

June 2021

Welcome New Students!

Congratulations on your admission to the Urban Planning and Policy Development Program of the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy. We are looking forward to another exciting academic year.

I write to welcome you and to provide information that will ease your transition into the graduate program. You can find much of this information at the graduate student portal: <https://bloustein.rutgers.edu/students/welcome-planning/>

I would like to call your attention especially to the following academic items:

### Orientation

Orientation will begin virtually on August 16, with our academic session on August 20<sup>th</sup> at 10am

### Academic Advising

You can identify your faculty advisor in the advisor list on the portal. Please reach out to your advisor over the summer to assist with fall course planning and plan to meet with them during the first week of school to review your course plans and discuss any changes.

You may find these resources helpful as you develop your two-year draft course plan:

- *MCRP Advising Sheet* - It's helpful to fill out a draft of this document before you meet with your academic advisor. The core MCRP requirements are listed at the bottom of this page.
- *MCRP Concentrations* - This document lists the concentrations and their required and recommended courses along with the year and semester courses are offered. This information is also available on the Bloustein MCRP webpage where it is updated regularly.
- *Methods Course Sequences* - You can use this document to select your third methods course and or to identify advanced methods courses that match your interests. The *Advanced Methods Course Expectations* document provides additional guidance about the expectations for some of the more advanced methods courses.

If you are considering a certificate, please reach out to the certificate advisor(s) listed on the Bloustein website here: <https://bloustein.rutgers.edu/graduate/uppd/certificates/>. If you are interested in a dual degree, please talk with me.

### Methods Placement

If you have taken courses in basic statistics and or Geographic Information systems, please review the placement processes outlined in the methods placement memo.

### Course Waivers for Non-Methods Courses

If you have taken courses that are *very similar* to any of the MCRP core courses and earned an "A," you can apply to waive the required core course. Waiving the course does not waive the credits. It only waives the course requirement. If you would like to waive a core course, please send the

syllabus for the course you took to me at [knewman@rutgers.edu](mailto:knewman@rutgers.edu) during the last week of August and no later than September 1, 2021.

We are looking forward to meeting you in the Fall. If you have any academic questions before then, please feel free to contact me at [knewman@rutgers.edu](mailto:knewman@rutgers.edu).

Sincerely,

Kathe Newman  
Program Director

Urban Planning and Policy Development