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To: Incoming MCRP Students

From: Kathe Newman, Program Director, UPPD

Date: May 23, 2019

Re: Fall 2019 Methods and GIS Placement Examinations

Welcome to Rutgers' Urban Planning and Policy Development program! We look forward to meeting you. This memo will acquaint you with the basic quantitative methods and GIS placement processes that will take place this fall.

Basic Quantitative Methods

All MCRP students must either take Basic Quantitative Methods (34:970:515) or place out of it. Placing out allows you to move directly to more advanced methods courses. Three methods courses are required for the MCRP degree: 515 (or place out), 34:970:516 (Planning Methods), and one Methods elective. A flow chart showing all of the Bloustein methods courses is available for your course planning.

If you have not had a course in applied descriptive and inferential statistics before, then you should plan to take Basic Quantitative Methods (34:970:515). If you already know the material, you may place out of this course by examination. This fall, the exam is administered on: Wednesday, September 4, from 4 to 6pm and is tentatively scheduled in Room 113. It is not necessary to sign up for this exam in advance. During the first week of school, you should plan to register for and sit in Basic Quantitative Methods and sit in the course you would take if you pass the placement exam. You will receive the placement grade by the end of the day on Friday September 6.

Topics on the exam include: measures of central tendency (mean, median, mode) and dispersion (range, variance, standard deviation), histograms and other graphical techniques, normal curve, sampling distributions, parameter estimation, hypothesis testing (one and two sample statistical tests, Chi-square test, Analysis of Variance), measures of association, and simple and multiple regression.

We encourage you to take the placement exam even if you took statistics some time ago. If you previously completed a statistics course, review your notes so that you will be ready to take the placement exam. You might also consider visiting the web site developed at Rice University (http://onlinestatbook.com/rvls.html) which offers an excellent review of statistics. You might also find this text helpful as you review: Healey, Joseph F. (2009). *Statistics: A Tool for Social Research*, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth or Tenth Edition. New York: Wadsworth.

You cannot fail this exam because it is used for diagnostic purposes and does not appear on any university transcript. The worst that may happen is that you end up taking Basic Quantitative Methods.

GIS Placement Process
MCRP students may opt to take Introduction to GIS for Planners (970:591) as a third methods or elective course. If you have taken one or more GIS courses and would like to place out, you can take an online GIS exam or follow a process to waive the course.

GIS Exam
The GIS Placement Exam will be available to complete online between noon on August 27th through noon on September 2nd. The exam is a two-hour online test. You do NOT need access to an ArcGIS license to complete this exam, but you may find it useful to access online ArcMap help resources. To take the exam, send a valid email address to Lyna Wiggins (lyna@ejb.rutgers.edu) by 5:00pm on August 26th. You will receive an email with the details for accessing the online exam. A grade of 80 percent is a passing grade. We will notify you of the results via email.

Waiver Process
If you completed a GIS course you believe is similar to 591, you may propose receiving a waiver. For a waiver, please email the syllabus to Professor Wiggins (lyna@ejb.rutgers.edu) between August 19th and August 24th. In the email, please report the grade you received in the course. Note that the course you completed must use ArcGIS Desktop software of at least Version 10.0 or later. (We use ArcGIS in the second course and we do not review software usage.) Also note that there is a prerequisite of a basic statistics course (equivalent to 34:970:515 Basic Quantitative Methods). (We do 5 weeks of spatial statistics in the second GIS course that requires basic knowledge of hypothesis testing and regression analysis). Please summarize the statistics courses you have completed in your email.

We are proud that Bloustein offers extensive courses in Methods and that we are well known for our excellence in this area.