

CAREER PROFILE

Urban Planner

Urban planners help design and improve communities by deciding how land should be used and where homes, schools, parks, businesses, roads, and public transportation should be located. They work with community members, government officials, engineers, and architects to create safe, efficient, and sustainable places for people to live, work, and play. Urban planners work for local governments, planning agencies, consulting firms, and nonprofit organizations, helping communities prepare for future growth and solve challenges.

► School to Career Pathway

- Earn a bachelor's degree in architecture, civil engineering, environmental science, business, or a related field.
- Complete a master's degree in urban and regional planning from an accredited planning program.
- Gain experience through internships, community projects, or planning organizations.

► Durable Skills

As an urban planner, you need:

- Listening skills to understand others' perspectives, ask thoughtful questions, and avoid interrupting at inappropriate times.
- Sound judgement and decision-making skills to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions, or approaches.
- Written and oral communication skills to effectively convey project details to a variety of stakeholders, including public officials, interest groups, and community members.
- Analytical skills to evaluate information from a variety of sources, such as market research studies, census data, and environmental impact studies.



Core Duties

Develop community plans

Create plans for how cities and towns will grow and where different types of buildings and services should be located.

Analyze data and trends

Study population growth, transportation patterns, environmental information, and community needs to make informed decisions.

Meet with community members

Gather ideas and feedback from residents, businesses, and local leaders to ensure plans reflect the needs of the community.

Review development projects

Evaluate proposals for new neighborhoods, parks, roads, and businesses to determine whether they fit community goals and regulations.

Promote sustainable development

Design solutions that protect natural resources, improve transportation, increase access to services, and create healthier communities.

► Paycheck Peek

\$40.25 hourly, \$83,720 annual

*Note that annual wages vary by location (state, city, or work setting)



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Could This Be Your Thing?

- Are your favorite subjects geography, the environment, math, and social studies?
- Is organizing your room or other spaces fun to do?
- Do you care about the environment and its resources?
- Is helping your community or other communities important to you?

Explore Similar Career Pathways

- architect
- surveyor
- civil engineer
- sustainability specialist

Dig Deeper Here

Find out more about all careers at: [US Bureau of Labor Statistics Student's Desk](#)

Find out more about STEM careers at: [Careers with STEM: Environment](#)

Find out more about the careers above:

- [O*NET Online: Architect](#)
- [O*NET Online: Surveyor](#)
- [O*NET Online: Civil Engineer](#)
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