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 trains students to gain the skills needed to solve issues affecting our natural and built environments. These valuable skills provide students the tools they need to compete in a growing job market, as well as to help make an impact on issues from the local to the global scale.

Our school and research centers are at the forefront of discovery. From digging into the data to reveal unseen relationships between the where and why, to working with city governments to create action plans to help make hot cities more livable, our school is creating opportunities for better decision-making processes which will make for a better tomorrow.

Navigate the world.
Plan the future.

At the School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning, we place our focus on location — the heart of geography, urban planning, climatology and GIS — and from that foundation, we develop cutting-edge techniques and solutions to the complex issues facing society. With our unique approach of combining geography and urban planning, our students are prepared to not only navigate the world but also plan for a more sustainable and equitable future for our cities.

sgsup.asu.edu

The relationships between people and their environment — whether natural or built — affects everything from health to economic success. Our school is working diligently to support the development of positive relationships between people and place, and our faculty, researchers and students are creating solutions that allow people to thrive in our world.

—Trisalyn Nelson, director

School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning

Fact sheet

Social sciences
At the School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning we are driven by curiosity. How do people relate to place? How is place impacted by people? These simple questions lead to valuable discoveries. Compelled by that curiosity, we are investigating climate change, water resource management, renewable energy, sustainable growth, urban equity and so much more. These areas of exploration will impact our world – both our natural and built environments.

Understanding the relationship between people and place

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Cultivating an inclusive environment

The diversity of our faculty and student body strengthen our ability to meet the challenges our world faces head on. Our students come from across the U.S. and around the world to work on the issues that matter the most to them. Students in our school hail from all 50 states, two U.S. territories and 30 countries from around the globe.

Leading global impact and innovative solutions

Our school is home to the thought leaders and innovators who are making important change for our world. 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, as well as in our classrooms, to educate the innovators of tomorrow.

Building innovative research

Our school is home to three research centers – the Urban Climate Research Center, the Spatial Analysis Research Center and the Center for Global Discovery and Conservation Science. Each center focuses on specific issues and utilizes the skills of faculty and students to create impactful change in areas from urban heat islands to protecting coral reefs.

Building an equitable future

The foundation of our school is in both the built and natural environments, as well as how these environments affect people. This understanding provides an opportunity to research, highlight and find solutions to the inequities that exist within our communities. Our Equitable Urban Futures initiative aims to develop new strategies, including a new equity-focused internship program, to create a more equitable future for all.

Building communities

Creating change cannot only happen within the walls of our school and research centers. Our school depends on community partnerships, such as BikeMaps.org and YouthMappers, to help drive our mission. BikeMaps.org maps cycling experiences around the world to create safer spaces for cyclists. YouthMappers helps students build their mapping skills by contributing their efforts to global matters.

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<th>Undergraduate degrees</th>
<th>Graduate degrees</th>
<th>Certificates and minors</th>
<th>Research centers</th>
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<tr>
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<td>116</td>
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Students on campus and online | Faculty members | Student-to-faculty ratio | Students enrolled in our courses |
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