Ph.D. in PLANNING & PUBLIC POLICY – PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Course and Credit Requirements
Minimum of 72 credits needed to graduate, as follows:

- 24 credits (maximum) can be transferred in from previous graduate coursework (not to exceed 40% of the total credits applied toward the Master’s degree)
- 24 credits of EJBS coursework, including required courses + electives
  Required courses (15 credits):
  - Theory: Planning, Public Policy, and Social Theory (16:762:624)
  - Advanced Scholarly Research (16:762:626)
  - Methods: Advanced Qualitative Methods (34:833:628)
  - Discrete Choice Methods (34:970:630)
  - One additional advanced methods course
- 24 credits of research (minimum)

Student Advising
- A faculty advisor is assigned to each incoming student. After the first semester, each student may select his or her own advisor.
- First-year and second-year students submit a “Program of Study” (PoS) form in the Fall semester and meet with faculty to develop a program strategy.

Qualifying Examinations
- Doctoral students are required to pass four comprehensive exams to qualify for candidacy in the Ph.D. program:
  a. Theory – of and in planning and public policy
  b. Methods – qualitative and quantitative methods and research design
  c. Major Field – first substantive concentration
  d. Minor Field – second substantive concentration
- All exams include both written and oral portions.
- The Methods exam may be taken at any time after the student has completed the two required methods courses (628 and 630—see above).
- In order to take the three remaining exams (Theory, Major, Minor), students must have:
  a. A minimum GPA of 3.5
  b. Completed 48 course credits (including up to 24 transfer credits)
  c. No outstanding Incomplete (INC) grades
- The Theory, Major Field, and Minor Field exams (written and oral) must be completed within a single semester.

Dissertation Committee, Dissertation Proposal, and Dissertation Defense
- Each student forms a dissertation committee of four faculty members who agree to participate, consisting of:
  a. The committee chair (must be a full member of the EJBS graduate faculty)
  b. Two additional EJBS professors
  c. One “outside” faculty member
- Proposal defense, scheduled within four months of completing qualifying exams, consists of a public lecture and an oral exam administered by the dissertation committee
- Dissertation defense consists of a public lecture and an oral exam administered by the dissertation committee.