

Welcome to the YPG Grad School Presentation

Today's panel will be led by the six individuals shown below. We will get started momentarily.



Sue Peerson, AICP
UC San Diego, Faculty
Member, Urban Studies
and Planning Dept.



April DeJesus
SANDAG, Transportation
Planner



Natalie Tran
UC San Diego
Undergraduate



**Jana Schwartz,
AICP, SITES AP**
Circulate San Diego,
Senior Planner



Elizabeth Owen
UC Los Angeles
Graduate Student

Moderator



Ricky Williams, AICP
County of San Diego, Land
Use/Environmental Planner

Grad School Panel

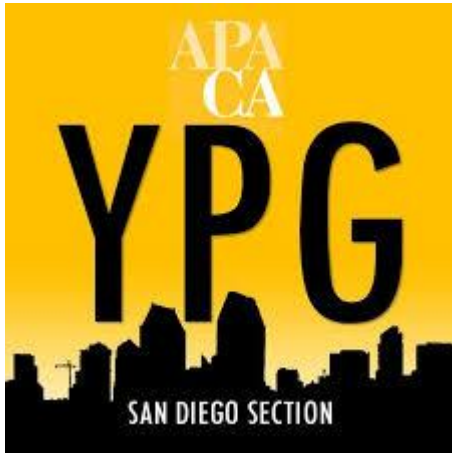
— An informational panel for those applying for or
interested in pursuing a graduate planning degree. —

Hosted by

The San Diego APA Young Planners Group (YPG)

~in partnership with~

The San Diego Chapter of California APA



American Planning
Association

**California Chapter
San Diego**

Contact: sdapaypg@gmail.com

Agenda

Welcome

About

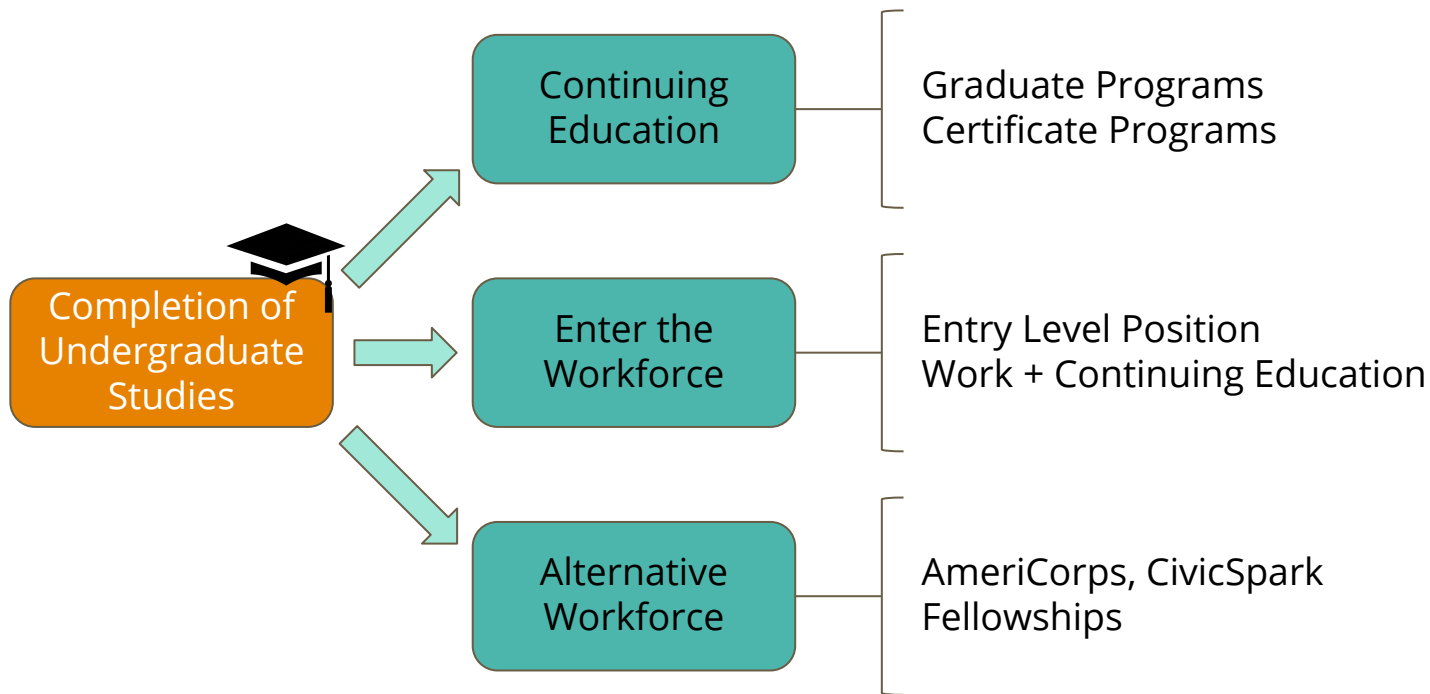
Applying

Resources

Panel Introduction

Open Forum

Many Pathways After Undergrad



About: Deciding to Attend Grad School

Questions to Ask Yourself:

