

Applied Planning

Department Overview

The Department of Applied Planning offers a twelve-month [Post-Degree Diploma in Applied Planning](#). This intensive program is meant for students with an undergraduate degree or equivalent and provides future planners with applied planning skills. Program graduates find work with planning organizations, including local and regional government, consulting firms and First Nations.

Self-Study

Applied Planning launched its program review in academic year 2019/20 with a Self-Study. Kathryn Nairne, Applied Planning Coordinator, was the primary Self-Study writer. Additional support was provided by:

- Jim Bowers (Division Chair, Community Programs)
- Jacqueline Bradshaw (Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Community Programs)
- Sunita Wiebe (Director, Office of Academic Quality Assurance)
- Institutional Research

Data sources for the Self-Study included:

- Institutional Research-compiled student administrative data (e.g., headcounts, retention, satisfaction)
- Student survey
- Alumni survey
- Faculty survey
- Employer survey

The Self-Study was completed in January 2020.

External Review

Applied Planning's External Review took place on April 1, 2020. The External Review Team consisted of:

- Meg Holden, PhD, Urban Studies Program, Simon Fraser University (External Review Team Chair)
- Michael Epp, MSc, Director, Planning and Development, City of North Vancouver
- Indira-Natasha Prahst, Sociology, Langara

Action Plan Goals

In response to the Self-Study and External Review, Applied Planning created an Action Plan with these goals:

- Goal 1: Ensure learning outcomes align with the employment market.
- Goal 2: Ensure program is diverse and inclusive through outreach and admissions.
- Goal 3: Build experiential learning opportunities into a formal program.
- Goal 4: Make more effective use of College resources.
- Goal 5: Strengthen and formalize external connections.

Examples of Post-Review Successes

After consultation with the Dean and faculty, Applied Planning is currently considering options to offer the program fully online to meet demand for this mode of education from current students and graduates.

Discussions are continuing with the Program Advisory Group on the currency of computer applications and need for additional soft skills.

Discussions are ongoing with the Dean about Special Topics offerings.

APPL 5230: Social Planning and Community Development has become a course with real world projects which enables students to pick a topic of focus for their major project. This has also expanded our experiential learning in the program.