*Student Choice**	0-3
Foundations: Race, Ethnic and Gender Diversity	*Student Choice*	3
Theme: Citizenship for a Diverse & Just World [b]	*Student Choice*	4
Theme: Student Choice	*Student Choice*	4-6
GE Reflection	Capstone*	Embedded into Major Core Capstone
Total		**25-36**

College / School / Degree Requirements [a, b]

Requirement	Course Options	Hours
KNOW 1100	**Total**	1

[a] Some coursework required by the major or college may satisfy GE requirements. Please add an asterisk to "student choice" for any GE category where that category can be satisfied by a required course. Please indicate in parentheses following the course listing within College/Degree requirements or Major Coursework what GE category the course satisfies (e.g., "Biology 1113 (Nat Sci)" in the Major Core for programs that require this as a prerequisite to major coursework). There is no limit to the number of courses that may overlap between the GE Foundations and the rest of the academic program

[b] Students complete either a 4-credit course or two 3-credit courses in each of two General Education Theme areas: Citizenship for a Diverse & Just World (required), and the student's choice of available GE Themes. If major-required courses are approved as a GE Theme course, one course in each GE Theme area may double count in the GE and major hours. Theme courses are identified with a ❖ symbol.

* These courses are can also fulfill certain GE Requirements above (may be degree requirements, pre- or co-requisites, or major courses).

Major Coursework [a, b]

Course	Title	Hours
Major Core		
CRPLAN 2000	Introduction to City and Regional Planning	3
CRPLAN 2110	Creating Innovative Cities	3
CRPLAN 2100	History and Law	3
CRPLAN 2600	Designing Communication	4
CRPLAN 3000	Planning Resilient Environments	3
CRPLAN 3100	Analyzing the City	3
CRPLAN 3200	Placemaking	4
CRPLAN 3300	Planning for and With People	3
CRPLAN 3150	Digital Design and Analysis	2
CRPLAN 3600	Land Development	3
CRPLAN 4900	Planning Studio I	6
CRPLAN 4910	Planning Studio II	6
CRPLAN 4950*	Professional Planning Skills	3
Total		**46**
Required Non-Major General Courses		
ECON 2001.02*	Principles of Microeconomics (Foundations: Social & Behavioral Sciences)	3
CSE 1111*	Introduction to Computer-Assisted Problem Solving (Foundations: Mathematical & Quantitative Reasoning / Data Analysis)	3
PUBAFRS 4310	State and Local Government Finance	3
Total		**9**
Required Technical / Directed / Targeted / Open Electives; Career Courses		
CRPLAN Electives		18 21
Open Electives		21 18
Total		**39**

General Education	25
College / School / Degree	1
Major Core	46
Required Non-Major	9
Technical / Directed / Targeted / Open Electives; Career Courses	39
Minimum Total Credit Hours for Degree	120

Policies and General Requirements for Degree

- A minimum of 120 total credit hours. Remedial coursework (English 1109; EDUTL 1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1006, 1007, 1010; Mathematics 1040, 1050, 1073, 1074, 1075) do not count toward the 120-hour minimum requirement for the BS degree.
- If a major-required course or major elective is a GE Theme course, two 3-4 cr courses (no more than one per theme area) is permitted to double count in the GE and major hours. GE Theme courses are indicated with a ❖ symbol. There is no limit on overlap between the GE Foundations courses and other coursework.
- Students are encouraged to participate in education abroad opportunities. Consult with your advisor for how education abroad credit applies to your degree.
- Courses required in the major (including major-supporting courses and major electives) may **not** be taken pass/non-pass.
- Coursework taken as open electives may include a maximum of 4 credit hours of physical activity courses (all 1139-1197 courses), and a maximum of 4 credit hours of campus music organizations.
- A maximum of six hours of individual studies courses (x193) can be applied toward graduation; some majors may have a lower maximum.
- **An application for degree must be submitted online at**
- **REMAINING POLICIES/REQUIREMENTS SHOULD BE LISTED HERE**

Policies and General Requirements for Minors/Minor Equivalent
- The minor/minor equivalent must contain a minimum of 12 credit hours distinct from the major and/or additional minors (i.e., if a minor requires more than 12 credit hours, a student is permitted to overlap those hours beyond 12 with the major or with another minor).
- A 2.00 cumulative point-hour ratio is required in the minor/minor equivalent with a minimum C- grade for any course to be listed in the minor or minor equivalent (includes transfer credit).
- For programs requiring a minor: minors should be declared by the time students complete 60 hours.
- A student is permitted to count up to 6 credit-hours of transfer and/or EM credit in the minor or minor equivalent.
- Coursework graded Pass/Non-Pass cannot count in the minor. No more than 3 credit-hours of course work graded S/U may count toward the minor. Maximum of 3 credit-hours of xx93 are allowed to count in the minor.