- What classes have you found most interesting?
- What do you aspire to be and do as your left work?
- What is your dream job?
- Do you need a graduate degree to fulfill that?
- Why do you want to get a graduate degree?
- What field(s) are you interested in within planning?
- Are you more interested in planning from a policy perspective or design/built environment perspective?
- Have you had experience in the field(s) you are interested in?
- Do you need a portfolio?

About: Do Your Research

Formal Research

- Program requirements
- Concentrations
- Faculty
- Acceptance rates

Informal Research

- Virtual tours
- Webinars
- Visits
- Communication with current students and faculty
- YPG Mentorship Program

Other Factors

- Location
- Rankings
- Funding opportunities
- Cost
- Accreditation

Application Process

Be prepared for the application before it is even open.

Your application checklist should, at a minimum include:

- ✓ Application
- ✓ 2 to 3 Letters of Rec
- ✓ Transcript
- ✓ Resume
- ✓ GRE (waived for 2021-22 for many schools)
- ✓ Statement of Purpose
- ✓ Portfolio (if a design focus)
- ✓ Writing Sample (if requested)
- ✓ Application fee (\$____)



Letters of Recommendation

Selecting Your Recommender

- Thoughtfully select who will be a recommender
- Send an email – tell them you are gathering letters of rec
- Ask recommender “Would you be able to write me a strong letter of recommendation”?
- Get recommender’s permission and give them a polite way to back out if they can’t give you a strong letter
- University will ask about your strengths, areas for improvement, and weaknesses
- Set up time to talk with each recommender
- Remember it is a **LETTER** and a **FORM....**

Letters of Recommendation

Letter of Recommendation and a FORM

- Your **recommender** needs to know you well enough to....
- Write a **LETTER** and complete a **FORM**
 - ✓ How long have you known the candidate
 - ✓ Assess candidate's overall potential for graduate study
 - ✓ Knowledge of chosen field
 - ✓ Ability to express thoughts in speech and writing
 - ✓ Ability to express visually and graphically
 - ✓ Motivation and perseverance toward goals
 - ✓ Ability to work with others
 - ✓ Self-Reliance, Independence
 - ✓ Maturity
 - ✓ What can the candidate improve?

Letters of Recommendation

To get the best letter of recommendation

Provide your recommender with:

1. Name of university or school
2. Name Graduate School of Design, School of Public Policy, etc
3. Degree program you are applying to
4. Deadline (for each university)
5. Your personal statement
6. Your resume
7. Why _____ (university name here) is a good fit for your interests and professional plans (know the courses, specializations, faculty research, etc that you want to do while there)
8. What you hope to do with your degree and graduate education once finished.

Resources: Benefits

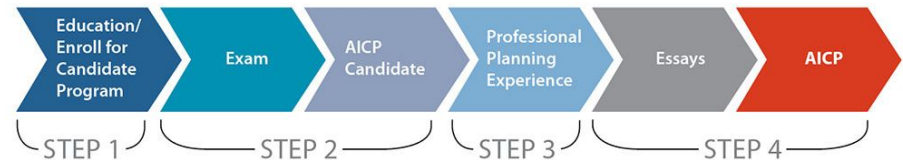
Planners with master's degrees from accredited universities are eligible for AICP at least a year earlier than those without a degree

| Level of Education | Experience Required for AICP |
|--|------------------------------|
| Graduate degree in Planning from PAB accredited program. | 2 years |
| Bachelor's degree in Planning from a PAB accredited program. | 3 years |
| Graduate degree in Planning from unaccredited program. | 3 years |
| Any the post-graduate, graduate, or undergraduate degree. | 4 years |
| No college degree | 8 years |

Traditional Sequence



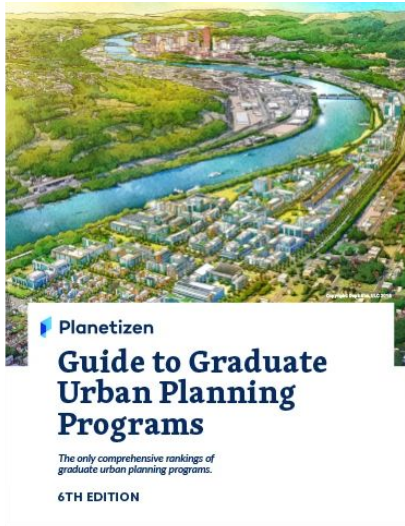
AICP Candidate Pilot Program Sequence



<https://www.google.com/url?q=https://planning.org/aicp/candidate/&sa=D&source=editors&ust=1617766445417000&usg=AFQjCNGRpGnvClvzn9BYITsAKLRPkHvsQ>

