

Smart Growth University Training Program Curriculum

The University of Georgia The Alliance for Quality Growth

These courses are aimed at four groups: elected officials, professional staff, developers, and citizens.

Elected Officials

It is mandatory that all participants take the Core-Orientation Session to develop an overview on growth and the dynamics and complexities, and nuances involved with growth in Georgia. Elected Officials are encouraged to complete the program for a Smart Growth Specialist Certificate. To receive the Smart Growth Specialist Certificate participants are asked to take four electives from the 13 sessions offered. Participants may mix and match any four electives that they choose.

Professional Staff

We encourage all professional staff to finish the program of study and receive a Smart Growth Specialist Certificate. In order to receive a certificate, all participants are required to take the Core-Orientation Session to develop an overview on growth and the dynamics and complexities, and nuances involved with growth in Georgia. Then participants are asked to take four electives for the 13 sessions offered. Participants may mix and match any four electives that they choose.

CEUs / CLUs

Participants will be able to attend any session and receive CEU's or CLU's for their participation. For participants interested in receiving a course certificate please note the following

- Course certificates will be issued to participants who have taken the required Core Session and four of seven possible Elective Sessions.

Topics for sessions are as follows:

Orientation on Growth - (Core Session for Certification)

“Where we are now, How did we get there, and What can we do about it?”

This day-long session is focused on orienting participants Growth in Georgia: on how local and state government has gotten itself in the current situation. Participants will develop an understanding about the dynamics of growth, why growth is occurring and not occurring, policies that have been established and it’s effects on growth. The session also covers topics on:

- Debunking the myths of smart growth
- Growing sustainability:
 - environmental considerations – understanding the ecology of the system
 - what types of regulatory issues are coming down the line
 - information needs for better planning
 - how to obtain information
- Economics of smart growth:
 - Costs of uncontrolled economic growth (internalizing external costs)
- Policy changes that need to occur to facilitate smart growth
 - Removing the barriers at all levels of government
- Etc.

Water Quality and Quantity – (Elective Session)

“Is there enough clean water?”

This two-day session is focused on the issues surrounding water quality and water quantity. Water is important to sustaining the growth and development of Georgia and it’s economy. There are two major issues surrounding this precious natural resource, do we keep water at a quality level that is safe for drinking, agricultural, development, etc. and do we have enough water to sustain this growth economy. This session also covers topics on:

- Keeping water on site
 - Better site design for water run-off
 - Overview of low impact development approaches
- Issues of water quality
 - Water conservation approaches
 - Water use efficiency
 - Minimizing the impact of reservoir development
- Etc.

Greenspace – (Elective Session)

“What is Greenspace and why should I care?”

This day-long session is focused on the Greenspace and designing green infrastructure. We will also stress the importance of the regionalization of greenspace, including multi-jurisdictional planning, preservation, and implementation. Also, there will be a mini-session on tools assisting green space implementation.

Tools for Smart Growth – (Elective Session)

“What’s out there to help me get this accomplished?”

This day-long session exposes participants to the array of tools available to help implement smart growth in the community. Members of the Georgia Quality Growth Task Force and Jordon-Jones and Goulding will be part of the instructor team for this session. Topics that will be covered include:

- Land use controls
 - TDR’s
 - Conservation Easements
 - Tree Ordinances
- Georgia Quality Growth Alliance Tool Kits
- Etc.

Public Involvement – (Elective Session)

“Why should I invite these people to the table?”

This one-day session focuses on the role of public involvement in the smart growth. The session presents a variety of models for community change and action as well as discussing case studies of successful change and process driven initiatives. Members of the Georgia Conservancy are a part of the instructor team for this session. Other topics include:

- Identifying key players within the community as change agents and impeters to change
 - Developers
 - Business leaders
 - Agriculture community
 - Environmental community
- Developing Requisite Variety
- Participatory Policy Design
- Etc.

Regional Planning – (Elective Session)

“You want me work with my county’s/city’s high school football rival?”

