

The background features a blue field with various urban planning and community-related terms in a lighter blue font, such as 'DEVELOPMENT', 'JUSTICE', 'NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION', 'TRANSPORTATION', 'COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES', 'SUSTAINABLE', 'MANAGEMENT', 'PLANNING', 'RENEWABLE', 'ENERGY', 'INFRASTRUCTURE', 'PUBLIC AFFAIRS', 'ADMINISTRATION', 'COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT', 'CIVIC LEADERSHIP', 'POLITICAL PARTICIPATION', 'SOCIAL EQUITY', 'ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE', 'CLIMATE RESILIENCE', 'DISASTER PREPAREDNESS', 'CULTURAL HERITAGE', 'HISTORIC PRESERVATION', 'URBAN DESIGN', 'LAND USE', 'ZONING', 'PLANNING', 'TRANSPORTATION', 'INFRASTRUCTURE', 'PUBLIC AFFAIRS', 'ADMINISTRATION', 'COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT', 'CIVIC LEADERSHIP', 'POLITICAL PARTICIPATION', 'SOCIAL EQUITY', 'ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE', 'CLIMATE RESILIENCE', 'DISASTER PREPAREDNESS', 'CULTURAL HERITAGE', 'HISTORIC PRESERVATION', 'URBAN DESIGN', 'LAND USE', 'ZONING'. In the top right corner, there are stylized sunflowers with yellow petals and red centers. At the bottom, there is a silhouette of a city skyline with yellow lights in the windows of the buildings.

# Urban Planning: The Most Rewarding & Flexible Career You've Never Heard Of

Bonnie J. Johnson, PhD, FAICP  
Professor, Urban Planning Program Director  
University of Kansas  
School of Public Affairs & Administration  
Contact: [bojojoh@ku.edu](mailto:bojojoh@ku.edu)

*THE JAYHAWK PLANNER EXPERIENCE*

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# Agenda

- **Who are Jayhawk Planners?**
- **Where are Jayhawk Planners?**
- **What is the Jayhawk Planner Experience?**

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# Who are Jayhawk Planners?

- People searching for a meaningful profession
- Those who “stumbled” across planning
- Variety of degree backgrounds
- Looking for a flexible career



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# Who are Jayhawk Planners?

Learn more about a planning career –  
FREE membership in the  
American Planning Association

