

MASTER of CITY PLANNING PROGRAM STATEMENT 2015-2016

Program Overview:

The mission of the Department of City and Regional Planning is to improve equity, the economy and the environment in neighborhoods, communities, cities, and metropolitan regions by creating knowledge and engagement through our teaching, research and service. We aim to design and create cities, infrastructure, and public services that are sustainable, affordable, enjoyable, and accessible to all.

Wisely and successfully intervening in the public realm, whether locally, nationally, or globally, is a challenge. Our urban future is complex and rapidly changing. Resource scarcity and conflict, technological innovation, retrofitting of existing built environments, and social empowerment will alter the ways in which planning has conventionally been carried out. We believe the planning academy has a special responsibility to always address social justice, equity, and ethics; to teach and research means of public participation, collective decision making, and advocacy; and to focus on reforming institutions, urban governance, policy and planning practices to make these goals possible.

DCRP provides its many successful graduates with:

- Lifelong analytical, research, and communication skills;
- The knowledge and skill sets to successfully practice planning in a variety of urban, metropolitan, and regional settings;
- An understanding of the history and theory of cities and urban regions;
- Expertise in various fields and sub-fields of city and regional planning;
- Sensitivity to the human impacts of planning decisions.

The Master of City Planning (M.C.P.) degree combines a common core curriculum with specialization in one of four concentration areas:

- Environmental Planning and Healthy Cities
- Housing Community and Economic Development
- Transportation Planning and Policy
- Urban Design

Degree Requirements for the M.C.P. degree:

- 48 units of coursework within two consecutive years of residence, or 36 units in concurrent degree programs (normative time to degree).
- The core curriculum;
- A concentration curriculum; and
- A capstone project consisting of either a client report, a professional report, or a master's thesis.

Program Selection and Advising:

Students plan their individual programs with the help of their assigned faculty advisors. Faculty advisors will also guide students as they plan, develop and write their Professional Report, Client Report or Thesis. First-year students should set an initial meeting with their assigned advisors during the first or second week of classes. Students declare a concentration at the end of the first semester by completing a study plan, signed by the advisor, and filing it with the Graduate Student Affairs Officer (GSAO). Advisors are chosen within the area of concentration.

Registration and Enrollment:

Students are officially registered once they 1) have enrolled in at least one course 2) have paid either full fees or at least 20 percent of assessed registration fees, and 3) have no blocks on their registration. All DCRP graduate students are required to enroll in a **minimum of 12 units per semester** in order to meet the 48-unit to degree requirement in two years, and to maintain financial aid eligibility. **Students receiving funding dispersed by the department or graduate division fellowships office will not receive payments until they are officially registered. In addition, students with academic appointments at 25 percent time or greater will lose their fee remissions if they are not registered and enrolled by the deadline.**

Students register for courses during their Tele-BEARS appointment. The academic calendar and deadlines are on the Office of the Registrar's website:

<http://registrar.berkeley.edu/> Semester schedules: <http://schedule.berkeley.edu/>

Dual degree students need an advisor code to register and must contact the GSAO in both programs for their code.

Coursework and Grading:

Core and concentration requirements must be taken for a letter grade. No more than 1/3 of total units may be taken on an S/U (satisfactory/ unsatisfactory) basis. A maximum of 6 units of 299 independent study courses, and a combined total of 3 units of 297 and 295 may be applied towards the degree.

The department strongly prefers all students to enroll in graduate level courses to meet the unit requirement; however, upper division undergraduate courses may be taken towards elective units (course numbers 100-199). Undergraduate lower division courses (course numbers 0-99) do not count towards the degree or full registration. Students who take lower division undergraduate courses will have to increase their course load to make up the additional units.

Requests for Waivers and Substitutions:

In rare instances students may seek a waiver or a substitution of a required course. The MCP Program Committee reviews waiver and substitution requests. A petition including the appropriate **form**, obtained from the GSAO, course syllabus, and explanation is submitted to the committee via the GSAO.

