

Contact: Rachel Boon

**REQUEST FOR PROGRAM TERMINATION: MASTER OF ARTS IN URBAN AND
REGIONAL PLANNING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**

Action Requested: Consider recommending approval of the request by the University of Iowa to terminate the Master of Arts in Urban and Regional Planning in the Graduate College.

The Council of Provosts and Board office staff have reviewed the proposal and recommend approval.

Background:

Description of program. The Master of Arts (MA) in Urban and Regional Planning is a two-year, 50-credit hour graduate degree. It is accredited by the Planning Accreditation Board, the national accrediting body for degrees in this field.

Reason for proposed termination. The MA in Urban and Regional Planning program is identical in every respect as the accredited Master of Science (MS) in Urban and Regional Planning, which the university will continue to offer. Having two degree programs with the same requirements is confusing to students, and the rationale for having two programs is no longer relevant. Since the MS is preferred by students, the College proposes termination of the MA. All applicants to the MA program in the past five years were instead admitted as MS students, so there are no currently enrolled students in the MA, nor have there been any graduates from the MA program in the past five years.

Five-year trend in applications and enrollments.

	MA Applications	MS Applications	MS Enrollments
2013-14	7	54	51
2014-15	5	56	56
2015-16	8	50	45
2016-17	9	53	42
2017-18	6	49	48

Impact on resources. There will be neither a cost nor a final gain with this change.

Impact on workforce. Because of the equivalent degree (MS in Urban and Regional Planning), there will be no reduction in the number of urban planners graduating from the University of Iowa.

Alternative programs. Iowa State University offers a Master of Community and Regional Planning degree and a Master of Urban Design degree.

Effective date of termination. Upon decision by the Board of Regents.