<https://www.planning.org/join/students/>

**planning**

- **Variety of degree backgrounds**
- **Looking for a flexible career**

**ngful**



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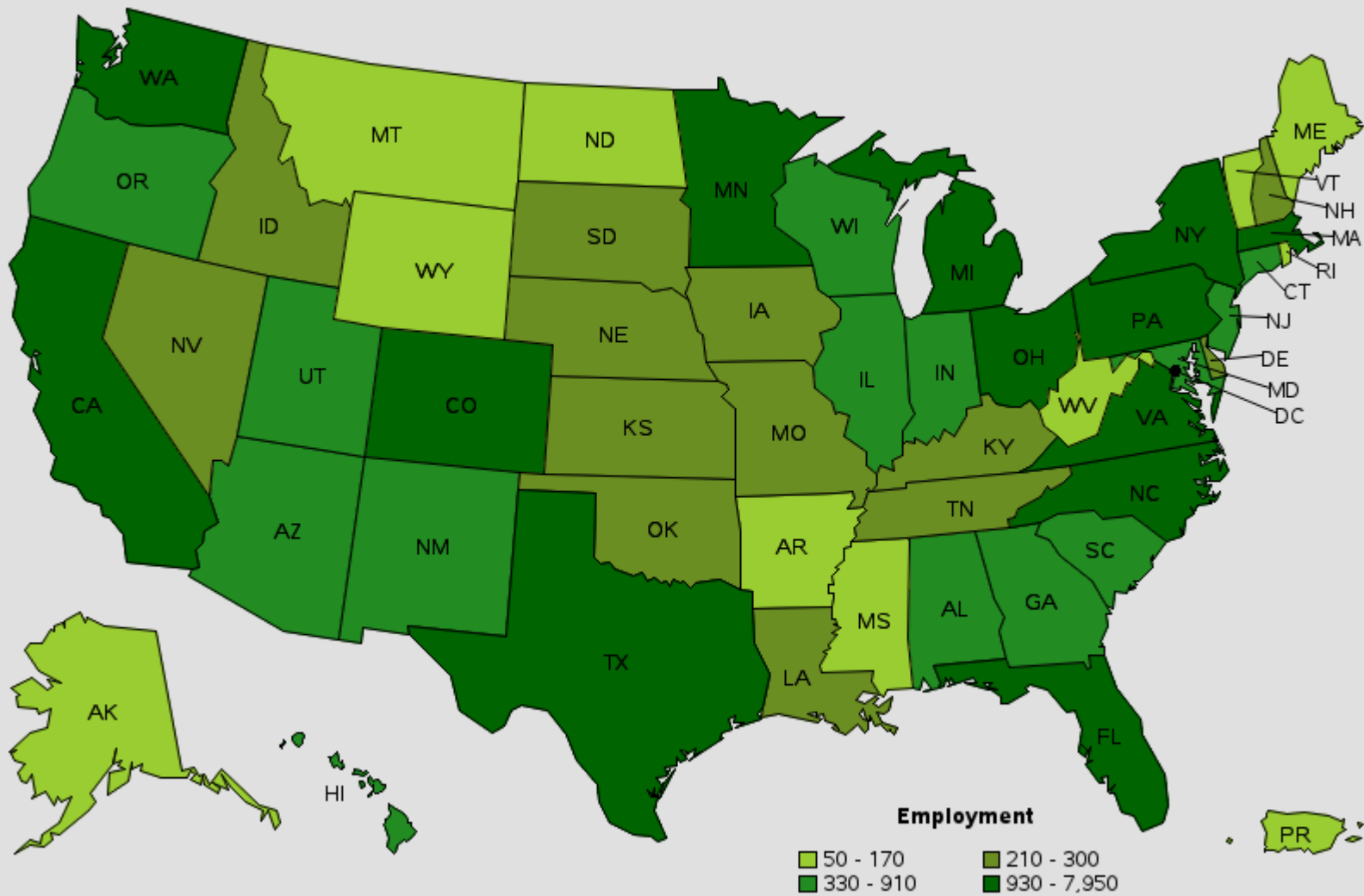
# Where are Jayhawk Planners?

- **Local, County, State and Federal Governments**
- **Nonprofit Organizations**
- **Consulting Firms**
- **Development Community**