Core courses are foundational building blocks for more advanced courses and should be completed in the first year of the program. Waivers are rare but may be granted in cases where the student has taken equivalent graduate-level courses elsewhere. Waivers must be submitted before the start of the semester in which the course is to be taken; no exceptions will be granted. Waivers are not permitted for CY PLAN 200, 201A, CY PLAN 201B, and CY PLAN 202. They are typically also not granted for the core requirement in urban economics (which is ordinarily fulfilled by either CY PLAN 207 or CY PLAN 220).

Concentration courses build on the core and provide the student with expertise in an area of planning. Waivers are not granted, and substitutions are rarely granted for a course offered in a related major at UC Berkeley.

Internships:

It is recommended that students complete a three-month internship in a planning-related position usually between their first and second years of study, unless exempted by previous work experience. Frequently, the work completed during a summer internship forms the basis for the professional report.

Advancing to Candidacy:

Students advance to candidacy during their final semester of study. GSAOs will contact students at the end of the next to last semester of study with instructions to fill out and submit the MCP Degree Checklist Form. The degree checklist is submitted to the GSAOs no later than the first week of study in the last semester, and reviewed with the GSAO in a meeting.

The Degree Checklist Form lists all courses and units taken for completion of the MCP degree, for a minimum of 48 units (36 units for concurrent degree students). No more than a maximum of 6 units of 299 independent study, and a combined total of 3 units of 297 and 295 may be applied towards the degree. **Lower division undergraduate courses (numbered 1-99) do not count towards the 48-unit M.C.P. requirement, nor does CY PLAN 375: Supervised Teaching in City and Regional Planning.** Two-thirds of all course work must be letter-graded, and only courses graded C- or better, or Satisfactory, will count towards the degree.

MASTER of CITY PLANNING CURRICULUM

For days/times offered, check schedule.berkeley.edu.

CORE CURRICULUM

History and Theory Requirement

The following course must be taken during the first semester:

CY PLAN 200: History of City Planning (F, 3 units)

Skills and Methods Requirement

The following courses must be taken during the first year:

CY PLAN 201A: Methods Gateway I (F, 4 units)

CY PLAN 201B: Methods Gateway II (Sp, 4 units)

One additional advanced methods must be taken from the following courses:

CY PLAN 204B: Research Methods for Planners (F 2 units, Sp 4 units)

CY PLAN 204C: Introduction to GIS and City Planning (Sp, 4 units)

CY PLAN 204D: Multivariate Analysis in Planning (Sp, 4 units)

CY PLAN C241: Research Methods in Environmental Design (F, 4 units)

CY PLAN 255: Urban Planning Applications of GIS (F, 3 units)

Planning Practice Requirement

The following course must be taken during the first year:

CY PLAN 202: Practice Gateway (F, 3 units)

Urban Economics Requirement – One course from the following:

CY PLAN 207: Land and Housing Market Economics (Sp, 3 units)

CY PLAN 220: The Urban and Regional Economy (F, 3 units)

Studio Requirement – One course from the following:

CY PLAN 208: Plan Preparation Studio (Sp, 5 units)

CY PLAN 218: Transportation Planning Studio (F, 4 units)

CY PLAN 228: Metropolitan and Regional Economic Development Studio (4 units)

CY PLAN 238: Development - Design Studio (F, 4 units) Note: CY PLAN 235 is a prerequisite.

CY PLAN C243: Shaping the Public Realm (F, 5 units) Note: CY PLAN 208 is a prerequisite for students with no design background.

CY PLAN 248: Advanced Studio: Urban Design/ Environmental Planning (Sp, 5 units) Note: CY PLAN 208 is a prerequisite for students with no design background.

CY PLAN 268: Community Development Studio/ Workshop (4 units)

CY PLAN 291: Special Projects Studio in Planning (F or Sp, 4-6 units)

LD ARCH 205: Environmental Planning Studio (Sp, 5 units; check with LAEP)

Professional Report/Client Report/Thesis Workshop

CY PLAN 290A: PR/CR/Thesis Workshop (F, 1 unit, taken in the 2nd year of study)

CONCENTRATIONS

Concentrations provide an opportunity for students to develop deeper knowledge and skills in a particular sub-area of planning. (Note: The same course may NOT be used to satisfy core and concentration requirements.)

