

# Why not be an Urban Planner?

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CAREERS FOR WOMEN

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Additional information on urban planning and a list of schools offering training may be obtained from:

American Institute of Planners  
 917 15th Street NW.  
 Washington, D.C. 20005

American Society of Planning Officials  
 1313 East 60th Street  
 Chicago, Ill. 60637

Also, consult the  
 Occupational Outlook Handbook  
 (in your school or local library)  
 published by the U.S. Department of Labor

Other publications in the CAREER FOR WOMEN series are:

- Why Not Be--
- an Engineer? Leaflet 41. 1967
- an Optometrist? Leaflet 42. 1968
- a Pharmacist? Leaflet 43. 1968
- a Medical Technologist? Leaflet 44. 1968
- a Mathematician? Leaflet 45. 1968
- a Public Relations Worker? Leaflet 46. 1970
- a Technical Writer? Leaflet 47. 1968
- a Personnel Specialist? Leaflet 48. 1968

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## WHAT ADVANTAGES ARE OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO WOMEN?

- This is a "shortage" profession where the demand is greater than the supply of trained people.
- Experience gained in volunteer community work is often valuable in a planning career.
- There is a choice of jobs in most urban areas.
- Flexible hours are offered by many government and private agencies to women with family responsibilities.
- There is an advantageous competitive situation for mature women because of their more extensive experience in understanding and solving social problems.

## WHAT ARE SOME PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS USEFUL TO AN URBAN PLANNER?

- sensitivity to needs of the community and of individuals
- desire to work toward practical and realistic goals
- ability to deal broadmindedly with a wide variety of attitudes and viewpoints
- interest in cooperative action with groups and individuals
- practical visual imagination
- ability to think in terms of spatial relationships
- persuasive writing and speaking ability
- ability to withstand frustration while waiting for projects to be completed

## WHAT ARE THE USUAL EARNINGS AND WORKING HOURS?

Starting annual salaries of inexperienced planners with a bachelor's degree in planning were between \$6,800 and \$7,800 in 1968. With a master's degree, they ranged from \$7,100 to \$9,800. Those with a master's degree and 2 to 5 years of experience earned \$8,500 to \$12,000 or more.

The usual annual entrance salary for urban planners employed by the Federal Government was \$9,881 in early 1970. In a few cases, individuals having less than 2 years of graduate work or its equivalent were hired as interns at yearly salaries of \$6,548 or \$8,098, depending upon their academic records.

Although most urban planners have a workweek of 40 hours, they sometimes work evenings and weekends to attend meetings with citizens' groups.

Part-time work also is available.

## WHAT DO URBAN PLANNERS DO?

**GUIDE** the growth and development of cities and regions

**DETERMINE** community needs and goals for environmental improvement

**CONSULT** with elected officials to bring about desired changes

**ENVISION** the future arrangement of

land (residences, business, industry, parks)

transportation networks (streets, airports, subways)

community facilities (schools, hospitals, civic centers)

**MEET** with local groups on matters such as zoning, tax legislation, highway building, housing programs, air pollution control, and finances

**CONVEY** ideas with maps, illustrations, films, and printed materials

Today's urban planner is responding with exciting concepts and modern technologies to demands for improvement in the quality of our environment.

Women are finding unusually good careers in this profession, which offers expanding opportunities and satisfying financial rewards.

Whether as a specialist or team coordinator, why not be an urban planner?

## WHERE DO URBAN PLANNERS WORK?

- for local, State, or Federal governments
- for metropolitan regional planning organizations
- for large land developers or private research organizations
- for private consulting firms or as self-employed consultants
- for colleges and universities, as teachers

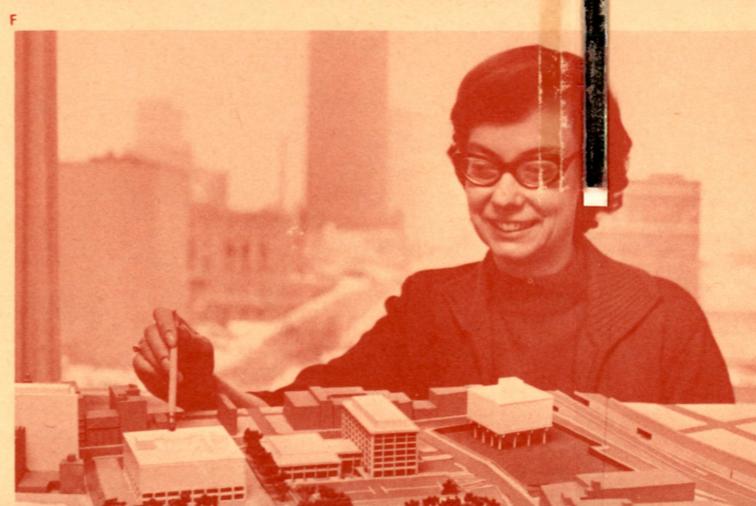
## WHAT TRAINING IS NEEDED?

A master's degree in planning, available at more than 50 colleges and universities, is the best preparation for entering this profession. This generally means earning an undergraduate degree in a field related to planning, such as architecture, landscape architecture, engineering, economics, statistics, sociology, or public administration, and then studying 1 to 3 years at the graduate level at a specialized school of planning. Graduate work includes both field and workshop experience.

There are numerous professional opportunities, however, for those with only a bachelor's degree. Teamwork on an urban planning project might utilize the talents of a draftsman, health expert, and technical writer. And there are occupations in the areas of physical design, survey and research, and community relations which can lead into urban planning.

## WHAT ADVANTAGES DOES THIS CAREER OFFER?

- a chance to help improve living conditions in congested urban areas
- a wide variety of stimulating tasks in a broad range of situations
- interesting contacts with business, science, industry, and the professions
- fieldwork as a change of pace
- overseas employment with international organizations
- income range approximately that of professionals in related fields--architects, sociologists, economists



**A**  
Sandra Ruffin, Nawal Elnaggar, and Dorothy Wirth combine classroom instruction with field trips and on-the-site work projects as they complete requirements for the master of city planning (M.C.P.) degree in the graduate program of city and regional planning at Howard University, Washington, D.C.

**B**  
Dorothy A. Muncy, an industrial planning consultant in Arlington, Va., uses proportional dividers to help in the transfer of property boundaries from an engineer's plat to a vertical aerial photograph printed on a different scale. She is working on a site plan for an industrial park near an airport.

**C**  
Leonore R. Siegelman, metropolitan planning program analyst, and Snowden A. Williams, Jr., Director, Program and Management Information Division, Office of Metropolitan Planning and Development, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, discuss information on a print-out from a computer terminal. Computerized data are used extensively in a variety of urban activities of the Department.

**D**  
Ann Satterthwaite, who has a master's degree in city planning from Yale University, is a senior associate with the Conservation Foundation. She considers conservation--the problems of water and air pollution, creation and preservation of recreation areas, and enhancement of wildlife--a challenging and vital part of urban planning.

**E**  
Zina Greene, a senior planner at the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, points out to William W. Hibbert III, Chief of General Plans, areas where housing programs are needed or underway. Mrs. Greene is the mother of four and a part-time worker.

**F**  
Joanne Meyers, a senior planner-consultant with the Rochester, N.Y., Bureau of Planning, is involved with a fascinating variety of projects ranging from neighborhood studies to plans for a new marina. She is shown with a model of proposed construction for the Genesee Crossroads renewal area in downtown Rochester. The mother of two small children, Mrs. Meyers works part time on a flexible schedule.