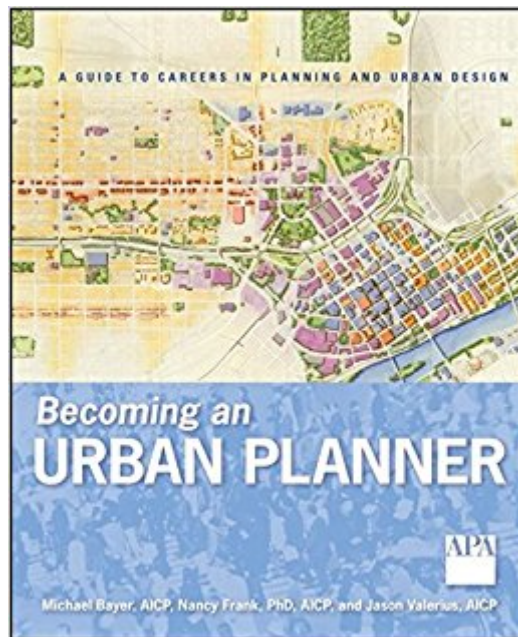




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# Becoming An Urban Planner: A Guide To Careers In Planning And Urban Design



## Synopsis

Becoming an Urban Planner answers these key questions: What do urban planners do? What are the educational requirements? How do I enter the field? How do I choose between the different types of planning, from land use planning to policy planning? What is the future of the urban planning profession? Here is a completely up-to-date guide to today's careers in urban planning—a clear and concise survey of the urban planning field and advice for navigating a successful career. Filled with interviews and guidance from leading urban planners, it covers everything from educational requirements to planning specialties and the many directions in which a career in urban planning can go.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Are you considering a career in urban planning? Becoming an Urban Planner is the best place to start. Through in-depth interviews with more than eighty urban planners across the United States and Canada, this book gives you a valuable insider's look at your future profession as it is lived and practiced. Becoming an Urban Planner introduces you to the urban planning profession—its history, what you must know to prepare for a career in planning, and the different types of planning jobs. Beyond the basics, though, it shows you the realities of what it's really like to be a planner today. You'll learn about: The skills you'll need and how to hone them in school and on the job Potential career paths and what people in these positions do Using internships, job shadowing, and other opportunities to break into the field Deciding among planning specialties and moving between

public and private sectors How to search for and get your first position Emerging areas in planning, including sustainability and climate change Each topic is explored through in-depth interviews with both generalists and others who have devoted their careers to a particular aspect of planning. These professionals share their insights and describe how they have arrived at where they are and how beginners like you can learn from their experiences. With the information from this book to guide and inspire you, you will be able to chart your own path to success as an urban planner. Michael Bayer, AICP, is a planner with Environmental Resources Management in Annapolis, Maryland. Before becoming an urban planner, he was a newspaper reporter whose articles have appeared in the Chicago Tribune, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, the Journal Gazette, the Post-Bulletin, as well as Planning magazine.

Michael Bayer, AICP, is a planner with Environmental Resources Management in Annapolis, Maryland. Before becoming an urban planner, he was a newspaper reporter whose articles have appeared in the Chicago Tribune, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, the Journal Gazette, the Post-Bulletin, as well as Planning magazine. Nancy Frank, PhD, AICP, is an associate professor and the chair of the department of urban planning at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Architecture and Urban Planning. Frank has been instrumental in the development of the School for Urban Planning and Architecture (SUPAR), a charter Milwaukee public high school that opened in fall 2007. Jason Valerius, AICP, is a planner and urban designer for MSA Professional Services, in Madison, Wisconsin. Valerius served for four years as assistant editor of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Planning Association quarterly newsletter (WAPANews).

The best thing about this book is that it draws from the experiences of lots of people well-established in the field of urban planning. It identifies specific individuals, the organizations for which they work, and the route their careers have taken. The information provided in this book is highly valuable for those starting off in the field and wondering what path to take.

well written and thoroughly informative.

A useful resource for those considering a career in planning. I found the book easy to read and the graphics useful.

This book is great. I just wish I had it 4 years ago to see the tips for high schoolers and followed

them through.

amazing book!

I read this book a year or so ago as I contemplated making a career change. After reading it I decided to look into planning in more detail, and now I'm applying to grad school for masters in urban planning. The book gives a great overview of the different types of work within the field and highlights the skills needed for various jobs. It is very positive about the profession, of course, but also does a good job balancing that with the frustrations that can come with working on projects with a long time horizon, with facing a lot of NIMBYism, and things of that sort. The interviews with planners about their career paths and jobs are great, too.

This compilation of interviews, resources, and plain language explanation of what planners do and what one can do with a planning degree is a great introduction for anyone interested in the planning profession or even someone who interacts often with planners. The authors take the time to explore the various paths a planner can take from government employee, private sector consultant, academic, and even non-planner positions using a planner's expertise. I enjoyed reading this excellent summary of my own chosen profession.

This book contains interviews with dozens of different types of urban (and not-so-urban) planners, asking them about their career paths, what they like about their jobs, and what they don't like. It is so comprehensive that I cannot think of anything that I wish it had covered. This book does tend to be a little slanted to the left (in the sense that it takes for granted the sort of concerns that tend to be more common among liberals, such as various environmental concerns and the belief that energy supplies are dwindling). On the other hand, I suspect most of this book's intended audience probably leans in that direction as well.

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