Concentration in Environmental Planning and Healthy Cities

Faculty Advisors: Charisma Acey, Jason Corburn (on sabbatical FA 15), Malo Hutson, John Radke, Jennifer Wolch (on leave as Dean of CED)

The concentration in environmental planning and healthy cities is designed to give MCP students the broad knowledge necessary to analyze pressing urban environmental and health challenges, such as climate change, natural resource depletion, access to basic services and infrastructure, as well as ecologic and human health risks. The concentration emphasizes the theory and practice behind the related ideas of urban sustainability, environmental risk and justice, political ecology and human health. Students will study urban and regional environmental and human health issues in a comparative perspective, with a focus on both US and international settings. The concentration introduces students to the relationships between natural, built and social environments in cities, as well as the local, regional and global impacts of urban ecosystems and the political institutions that aim to manage these environments. The emphasis on healthy cities engages in the practices of urban public health, recognizing that planners are increasingly required to analyze and act upon how the urban environment influences human well-being.

Joint degree programs are encouraged and students can receive two degrees in three years with the Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning (MCP & MLA) and the School of Public Health (M.C.P. and Masters in Public Health, MPH).

Required Courses (choose two from this list):

CY PLAN C251: Urban Environmental Planning and Regulation (3 units)

CY PLAN 254: Planning for Sustainable Communities (Sp, 3 units)

CY PLAN 256: Healthy cities (Sp, 3 units)

Studio:

A studio from the CORE list

Concentration in Housing, Community and Economic Development (HCED)

Faculty Advisors: Nezar AlSayyad, Teresa Caldeira, Karen Chapple, Malo Hutson, Carolina Reid, Michael Smith-Heimer

Housing is probably planning's oldest sub-field. In one form or another, planners have been involved in framing housing policies, creating housing plans, and developing publicly-funded housing projects for more than one hundred years. Around the world, housing planners work at all levels: at the national level drafting and administering housing policies; at the local level developing and implementing housing programs and plans; as community, non-

profit, and for-profit developers of affordable housing; and as advocates for new types of housing and different housing ownership forms.

Community development, as currently practiced in the U.S., grew out of frustrations with urban renewal and anti-poverty efforts of the 1950s and 1960s. Internationally, the community development field has emerged as a way of mobilizing communities to play a larger role in affecting their futures. Today, community developers work in the public sector, the private sector, and the nonprofit sector. They help to develop the skills, capacities, and assets of all segments of society. Of particular concern are disadvantaged communities and the unequal access to opportunities that people of such communities are faced with in their daily lives.

In the past twenty years, the field of economic development has blossomed at the local and community level for several reasons. First, local governments have increasingly experienced fiscal stress, leading to new entrepreneurial approaches to attracting and retaining business and a skilled workforce. Second, the devolution of many programs from the federal to the state/local level, along with (in the U.S. and Europe) decreased funding for the safety net, has led cities to focus increasingly on social equity in their economic development programs. Finally, the field of community economic development has come of age, offering an increasing number of best practices in developing assets and improving employability for disadvantaged community residents. Economic development specialists work not only in local government, but also at business and economics consulting firms and community-based organizations.

In a context of increasing income inequality, practitioners have forged new connections across the housing, community development and economic development areas. We encourage students to take classes in all three concentration subfields.

Students in the HCED concentration must take at least one course from each of the following groupings:

Theory, Policy, and Practice:

CY PLAN 220: The Urban and Regional Economy (F, 3 units)*

CY PLAN 230: US Housing Planning and Policy (Sp, 3 units)

CY PLAN 231: Housing in Developing Countries (F, 3 units)

CY PLAN 260: Theory, History, and Practice of Community Development (Sp, 3 units)

*May not be used towards Concentration requirement if taken to meet the core economics requirement.