Learn more about KU Urban Planning  
<https://urbanplanning.ku.edu/>

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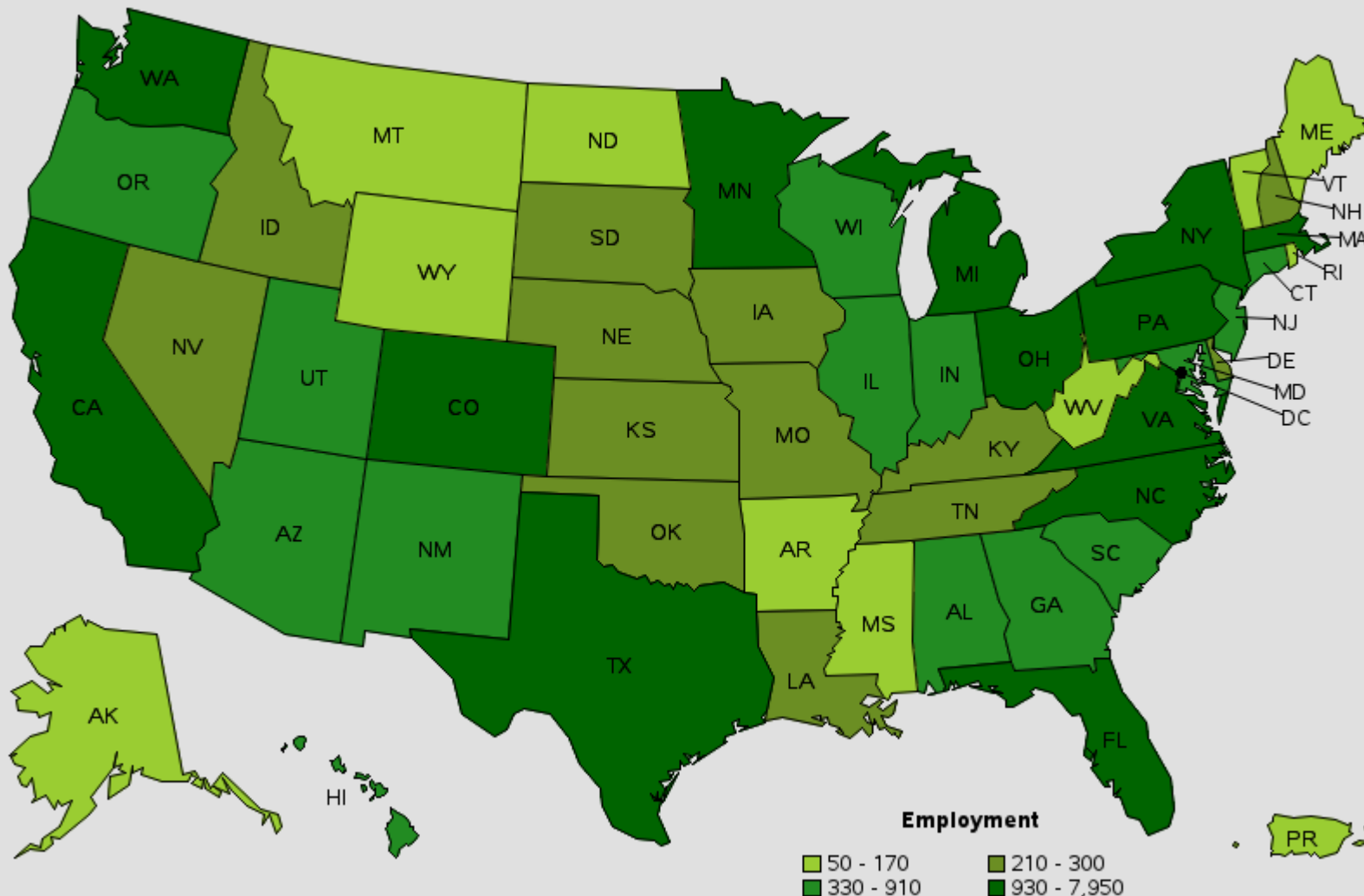
# Employment of urban and regional planners, by state, May 2018



Blank areas indicate data not available.

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## Employment of urban and regional planners, by state, May 2018