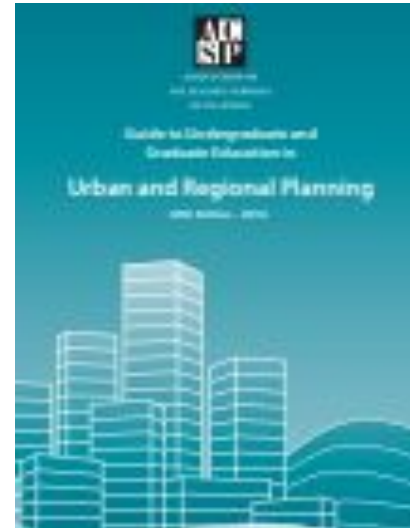
Resources: Searching for Schools

PLANETIZEN Guide to Graduate Urban Planning Programs



<https://store.planetizen.com/collections/guide-to-graduate-urban-planning-programs>

Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning The Guide to Undergraduate and Graduate Schools



https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.acsp.org/resource/collection/6CFCF359-2FDA-4EA0-AEFA-D7901C55E19C/2014_20th_Edition_ACSP_Guide.pdf

Resources: Scholarships and Fellowships

- **California Planning Foundation Scholarships**
 - Support for planning students in California entering their final year of eligible undergraduate or graduate studies.
- **APA Scholarships and Fellowships**
 - American Planning Association awards are made to students currently enrolled in degree programs in planning or a closely related field.
- **Division Scholarships and Fellowships**
 - Many APA Divisions offer scholarships and sponsor writing competitions.
- **APA Student Competitions**
 - APA offers student members the opportunity to compete in the APA Student Design Competition at the 2021 National Planning Conference.
- **Other Organizations' Scholarships and Fellowships**
 - Get information on scholarships and fellowships offered to planning students by other organizations.
- **Presidential Management Fellowship**
 - Leadership development for entry level employment for advanced degree candidates. Early career, valuable work experience.

Panel Introduction

Meet Our Panelists



Sue Peerson, AICP

UC San Diego, Faculty
Member, Urban Studies
and Planning Dept.

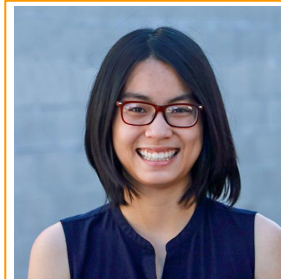
- City and Regional Planning, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
- Master of Landscape Architecture, University of Pennsylvania
- Teach urban design, site analysis, visual communication



April Dejesus

SANDAG, Transportation
Planner

- Public Administration at SDSU
- City Planning at SDSU
- Compass, Rapid, TSP, Bus on Shoulders, military, grants, contracts, partnerships



Natalie Tran

UC San Diego
Undergraduate

- Urban Studies & Planning Major at UCSD
- Incoming Master of Urban & Regional Planning
- Green Buildings Intern at UCSD



**Jana Schwartz,
AICP, SITES AP**

Circulate San Diego,
Senior Planner

- Landscape Architecture, UC Davis
- Master's in City and Regional Planning, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
- Advocacy planning, alternative transportation, and graphic communication



Elizabeth Owen

UC Los Angeles Graduate
Student

- Urban Studies & Planning Major, UCSD
- MURP 1st Year, UCLA
- Prior Internships: IBI Group, City of Del Mar
- Transportation Intern at Steer

Natalie Tran

About Me:

- 4th year Urban Studies and Planning major at UC San Diego
- Applied to Master of Urban & Regional Planning programs (Fall 2021)

My Advice:

- **Be organized:** calendar, spreadsheet, Google folder
- **Get feedback:** students, alumni, professors
- **Do research:** students, graduates, curriculum, courses, Reddit, Planetizen, open house, campus, city
- **Ask questions:** location, professors, capstone, specializations, cohort, debt, opportunities
- Work on your **Statement of Purpose (SOP)**!



Elizabeth Owen

Reasons to love graduate school:

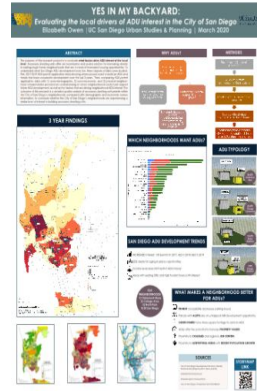
- More flexibility!
- Your interests will change and grow!
- Opportunities!