Skills and Methods:

CY PLAN 235: Methods of Project Analysis (F, 3 units)

CY PLAN C261: Citizen Involvement in the City Planning Process (F, 3 units)

Public Health 204D: Community Organization and Building for Health (3-4 units – check **schedule.berkeley.edu**)

Business Administration 280: Real Estate Investment and Market Analysis (Sp, 3 units)

Studio:

A studio from the CORE list

Note that the following studios are recommended to fulfill the studio requirement:

CY PLAN 228: Metropolitan and Regional Economic Development Studio (4 units)

CY PLAN 238: Development - Design Studio (F, 4 units) Note: CY PLAN 235 is a prerequisite.

CY PLAN 268: Community Development Studio/ Workshop (4 units)

Concentration in Transportation Planning

Faculty Advisors: Robert Cervero, Daniel Chatman, Karen Frick, Elizabeth Macdonald (on sabbatical FA 15), Paul Waddell (on leave in AY 15-16)

The Transportation Concentration focuses on planning for urban transportation and land use systems, and interactions of transportation and land use with the built, natural, and social environments. In presenting the social, economic, and environmental implications of transportation and land use plans and policies, and promoting economic efficiency, green transport, resource conservation, and environmental protection, the courses in the concentration are focused around themes of equity, environmental justice, and social welfare. We emphasize the planning and policy challenges encountered by attempting to increase the use of environmentally sustainable travel modes such as walking, cycling and public transit, and the creation of environmentally sustainable land use patterns such as compact growth and transit-oriented development. Topics covered in the core courses include the impacts of transit and highways on urban form and economic development; the impacts of urban form, transit-oriented development and new urbanism on travel behavior; governance, finance, and implementation challenges in making sustainable transport investments; the importance of highway and transit finance, municipal finance, and development finance; the promises and pitfalls of innovative sustainability solutions such as congestion pricing, parking pricing, and master development plans; streets and pedestrian-oriented designs; transportation and land use planning in the developing world; and comparative international transportation and land use policies.

As concerns heighten over regional mobility, air quality, global climate change, energy, and equality of access, it is increasingly important that transportation and land use planners apply a multi-disciplinary approach to the field. Accordingly, students in the concentration are encouraged to augment the department's transportation course offerings by designing a study program, in consultation with their advisor, that involves course work in other fields and departments.

Students in the Transportation Planning Concentration have the option to pursue the concurrent degree program in transportation planning and engineering. This option confers both M.C.P. and M.S. degrees upon students who complete 60 units of course work (normally over five semesters) that satisfy both city planning and transportation engineering degree requirements. For further information about the concurrent degree requirements, contact Professor Dan Chatman at: dgc@berkeley.edu.

Required Courses:

CY PLAN C213/CIV ENG C290U: Transportation and Land Use Planning (F, 3 units)

CY PLAN C217/CIV ENG C250: Transportation Policy and Planning (Sp, 3 units)

A studio from the CORE list

Note that the following studios are highly recommended to fulfill the studio requirement:

CY PLAN 208: Plan Preparation Studio (Sp, 5 units)

CY PLAN 218: Transportation Planning Studio (F, 4 units)

Recommended Electives:

CY PLAN 205: Introduction to Planning and Environmental Law (Sp, 3 units)

CY PLAN C240: Theories of Urban Form and Design (Sp, 3 units)

CY PLAN 252: Land Use Controls (3 units)

CY PLAN 254: Sustainable Communities (Sp, 3 units)

CY PLAN 219: Comparative International Topics in Transportation (F, 3 units)

Concentration in Urban Design

Faculty Advisors: Nezar AlSayyad, Peter Bosselmann, Elizabeth Macdonald (on sabbatical FA 15)