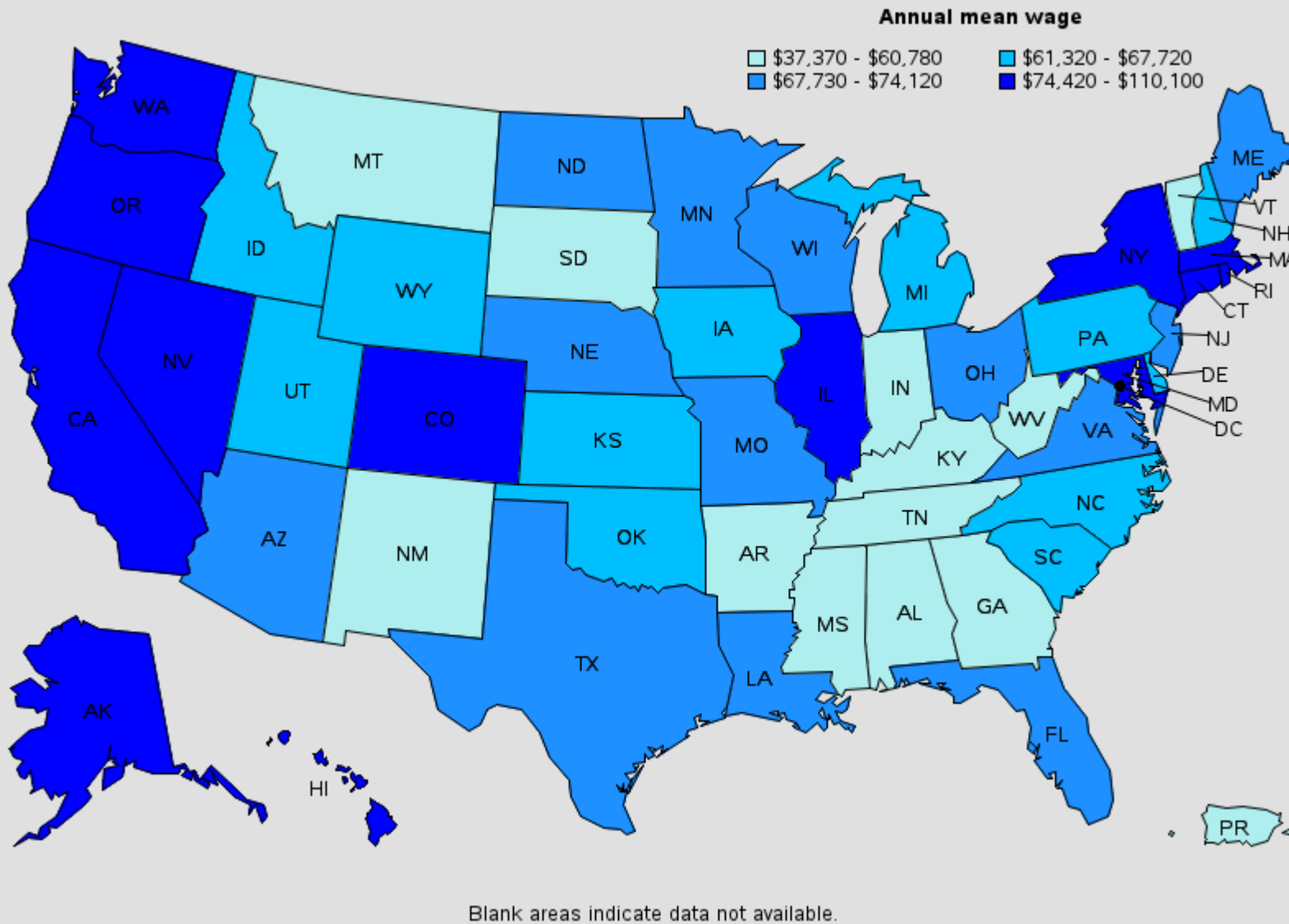


Learn more about Urban Planning  
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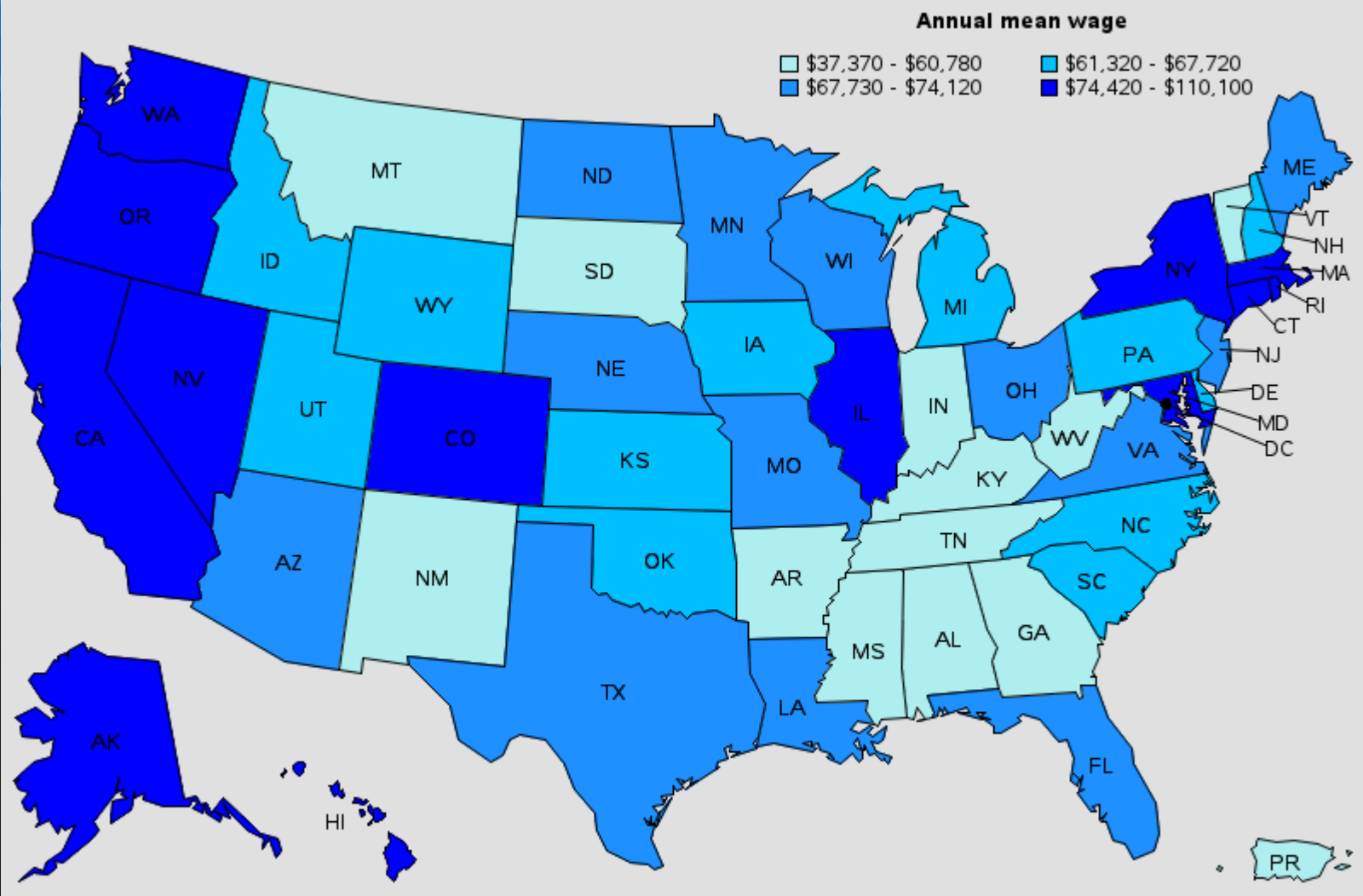


# Annual mean wage of urban and regional planners, by state, May 2018



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# Annual mean wage of urban and regional planners, by state, May 2018



Learn more about Urban Planning  
<https://www.planetizen.com/>

**EXPERIENCE**

# Where are they now? (5 years out)

PhD program  
Ohio State  
University

Planner,  
Consulting,  
Chicago, IL

Planning  
Director, City of  
Calistoga, CA

Planner, Unified  
Govt Wyandotte  
Co/KCK

Planner,  
Transit  
Authority,  
KCMO

Peace Corps,  
Guatemala

Planner,  
Consulting,  
KCMO

Innovation  
Manager, Transit  
Authority, KCMO

Director Tech  
Programs, Non-profit,  
Washington, DC

USDA Rural  
Development

Senior Economic  
Analyst,  
Consulting,  
Chicago, IL

Planner,  
Consulting,  
KCMO

Acquisitions,  
Real Estate,  
Chicago, IL



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Analyst,  
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Chicago, IL