This two-day session discusses the importance of regional planning including assessing its cumulative impacts on the area. Members of the GA Planners Association and SERDI are part of the instructor team for this session.

Funding and Resources– (Elective Session)

“So how am I supposed to pay for all this great stuff?”

This day-long session focuses on where to find funding and assistance for implementing new programs and approaches to smart growth. This session would ideally be presented at the Chattahoochee Nature Center and include field work along the Chattahoochee Corridor. The Chattahoochee Corridor is a unique venture which includes resources raised from fees, state monies, and federal grants. Other topics in the session will include:

Design Guidelines -(Elective Session)

The workshop teaches participants to evaluate and document visual character. A better understanding of sensitive change in historic districts is the intended result of the course. Course material addresses additions to historic buildings, rehabilitation and restoration, new construction, signage, urban design and setting, and ways to increase the compatibility of non-contributing buildings. This course addresses new ways to deal with intensive growth and how neo-traditional design and new urbanism affects historic settlement patterns. Special considerations for rural, commercial and residential areas, as well as accessibility issues related to specific property types, are covered. Participants explore the role of the *Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* in planning changes, determining appropriateness and communicating preservation philosophy.

Preservation Leadership: Advocacy, Design and Planning – (Elective Session)

Historic preservation at the local level requires organization and passion. It involves energizing constituencies and communicating goals to sometimes disparate groups. It takes knowing the network and using it effectively. This workshop leads participants through the basics of preservation planning, community consensus building and the theory of preservation design and how it relates to economic development. It concentrates on conservation based planning and shows ways to lessen dependence on more conventional methods of local planning. Participants are shown the connection between local politics, planning decisions and community visual character.

Preservation Commission Training – (Elective Session)

Historic preservation review commissions and design review boards are proven ways to manage change in historic districts and other areas where a unique visual character is desired or needs protection. The boards are quasi-judicial appointed bodies that have a legitimate place in the regulatory framework of local governments. The design review functions of these boards have an obvious aesthetic component but equally demand special skills in group decision making, local political maneuvering and legal issues. This workshop gives participants new skills for making more successful design review decisions that will be more legally defensible when challenged.

Scenic By-Ways and Corridor Planning – (Elective Session)

Corridor planning that focuses on the scenic qualities of roadways is often considered an “extra” or scenic and aesthetic issues should only be considered for roads that have been designated as official Scenic Byways. This is not true. Aesthetic qualities impact the truck stop on the interstate exchange in the same way they impact the two lane mountain roadway. Good design and improved environments can happen anywhere. This workshop equips participants to understand how design overlays work and how strip development deserves an improved appearance just like historic districts, natural areas and agricultural land. The workshop addresses franchise design, parking areas, and signage and landscape issues.

Historic Resource Survey – (Elective Session)

The basis of historic preservation planning is conducting a historic resource survey and creating an inventory of locally important buildings and sites. This workshop acquaints participants with the details of architectural identification, the Georgia Historic Resources Program, what to do with the survey once completed and how to use the survey process as a community education tool.

Local Preservation Goal Setting – (Elective Session)

Local historical societies, downtown development authorities, Main Street Programs, preservation commissions, neighborhood associations and preservation non profits need organizational development schemes just like the private sector. However, many times they do not see the need to have goal setting and strategic planning sessions. This process walks a volunteer or appointed group through mission statement formulation, long term and short term work programs, property acquisition or program management, fundraising strategies and board development. The workshop is specifically tailored to the needs of the participants and includes a pre-workshop board effectiveness questionnaire.

Housing, Growth and Quality of Life- (Elective Session)

Is there a place for workforce housing in economic development and quality growth? This course teaches the trends and dynamics of housing and community well being as well as the impacts on infrastructure needs, environment, services and affordability. Learn about housing related funding available to communities in Georgia. Also, learn how to develop a visioning housing process for your community, including issues of diversity. This course will be taught by Housing and Consumer Economics faculty member.

Curriculum Design Group

The University of Alliance for Quality Growth would like to recognize the Curriculum Design Group who's input was valuable in the development of this proposal.

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