Urban designers are concerned with how communities look, how they feel, and how they work for the people who use them. The urban design concentration is structured to give MCP students the knowledge necessary to design urban built form in relation to social, environmental and economic concerns. "Design" is a key, operative word: urban designers design urban physical environments both directly through the design of actual projects and indirectly through plans. Work ranges in scale from small public spaces and streets to neighborhoods, citywide systems, and whole regions. The emphasis is typically on the public realm of cities, with central concerns being livability, identity, place-making, and the quality of everyday life. The concentration is equally concerned with conceptions of the "urban" and it draws on approaches from the disciplines of city planning, architecture, landscape architecture, as well as theories and methods from the social sciences with the intent of analyzing the urban condition and designing the urban realm. The studio experience is central to the urban design concentration. Working in teams and individually, students explore planning and design possibilities for urban places and learn to articulate and present their ideas in graphic form. Learning from local and global contexts, and how cities have been designed in the past, students envision possibilities for the future. Graduates in urban design work for public agencies largely at the local government level but also for government institutions at larger scales whose responsibilities include design issues. They work as well with private architectural, landscape, city planning, and community development firms whose clients are both public and private.

Students concentrating in urban design frequently have some design background, typically in architecture, landscape architecture, environmental design, or urban planning with a design emphasis, but a design background is not required.

A three or four year joint degree program in urban design is available with the Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning, where students receive both M.C.P. and M.L.A. degrees. See Professor Peter Bosselmann for more information. A joint degree is also available with the Department of Architecture, where students receive both M.C.P. and MARCH degrees. See Professor Nezar AlSayyad for additional information.

Required Courses:

CY PLAN C240: Theories of Urban Form and Design (Sp, 3 units)

CY PLAN C241: Research Methods in Environmental Design (F, 4 units) Note: If taken as Skills/Methods core, another course must be taken from the list of electives below.

CY PLAN 248: Advanced Studio: Urban Design/ Environmental Planning (Sp, 5 units)

Note: CY PLAN 208 is a prerequisite for students with no design background.

Recommended Electives:

Design Practice and Additional Urban Design Studios:

CY PLAN 208: Plan Preparation Studio (Sp, 5 units)

CY PLAN C243: Shaping the Public Realm (F, 5 units)

ARCH 201: Case Studies in Architectural Design – when the studio has an urban design focus (5 units –check with Architecture Department)

Natural Factors:

LD ARCH 222: Hydrology for Planners (3 units – check with LAEP Department) or

LD ARCH 225: Urban Forest Planning and Management (3 units– check with LAEP Department)

Law and Land Use:

CY PLAN 205: Introduction to Planning and Environmental Law (F, 3 units)

CY PLAN 252: Land Use Controls (3 units)

Self-Defined Concentration

Faculty Advisors: DCRP Student’s Faculty Advisor

Students are strongly encouraged to complete one of the defined MCP concentrations. Self-defined concentrations that are not substantively focused on city and regional planning topics and fields of study will not be approved. To develop a defined concentration, select one of the existing concentrations and select courses to develop a concentration with crosscutting expertise.

Requirements:

Students who develop a self-defined concentration must satisfy the MCP common core curriculum. The self-defined concentration is to be composed of three courses, including a studio, which ordinarily should be drawn from DCRP course offerings, including one-time offerings or occasionally offered DCRP courses. However, one course may be drawn from another department if its inclusion in the concentration is justified. If a non-DCRP course is proposed as part of the concentration, a syllabus of the course must be provided, along with an explanation of why the concentration cannot be fulfilled by DCRP courses (i.e. what is the compelling need that DCRP courses cannot fulfill and/or why the non-DCRP course cannot be taken as an elective).

Procedures:

Submit a proposal (not to exceed two pages) for the self-defined concentration, including a justification and an explanation on how the concentration has been conceptualized and its content. Fill out a Self-Defined Concentration Declaration form. If a non-DCRP course is proposed, the syllabus must be attached.

The student's advisor must review the proposal and indicate approval by signing the form before the proposal is submitted to the MCP Program Committee via the GSAO.

All submissions must be submitted to the GSAO two weeks before the deadline to declare a concentration, at the end of the first semester of study. The MCP Program Committee will review the proposal and inform the student of its decision.

THE COMPREHENSIVE EXAM: FINAL DEGREE REQUIREMENT

MCP students complete a Professional Report, Client Report or a Thesis by end of their studies. A maximum of three credits of CY PLAN 299 may be taken during the semester of writing of a PR or CR, and four credits for writing a Thesis. Regardless of the option selected, students are required to enroll in the PR/ CR/ Thesis Workshop Course during the second or third semester of the M.C.P. degree program.