Planner,  
Consulting,  
KCMO

Acquisitions,  
Real Estate,  
Chicago, IL



Learn more about Urban Planning  
<http://www.plannersnetwork.org/>

EXPERIENCE

# Several Paths to the Masters in Urban Planning

- **2 Year Masters Degree**
- **Accelerated Masters (For Sophomores) with any Degree in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (4+1)**
- **Dual degrees with Public Administration, Geography, American Studies, & Architecture**

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# Curriculum

- 42 Credit Hours
- 24 credit hours of core courses
- 12 credit hours toward a specialization
  - Transportation,
  - Sustainable Land Use, OR
  - Housing & Development
- 6 credit hours allows for tailoring
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> speciality
  - Mixing it up!
- A comprehensive exam to be completed in the final semester (or masters thesis)



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# Accreditation

- We are a Planning Accreditation Board accredited program (since 1983) which means we must meet high standards.
- Accreditation Curriculum Map
  - General Planning Knowledge (“The Future”, Global Dimensions of Planning, Human Settlements, Law, Theory, Purpose and Meaning of Planning)
  - Planning Skills (Research, Communication, Quantitative/Qualitative Methods, Plan Creation/Implementation, Methods, Leadership)
  - Values & Ethics (Professionalism, Equity, Diversity, Social Justice, Governance & Participation, Growth & Development, Health and the Built Environment)

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**Speeds up becoming a Certified Planner - American Institute of Certified Planners  
Look for “AICP” after planners’ names.**

Learn more about Urban Planning

<https://www.planningaccreditationboard.org/>

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# Admission Requirements

- Application Deadlines – rolling (particularly for Accelerated Masters)
  - Fall – July 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Spring – December 1<sup>st</sup>
- University Graduate Studies Requirements
  - Conferred Bachelor's degree
  - Official transcript(s)
  - English language proficiency
  - Complete Application Submitted through “Graduate Admissions”
    - <https://gradapply.ku.edu/apply>

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# Application Requirements for Urban Planning

- Current Resume
- Personal Statement – Why Urban Planning and why KU?
- 3 Recommendation Letters

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# Jayhawk Planner Experience



**Award Winning Teachers + Practitioners with PhDs + Award Winning Researchers + Small Class Sizes + Masters Degree Only + Nationally Ranked School of Public Affairs & Administration + Paid Internship Coordination + Kansas Association of Planning Students + Kansas Chapter of the American Planning Association and KC Division + Jayhawk Planner Network + Alumni and professional participation in the classroom + Client Based Projects + Center for Compassionate & Sustainable Communities = The Jayhawk Planner Experience**

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# Some job titles of our graduates

• City Housing Manager • College Administrator • Community Development Director • Consultant • Environmental Planner • Multimodal Planner • Innovation & Transportation Manager • Urban and Regional Planner • Transportation Planner • Director Planning & Development • Long Rang Planning Manager • Data Analyst • Project Manager • Neighborhood Planner • Development Analyst • Water Resources Planner • Transit Manager • GIS Analyst • Sr. Vice President • Master Planning Branch Manager • Project Planner • Director of Technical Programs • Community Programs Loan Specialist • Co-Founder • Economic Development Consultant • Community Development Planner • Owner/Founder • Site Acquisition Specialist • CEO • Founding Principal • Non-Profit Agency Director • Division Manager, Long Range Planning & Preservation • Professor • Business and IT Consultant • Research Analyst • Planner Specialist • Nationwide Project Manager • Neighborhood Planner • Planning Team Leader • Real Estate Attorney • Water Resources Planner • Transit and Parking Manager • Sr. Vice President • Operational Performance and Innovation Manager • Loan Specialist Community Programs • Economic Development Consultant • Director of Sourcing • Director Transit Development • Real Estate Broker • Grant Professional • Imagineer

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