The General Review

Spotlight Major — Urban and Regional Science

In the fall of 2007, the Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning will admit its first class of students into a new undergraduate degree program, a bachelor of science in urban and regional science (pending approval by the coordinating board). This degree program is geared to prepare graduates for entry level careers in State and local government, advocacy, grant-making, and civic organizations; real estate management; environmental science; social assistance services; and health care services. Students graduating with a BS-URS might expect to work as an environmental analyst for a private consulting firm, assistant director of a community redevelopment corporation, a trail steward for a state parks system or a development review technician for a local government agency. Others seeking to pursue a BS-URS may seek to continue on in graduate school for as little as one additional year to earn a Master’s degree in Urban Planning.

You do not have to be an incoming freshman to benefit from this new degree program. General studies majors who have completed all or most of the University’s core curriculum requirements are strongly encouraged to apply for this degree program. If you are interested in learning more about the BS-URS, contact Dr. Sherry Bame, program coordinator, by phone (979) 845-8406 or email: sbame@tamu.edu. Give yourself an additional edge on the job market – earn a minor in Urban Planning.

For those of you who have already settled on a major, take some time to consider the value of earning a minor in urban planning. Most students seek to complete minors in an effort to set themselves apart from competitors in the job market. The minor program in urban planning will show employers that you are interested and committed to making the communities where you live and work better places. It may also spark your interest in pursuing a Master’s degree in urban planning at TAMU. To learn more about the minor in urban planning, contact Dr. Dawn Jourdan, by phone (979) 458-4121 or email: djourdan@archmail.tamu.edu.

Public Policy Internship

This program was established by President Ray Bowen in 1999 to help TAMU students intern in Washington DC. There are also opportunities to intern in Austin every two years during the legislative session. This is an excellent way to network, achieve class credit, and gain real world experience. The program is open to all students who are citizens, have at least a 3.0 GPR, have completed at least 60 college credits (with 20 in residence) by their internship semester, and are in good standing with TAMU. The program offers a scholarship of $2,500 and also provides housing. This is an excellent program that has become very popular! Learn more:

www.tamu.edu/ppip

Other good places for guidance:

♦ OPSA: The Office of Professional School Advising helps students who are thinking careers such as law and health. honors.tamu.edu/opsa
♦ SLC: The Student Learning Center has free tutoring and many other services. slc.tamu.edu
♦ SCS: The Student Counseling Service has programs and counseling to help find a major. scs.tamu.edu

Ways to enhance your (unfortunately, short) time at Texas A&M

There are at least four ways to enhance your undergraduate experience. After you have chosen a major, it will soon be time to think about the start of a career. As you consider careers, picture people who are doing what you might like to do. Be thoughtful and serious, because you will be doing this the majority of your waking hours! Next, think through the ways you can get there and the ways in which you can set yourself apart. Ask: what can be done now to make yourself attractive and memorable to employers?

1. Internship: There are a wide variety of internship opportunities available at A&M. Investigate. Many of them are paid and most offer credit. Don’t be apprehensive about traveling outside of the state. If you are a Political Science major, for example, why not spend a summer in D.C.? There are students who are subsidized to do so—why not you?

2. Study abroad: There are a wide variety of opportunities to study abroad at A&M. Investigate. Many of them are also subsidized and most offer credit. There are students who have life-changing summers or semesters and meet life-long friends as they travel and learn about other cultures—why not you?

3. Campus activity: There are a wide variety of opportunities to join organizations that closely fit your areas of interest. Investigate. A&M has over 700 clubs officially recognized clubs and organizations. If you are a Communications major, for example, why not join the student newspaper, The Battalion? And why not be involved enough for a leadership position?

4. Major: There are many opportunities in a major to set yourself apart. Investigate! Take time to know people. A&M has a lot to offer.

Advising Hours

Walk-In Hours
Mon—Thurs 8:15—11:30, Fri 10:30-11:30
Appointment Hours
M-F 1:20 - 3:40
Make and appointment at: http://gest.tamu.edu/appointment/info.html