

MAP Your Planning Career: Career Paths

The planning field is incredibly diverse, and you may not realize the breadth of career paths available. **While this list covers many common ones, it's not exhaustive.** Here's a breakdown of different planning sectors and specializations:

Land Use Planning & Zoning:

Activities: Drafting policies, reviewing site plans, administering permits, ensuring compliance with local codes.

Regional Planning:

Activities: Inter-jurisdictional collaboration, regional comprehensive plans, multi-county infrastructure projects.

Transportation Planning:

Activities: Traffic studies, transit route planning, active transportation master plans, infrastructure development, advocating for multi-modal systems.

Environmental Planning:

Activities: Environmental impact assessments (EIAs), developing sustainability plans, watershed management, open space preservation, climate resilience strategies.

GIS & Data Analysis:

Activities: Creating maps, analyzing demographic data, developing GIS databases, using spatial modeling for planning decisions.

Resilience & Disaster Planning:

Activities: Hazard mitigation plans, climate adaptation strategies, emergency preparedness, post-disaster recovery planning.

Economic Development Planning:

Activities: Market analysis, business retention and expansion programs, workforce development initiatives, creating incentive programs, downtown revitalization.

Also: APA Divisions

As a free APA student member, **you get free access to up to five professional divisions**, allowing you to dive deeper into specific planning interests.

APA divisions range from city, regional, rural, federal, and international planning to environmental, hazard mitigation, housing, and transportation planning to many more topics.

Sign up as a student member to connect with a community of professionals with shared interests.

[List of APA Divisions](#)