Advancing knowledge for a complex world

Arizona State University’s School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning advances geospatial knowledge for a complex world — emphasizing education, research and applied solutions to urban and environmental problems. As national leaders in spatial data science and urban climatology, our growing school not only trains students to gain the skills needed to solve issues affecting our local communities and our world, we are also home to three ground-breaking research centers:

Center for Global Discovery and Conservation Science
gdcs.asu.edu
The Center for Global Discovery and Conservation Science leads spatially-explicit scientific and technological research focused on mitigating and adapting to global environmental change.

Urban Climate Research Center
urbanclimate.asu.edu
The Urban Climate Research Center employs a collaborative social and physical science framework to address critical issues, such as urban heat islands and heat stress experienced in vulnerable communities.

Spatial Analysis Research Center
sparc.asu.edu
The Spatial Analysis Research Center aims to advance the science and technology of GIScience and earth observing and to lead the transdisciplinary application of spatial analysis tools and solutions for addressing novel and impactful research questions.

Philanthropy fuels possibilities

When you support the School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning, you are supporting more than student success and innovative research. Your support allows a future urban planner to receive learning opportunities to create equity in our communities and a future climatologist to gain hands-on classroom experience as they investigate urban heat islands. Your support lays the path for our students to create positive change for our neighborhoods, our cities and our world.

As our world faces new challenges, from pandemics to climate change, our school is preparing students to face these challenges head on. The education provided through the transdisciplinary work of urban planning and geography is critical to addressing these issues and navigating the future.

– Elizabeth Wentz, Interim Director, School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning

School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning

Fact sheet

Social sciences

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@ASU_SGSUP

@ASU.SGSUP

Coor Hall
975 S. Myrtle Ave.
Tempe, AZ 85287

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Arizona State University

ASU

The College
of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Navigating a global pandemic

When COVID-19 made the world stand still, our school was called to action to gain perspective of its impact. From shifting transportation habits and understanding environmental changes to vetting contact-tracing technologies, our school has dozens of research projects in motion to understand the current impact and the future of our world in relation to COVID-19.

Leading global impact and innovative solutions

Our school is home to thought leaders and innovators who are generating the knowledge needed to help our world navigate new and unchartered territories. Our faculty includes members of the National Academy of Sciences, Fulbright Scholars and global influencers in their areas of expertise. This expertise is being used in our research centers and in our classrooms to educate the innovators of tomorrow.

Navigating environmental changes

Hot cities. Dying reefs. Declining biodiversity. Changing human-environment dynamics can have dire consequences. Our school is working to better understand our changing Earth systems, along with how to adapt and mitigate the effects as we work to create solutions for livable cities and fly the skies to map biodiversity in forests and other ecosystems.

Navigating equity and diversity

Systemic inequalities have long affected the wellbeing of people in our communities. Our school is working to rectify these issues by researching how geography and planning can build a more just world through creating equitable food access and affordable housing, and training the next generation of geographers and planners to view the world through an equity lens.