

**RD 351 Strategic Planning & Decision Making**  
**Spring – 3 credits**

Instructor: Charlene Stern, Ph.D. Candidate

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Office Hours:

Course Dates/Times:

Audio conference: 1-866-832-7806

PIN: 7590345

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The ability to plan strategically is fundamental to the success of organizations and communities alike. Rural leaders, in particular, must be incredibly adept at making strategic decisions about how to achieve desirable outcomes with limited human and financial resources. This course takes a practitioner approach to equipping students with basic knowledge of strategic planning processes as well as opportunities to engage with proven tools from the field. This course will emphasize business and technical writing and include student-moderated discussions.

**Prerequisites:** RD 300; RD 325; and junior standing; or permission of instructor.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

To help students to: 1) establish a framework for understanding strategic planning in the context of rural communities; 2) develop a competence in planning tools and techniques; and c) provide an opportunity to build writing capabilities and oral presentation skills.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to: 1) articulate key strategic planning concepts and processes; 2) describe best planning practices in the context of rural communities; and 3) apply tools and techniques to support community and/or organizational decision making.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

In order to receive full credit for this course, students are expected to read assigned material prior to the class, contribute to class discussions, and submit quizzes and assignments in a timely manner. Please let the Instructor know in advance if you expect to miss class.

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result in an automatic deduction of two letter grades. During certain class sessions, students will be broken into small groups via multiple audio-conference lines to work together to collectively apply concepts to case study scenarios. During these sessions, the Instructor will ask students to take turns serving as moderators. The role of moderators is to pose relevant questions to spur group discussion, encourage participation from all group members, summarize group comments, and report back to the larger class.



**Attendance and Participation: 15% grade**

See course requirements on page 1 for description of attendance and participation requirements.

**Blackboard Posts: 5% grade**

Students will be expected to complete (2) posts on Blackboard in response to the discussion questions posted.

**Assignment 1**

students will select (1) to serve as a focal point for their final paper. Assignment 5 is intended to be a technical paper which favors the use of passive voice. At a minimum, the paper should include: 1) an abstract; 2) an introduction that summarizes the key points of your paper; 3) a summary of the organization or community; 4) a description of the planning process; 5) a critique of the strengths and weakness of the plan; 6) 3-5 recommendations for strengthening the plan given the best practices and tools you learned in class; and 7) a strong conclusion that restates the key points of your paper. The final paper must be 10 pages in length (not including the cover page, reference page, or images that take up more than a half page), reference concepts from lectures/course readings, and include a minimum of 5 academic sources (in addition to the course readings) following the APA style manual.

### **SUPPORT SERVICES**

In addition to Fairbanks-based support services, each rural region provides different support services. If you are not sure where to get what you need you can talk to me or call your regional campus for information.

### **ACADEMIC SUPPORT**

- x Academic Advising Center: (907) 474-6396; <http://www.uaf.edu/advising>
  
- x UAF Writing Center: (907) 474-5314; FAX 1-800-478-5348;  
<http://www.uaf.edu/english/writingcenter>
  
- x Rasmuson Library Off-campus Services: 1-800-478-5348;  
<http://www.uaf.edu/library/offcampus>
  
- x The UAF Speaking Center; 907-474-5470

### **DISABILITY SERVICES**

UAF has a Disability Services office that operates in conjunction with the College of Rural and Community Development's (CRCD) campuses and UAF's Center for Distance Education (CDE). Disability Services, a part of UAF's Center for Health and Counseling, provides academic accommodations to enrolled students who are identified as being eligible for these services. If you believe you are eligible, please visit <http://www.uaf.edu/disability/> on the web or contact a student affairs staff person at your nearest local campus. You can also contact (nr)3(ol)(o)-14(u02(i)-2(t)-(r)3(s)-(



3/30	Readings to be posted on Blackboard	
4/4	<b>Critiquing Strategic Plans</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
4/6	Readings to be posted on Blackboard	<b>3 Due 4/4</b>
4/11	<b>Critiquing Strategic Plans</b>	
4/13	Readings to be posted on Blackboard	
4/18	<b>Student Presentations of Assignment 4</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
4/20	Readings to be posted on Blackboard	<b>4 Due 4/18</b>
4/25	<b>Implementing, Communicating &amp; Evaluating Your Strategic Plan</b>	
4/27	Readings to be posted on Blackboard	
5/2-6	Finals Week – No Class	<b>Assignment</b>
		<b>5 Due 5/4</b>