

The appropriateness, usefulness and impact of current urban planning curriculum in South African Higher Education survey

1. Background information

Thank you very much for agreeing to participate in this survey. This survey is a key component of the South African Planning Education Research Project (SAPER). This project aims to assess the appropriateness, usefulness and impact of the current urban planning curriculum in South African Higher Education. More details can be obtained from the project website: www.saperproject.com

The information provided by you in this questionnaire will be used for research purposes. It will not be used in a manner which would allow identification of your individual responses. Your participation in this survey is voluntary. You may refuse to take part in the research or exit the survey at any time. You are free to decline to answer any particular question you do not wish to answer for any reason.

Please note that the terms 'planning' and 'planner' in this survey relate to any type of planning work, and include urban planning, regional planning, rural planning, town planning, city planning, development planning, and so forth.

1. How many years have you worked in the field of planning (cumulatively)?

2. At which institution did you study the field of planning?

	Institution	Degree	Year started	Year graduated
Degree 1 (Most recent)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Degree 2 (If applicable)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Degree 3 (If applicable)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Degree 4 (if applicable)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

If you studied planning at an institution not listed here, please fill in the textbox below with the name(s) of each university at which you studied planning. Please also complete this if you have more than four urban planning degrees.

3. If you have another qualification(s) in addition to your training in planning, please specify in which subject / major (e.g. geography, civil engineering, architecture, etc.)? If you only have a qualification in planning, please skip this question.

Qualification other than planning 1 (if applicable)	<input type="text"/>
Qualification other than planning 2 (if applicable)	<input type="text"/>
Qualification other than planning 3 (if applicable)	<input type="text"/>

4. If you have more than 3 qualifications not related to planning, please list them here:

5. Which category of SACPLAN registration do you hold?

- ☐ Professional Planner
- ☐ Technical Planner
- ☐ Candidate Planner
- ☐ Not registered

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2. Curriculum / Training / Practice

6. The core competencies below have been identified by SACPLAN as the set of specific knowledge, skills, abilities, or experience that a planner must possess in order to successfully perform the work and activities that are central to professional planning practice. Please indicate how useful each competency has been for your work as a planner.

	Extremely useful	Useful	Of limited use	Not at all useful	N/A
Settlement history and theory	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Planning theory	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Planning sustainable cities and regions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Urban planning and place making	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Regional development and planning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public policy, institutional and legal frameworks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Environmental planning and management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transportation planning and systems	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Land use and infrastructure planning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Integrated development planning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Land economics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social theories related to planning and development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

7. Of the competencies identified as being 'extremely useful' or 'useful', please explain why this was the case.

8. Of the competencies identified as being 'of limited use' or 'not at all useful', please explain why this was the case.

9. What did you learn in your planning degree that you found most useful in your work as a planner?
(In no particular order.)

Skill / Theory 1:

Skill / Theory 2:

Skill / Theory 3:

10. What do you feel was missing from your tertiary education and training in planning, which you feel should be included in current training of planning students? (In no particular order.)

Skill / Theory 1:

Skill / Theory 2:

Skill / Theory 3:

11. Rank the technical skills listed below from most to least important with regard to their importance for planning practice, where 1 is most important and 8 is least important. (Once complete, please double check that all your answers to this question are still reflecting, as changes to one item can affect others.)

Geographical Information Systems (GIS)

Computer-aided design (CAD)

Hand drawing

Analyzing data in programs such as Excel

Creating presentations in programs such as PowerPoint

Public speaking

Graphic design, using programs such as Photoshop, CorelDraw, etc.

Report writing

12. Do you feel that there is a difference in the skills required for working in the private and the public planning sectors?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If you answered yes, please explain what you believe are the differences between the skills needed for the private and the public sectors.

13. Overall, do you feel your formal education and training prepared you for work as a planner?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Please explain your answer above.

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3. Aspirations / Motivations / Choices

14. What was your main motivation behind choosing a career in planning?

If other, please specify:

15. Regarding your highest planning qualification, why did you choose to study at this particular institution?

If other, please specify:

16. Are the aspirations that inspired you to study planning being met by your work as a planner?

All of the aspirations that
inspired me to study planning
are being met by my current
job

Not at all

Somewhat

Mostly

N/A



Please explain your answer above

17. Do you find your work as a planner fulfilling?

I find my work extremely
fulfilling

Not at all

Somewhat

Mostly

N/A



Please explain your answer above

18. What are some of the challenges you face in your work as a planner?

19. What do you perceive to be the main differences between working as a planner in South Africa as opposed to working in a western country such as the UK, USA or Australia?

* 20. Have you either studied planning in another country or worked abroad as a planner?

☐ Yes

☐ No

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4. Studying and working abroad

If you studied abroad, please answer the questions 20-22. If not, please go to question 23.

21. In which country did you study planning?

22. What have been the advantages of studying planning abroad?

23. What have been the disadvantages of studying planning abroad?

If you worked abroad doing work in or related to planning, please answer the questions 23-25 below. If not, please move onto the next page.

24. In which country or countries have you worked as a planner (or related field), other than South Africa?

25. What have been the advantages of working abroad in a planning job (or related field)?

26. What have been the disadvantages of working abroad in a planning job (or related field)?

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5. Work experience

27. Please describe your employment history using the dropdown menus below, with Job 1 being your current or latest job, and Job 2 the previous job (if applicable), and so forth. You are not expected to complete this in full, for example, if you have only worked five jobs, you only need to complete the below up to Job 5, and so forth.

	Year started	Year ended	Type of sector	Occupation level
Job 1 (current/latest job)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Job 2	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Job 3	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Job 4	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Job 5	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Job 6	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Job 7	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Job 8	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Job 9	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Job 10	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

If you specified 'other' anywhere above, please describe the sector below, and to which job number this relates (Job 1, 2, 3, etc.)

28. Please describe your employment history using the dropdown menus below.

	Main type of work done in this job	Second type of work most commonly done in this job
Job 1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Job 2	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Job 3	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Job 4	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Job 5	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Job 6	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Job 7	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Job 8	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Job 9	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Job 10	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

If you specified 'Other planning work' for type of sector, please describe below what this work was and to which job number this relates(Job 1, 2, 3, etc.)

29. If you have been employed in more than 10 jobs, please describe the rest of your employment history below:

30. Have you considered moving to another country to work?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Please provide a reason for your answer

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6. Demographics & feedback

31. What is your first and last name? Please note - this is purely for internal records. All personal information will be anonymized and kept confidential.

Name

32. In late 2017 and early 2018, the SAPER team will be conducting a further series of interviews to build on the insights from this survey. If you are interested in being interviewed, please leave your telephone number and email address below. If not, please skip this question.

Email Address

Phone Number

33. What is your gender?

☐ Female

☐ Male

☐ Other

34. To which population group do you belong?

- ☐ Black
- ☐ Coloured
- ☐ Asian/Indian
- ☐ White
- ☐ Rather not say
- ☐ Multiple ethnicity / Other

35. What is your age?

- ☐ 18 to 24
- ☐ 25 to 34
- ☐ 35 to 44
- ☐ 45 to 54
- ☐ 55 to 64
- ☐ 65 to 74
- ☐ 75 or older

36. Please estimate how many minutes it took to complete this survey.

37. If you wish to provide feedback on this survey, specifically anything that you felt should have been worded or formatted differently, omitted, or that should have been included, then please feel free to share these comments in the below comment box. Also, if you have any final comments you would like to make, please feel to share them below.