

Environmental & Urban Planning is the discipline focused on designing, managing, and improving communities in ways that balance environmental sustainability, economic vitality, and social well-being. Planners work with governments, consulting firms, nonprofit organizations, developers, and community groups to guide land use, transportation systems, housing development, environmental protection, climate resilience, and public infrastructure. Students entering this field develop skills in environmental analysis, policy evaluation, stakeholder engagement, spatial analysis, and community planning to help shape more sustainable and livable places. Some of the critical questions that might be addressed with a career in these fields include:

- *How can communities accommodate growth while protecting environmental resources and quality of life?*
- *How should cities prepare for climate change, flooding, sea-level rise, heat waves, and other environmental hazards?*
- *How can transportation, housing, and land-use planning be integrated to create more sustainable communities?*
- *How can planners promote environmental justice and ensure equitable access to environmental amenities and services?*
- *What planning strategies best support resilient, healthy, and economically vibrant communities?*



Careers

Careers in **Environmental & Urban Planning** involve working with local governments, regional planning organizations, consulting firms, nonprofit organizations, transportation agencies, and development firms to guide land use, environmental management, infrastructure development, and community growth.

Career	Potential Employers
Urban and Regional Planning	
Urban Planner	Municipal Governments, Regional Planning Agencies
Community Planner	Local Governments, Consulting Firms, Nonprofits
Regional Planner	Metropolitan Planning Organizations, State Agencies
Environmental Planning and Sustainability	
Environmental Planner	Consulting Firms, State and Federal Agencies
Sustainability Planner	Municipal Governments, Universities, Corporations
Climate Resilience Planner	Local Governments, NGOs, Consulting Firms
Hazard Mitigation Planner	FEMA, State Agencies, Consulting Firms
Transportation and Infrastructure Planning	
Transportation Planner	Departments of Transportation, MPOs, Consulting Firms
Transit Planning Specialist	Public Transit Authorities
Active Transportation Coordinator	Municipal Governments, Nonprofits
Infrastructure Planning Analyst	Utilities, Engineering Firms, Consulting Firms
Community Development and Advocacy	
Community Development Specialist	Local Governments, Community Development Corporations
Environmental Justice Planner	Nonprofits, Government Agencies
Public Engagement Coordinator	Planning Agencies, Consulting Firms

Coursework & Degree Options

The **Environmental & Urban Planning** pathway is well suited for all majors in GEV. Students interested in careers in **Environmental & Urban Planning** may wish to consider these courses to fill elective requirements:



4-cr. Science & Technology laboratory courses:

- GEV 4363 – GIS for Conservation Management

3-cr. Science & Technology elective courses:

- GEV 3521 – GIS for Urban Sustainability
- GEV 3750 – Remote Sensing
- GEV 3760 – Geospatial Applications in Environmental Science
- GEV 4358 – Environmental Project Management
- GEV 4301 – QGIS, Story Maps, Dashboarding, Drones, Google Earth Engine (1 credit courses)



3-credit elective Environmental Policy & Management courses:

- GEV 3001 – Introduction to Sustainability Studies
- GEV 3570 – Land Use Planning and Management
- GEV 4001 – Advanced Sustainability Studies
- GEV 4331 – Environmental Policy and Management
- GEV 3580 – Natural Resources and Conservation
- GEV 4334 – Environmental Law
- GEV 4336 – Environmental Economics
- PA 2000 – Public Policy



3-credit elective Environmental Social Science and Humanities courses:

- GEV 3004 – Geographies of Environmental Justice
- PHI 2121 – Environmental Ethics
- HIS 2276 – American Environmental History

Degree Options

- Students may wish to consider a double major in **Geography** and **Environmental Science** or **Environmental Studies**.
- Students should consider applying for the **Undergraduate Geospatial Information Sciences Specialization**.

Notes:

- Students pursuing this pathway should seek internships with municipal planning departments, county planning commissions, regional planning agencies, transportation agencies, environmental consulting firms, or nonprofit organizations.
- GIS and spatial analysis skills are highly valued in planning careers and can significantly enhance employment opportunities.
- Many study abroad programs offer courses related to sustainability, urban development, transportation, environmental governance, and planning that may complement this pathway.
- There are additional thematic courses offered every semester that can count toward elective requirements that may be relevant to this pathway.

Alumni Spotlight

Taylor (Snedden) Garner

B.S. Environmental Science, Class of 2014

Project Manager and Senior Environmental Planner, Nelson Pope Voorhis

After earning her M.A. in Urban Planning and Sustainability at Hunter College, Taylor began at Nelson, Pope, & Voorhis as a planning technician in 2015. She has been promoted several times and currently serves as a project manager and senior environmental planner.

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To learn more about this and other career pathways, use the QR code, contact your academic advisor, or contact the Chair of the Department of Geography and the Environment for guidance.

The GEV Career Pathways Page:

