

7. Resources

Use this page as a quick reference to build your personal library, support your coursework, stay professionally connected, and guide your career progression. New resources will emerge each year, so revisit and update your list as you advance in the program.

7.1. Introductory Readings in Planning

This section points you toward foundational texts, influential journals, and dynamic online content in the planning field. These resources help build your theoretical grounding, connect you to current research, and keep you engaged with the practice of planning. Start with these easy reads:

- What is planning? Why do communities need planners? <https://www.planning.org/aboutplanning/>
- Planning history timeline: <https://www.planning.org/timeline>.

Books

These are just a few seminal works in urban and regional planning that have shaped the field; reading them will give you a strong conceptual base.

- *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* by Jane Jacobs (1961) – A classic critique of redevelopment and modernist planning ideology.
- *The City in History: Its Origins, Its Transformations, and Its Prospects* by Lewis Mumford (1961) – A sweeping historical and analytical look at cities over time.
- *A Pattern Language: Towns, Buildings, Construction* by Christopher Alexander (1977) – Influential text linking built form, place-making, and human experience.
- *Happy City: Transforming Our Lives Through Urban Design* by Charles Montgomery (2013) – Makes the link between urban design, well-being and everyday life.
- For a comprehensive list, “100 Essential Books of Planning” published by the American Planning Association (APA) provides a great menu of titles, <https://www.planning.org/library/greatbooks>.
- For a more recent list, check out “Top Urban Planning Books” by Planetizen, <https://www.planetizen.com/books>.

Journals

Peer-reviewed journals provide the current research frontier. The two flagship journals in planning are the *Journal of the American Planning Association (JAPA)* and the *Journal of Planning Education and Research (JPER)*³.

- JAPA – <https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/rjpa20>.
- JPER – <https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/journal/journal-planning-education-and-research>.
- Light readings presenting JPER articles in the Substack portal: <https://substack.com/@jperjournal>.

Magazines, portals, and podcasts

Magazines, online portals, and podcasts provide current practice, policy, and practitioner-oriented insights that

³ Fang, L., & Ewing, R. (2020). Tracking our footsteps: Thirty years of publication in JAPA, JPER, and JPL. *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 86(4), 470-480.

Goldstein, H., & Maier, G. (2010). The use and valuation of journals in planning scholarship: Peer assessment versus impact factors. *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, 30(1), 66-75.

go beyond academic research, helping you stay connected to evolving debates and emerging issues in the planning field.

- Planning magazine – <https://www.planning.org/planning>.
- Planetizen – A widely used portal for news, blogs, jobs, and commentary in planning. <https://www.planetizen.com>.
- Podcasts: Try a few podcasts from a list of “80 Best Urban Planning Podcasts,” https://podcast.feedspot.com/urban_planning_podcasts.

7.2. Rowan University Resources

These are institutional supports available within our university for you as graduate students. Make sure you bookmark them and check in periodically.

- *Graduate Student Policies* – Please read Rowan University Graduate & Post-Baccalaureate Student Policies, published by the Graduate School. <https://sites.rowan.edu/student-success/docs/gac-policy-guide.pdf>. For additional policies, please visit <https://sites.rowan.edu/sgs/for-current-students/academic-policies-guidelines-and-forms.html>.
- *Student Clubs* – Stay connected with the Rowan University Student Planning Organization (RUSPO) and participate in their programs and field trips whenever possible. Although RUSPO is primarily an undergraduate club, graduate planning students are warmly welcomed. In addition, Rowan offers many graduate-level clubs that provide excellent opportunities to engage with peers, develop leadership skills, and expand your professional network.
- *Graduate School Programs* – The School of Graduate Studies (SGS) hosts many workshops and events that offer professional development, enrichment, and community building. https://sites.rowan.edu/sgs/sgs_workshops_events.html. Please subscribe to the **SGS newsletter**.
- *Graduate Student Services* – Students can contact Graduate Student Services with logistical matters, such as setting up their Banner ID, email account, university ID card, and access to the course registration portal. Students are also signed up for RowanNEXT, which also provides resource info. (RowanNEXT is located in Canvas).
- *International Students* – If you are an international student, please stay in regular contact with the International Admissions Office and the International Center to stay up-to-date with F-1 visa and immigration laws, employment authorization, and available support.

7.3. Career & Networking

Planning is a network-rich field. These resources help you build professional visibility, find job leads, and connect with associations and meetings.

- *LinkedIn Group* – Join our private group, Rowan University "Planning" Network (Students, Alumni, & Friends), to be connected with other students and alumni. <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13189024>. Please send a request to join.
- *Job boards* – Check out job postings from the American Planning Association (APA) and its state chapters to become familiar with current planning opportunities, typical qualifications, responsibilities, and salary ranges.
 - National APA job board: <https://www.planning.org/jobs/search/>
 - APA-NJ chapter job board: <https://njplanning.org/job-listings>.
 - APA-PA chapter job board: <https://planningpa.org/resources/job-postings/>
 - APA-NY Metro Chapter job board: <https://www.nyplanning.org/jobs-posting>

- *State APA chapters* – Attend APA-NJ events, when possible, to benefit from local networking and professional development.
- *National APA Student Membership* – Students can join the national APA at no cost, gaining access to publications, memberships, and national conference discounts.
<https://www.planning.org/join/students>.
- *Emerging Planner Webinar* – Attend the APA Emerging Planners NETWORK monthly webinar series (virtual, no cost). <https://planning.org/students/webinar>.
- *Planning conferences* – Key meetings include the APA National Conference, APA-NJ Annual (Planning & Redevelopment) Conference, and national academic conferences such as the annual meeting of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP). Also consider geography/urban-studies gatherings like the Association of American Geographers (AAG) and Urban Affairs Association (UAA).

7.4. Professional Preparation

As you progress in your graduate program and begin transition to practice, these professional credentials and certifications are worth keeping on your radar.

- *AICP Exam (national)* – The credential of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) is the recognized professional certification in planning.
<https://www.planning.org/certification/examprep/subjectmatter>.
 - AICP Certification Guide:
<https://planning-org-uploaded-media.s3.amazonaws.com/document/c73b4f0c-a434-4d62-9649-53f0177b9372One-Path-Certification-Guide-Fall-2025.pdf>.
 - Take the AICP Certification Exam, <https://www.planning.org/certification/exam/#tips>.
 - AICP exam review YouTube playlist:
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLkJS6K2gVg4IGSzYm_M54aS1u-XpIhKHF.
- *NJ Planning Exams (state)* – To become a certified licensed Professional Planner (PP) or Planner-in-Training (PIT) in New Jersey, one must submit an application meeting certain education and experience requirements, and pass both the NJ Planning Law Exam, commonly referred to as the PP Exam, in addition to the AICP Exam. <https://njplanning.org/nj-professional-planners>.
- *LEED ND Certification* – The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) “Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design for Neighborhood Development” (LEED ND) is a certification for sustainable neighborhood planning and design. Studying toward it can enhance your credentials in sustainable and smart-growth planning. <https://www.usgbc.org/leed/rating-systems/neighborhood-development>.