Before your MURP:

- Learn how to **read** and **write** like a planner.
- Establish **work/life balance** and **boundaries**.
- Push yourself to **network**, **public speaking**.
- Learn how to actively **listen**.

*Do a *few* things well verses a mediocre job at *too much*.

* You won't know *exactly* what you want before grad school!



April DeJesus



Scholarships

Networking

Fellowships

Internships

Case Studies

Friendships

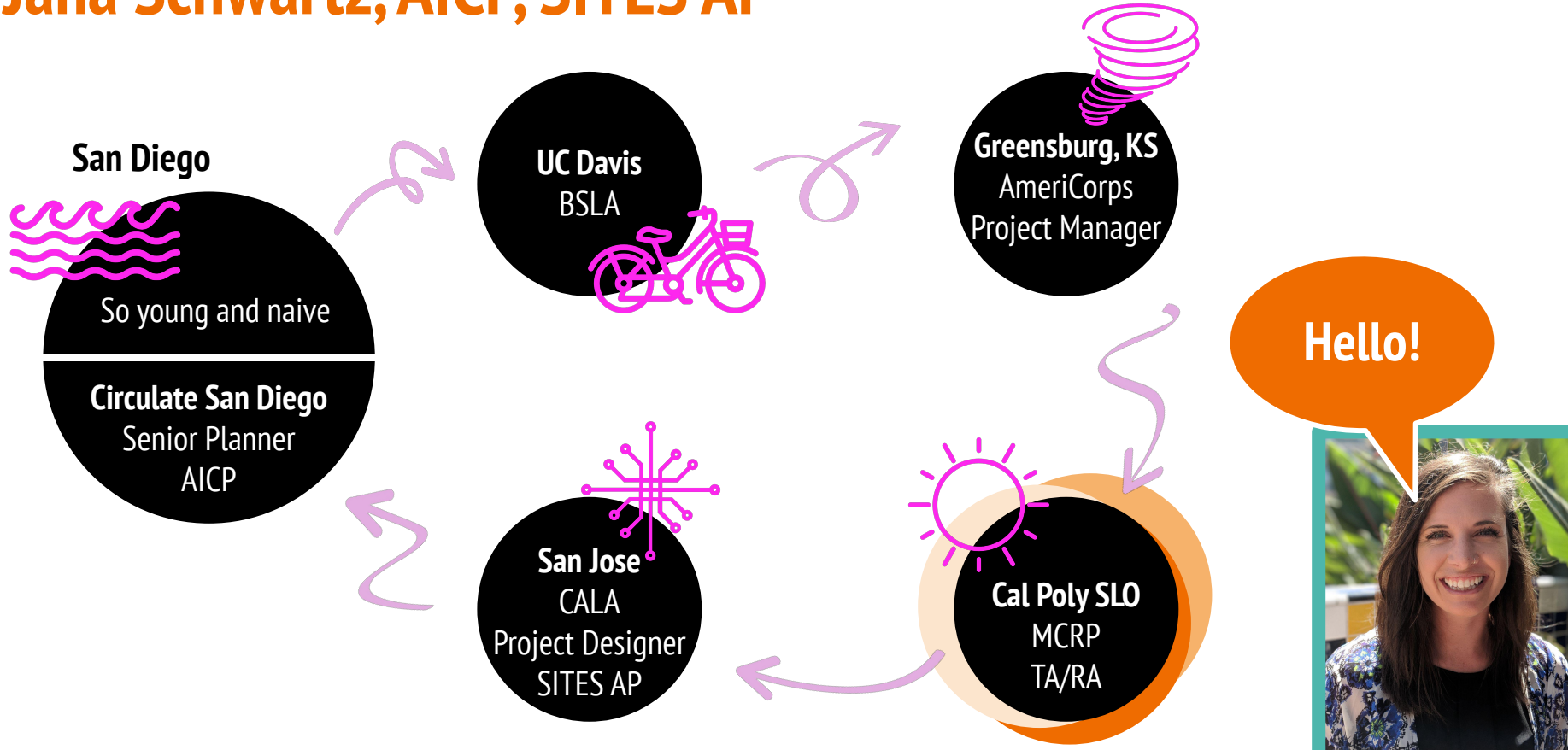
Banquets

Mentors

Experiences



Jana Schwartz, AICP, SITES AP



Sue Peerson, AICP



Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo



University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

Housekeeping

Please stay muted.

Raise hand to ask questions or **put them in the chat** (you can direct them to individuals if you want).

You'll be called upon and then you can unmute.

If your question isn't answered during the panel, we'll send a follow up list of "unanswered questions" with responses afterwards.

Contact Information



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