Comprehensive Exam (Plan II): Client Report (CR)

The Client Report (CR) is undertaken for an outside client or agency and aims to satisfy the needs of the focus institution. It provides an opportunity for students to study a real-world planning issue in diagnosing a problem situation, selecting appropriate analytic methods, evaluating alternative approaches, and recommending an approach or solution. The CR is carried out in a manner demonstrating high professional judgment and competence, and at a length of 40 to 50 pages, it reflects the scope and depth of a comprehensive research project worthy of postgraduate distinction.

The CR is written under the supervision of a three-person committee nominated by the student. This committee typically includes two members of the DCRP faculty and a third member from outside the University—usually the client to which the report is directed. Only ladder-rank faculty (Professor, Associate Professor or Assistant Professor) or Adjunct Professors can serve on CR committees. Final CRs are submitted to the GSAO and will be cataloged in the College of Environmental Design Library.

Comprehensive Exam (Plan II): The Professional Research Report (PR)

The Professional Research Report (PR) is also undertaken for an outside client. Each summer, the department solicits a list of researchable questions from a wide variety of planning, policy and research agencies, firms, and non-profit organizations. Alternately, interested students may solicit outside clients themselves.

PR clients, unlike CR clients, will not provide day-to-day input or management, nor specify the report format. The specific research methodology and report format is developed with the assistance of a two-person DCRP faculty committee nominated by the student, consisting of a primary and secondary advisor. Only ladder-rank faculty (Professor, Associate Professor or Assistant Professor) or Adjunct Professors can serve on PR committees. Completion of the Professional Report requires the signatures of the primary and secondary advisors.

In comparison to the CR, the Professional Report generally focuses more on study design and interpreting findings versus real-world implementation and satisfying the needs and wants of a client. Final PRs are submitted to the Graduate Student Affairs Officer and will be cataloged in the College of Environmental Design Library.

Master's Thesis (Plan I)

The Thesis is an alternative to the Professional or Client Reports. It is most appropriate for students actively involved in academic research projects, and must conform to proper scholarly conventions. It must pose an original research question or issue, and develop and carry out an appropriate research design. A thesis frequently will be longer than a Professional Report and less constrained by the particular context of the planning problem.

Thesis committees are composed of three ladder-rank faculty members, two of whom must be from DCRP (including the thesis committee chair); the third committee member must be a faculty member in another department. Theses are filed with the **Graduate Degrees Office** by the deadlines posted on their website. The Thesis must also satisfy style guidelines set by the **Graduate Division**.

Students who are using human subjects in their research must complete the "Course in the Protection of Human Subjects" (referred to as the CITI course) available online (<http://www.citiprogram.org>) and print out the certificate of completion, prior to the start of their research. This certificate must be submitted with the advancement form.

Additional Information regarding Client Reports and Professional Reports

Group Projects:

The Graduate Council has stated that joint or group work is not acceptable as the basis for awarding graduate degrees. Students may collaborate on research projects under the traditional supervision of a faculty guidance committee. However, each student must write a thesis or Master's Project report that represents a cohesive presentation of the research conducted and is capable of standing independently from the project. Each student's work must be evaluated individually.

Human Research Protection:

The Committee for Protection of Human Subjects (CPHS) serves as the institutional review board (IRB) at UC Berkeley. The IRB must review and approve the use of human subjects in research. The process is designed to ensure that the rights and welfare of human subjects are protected throughout their participation in research projects. UC Berkeley operates within the regulations and guidelines set forth by federal authorities, primarily the Office for Human Research Protections and the Food and Drug Administration, as well as other bodies. The **Office for the Protection of Human Subjects (OPHS)** provides operational and staffing support to the CPHS and administers all human subjects research performed on behalf of UC Berkeley.

In general, PRs and CRs do not require CPHS/OPHS review because they are not considered generalizable research. To determine if your project requires CPHS/OPHS review, we suggest that you start with the links below. In addition, please consult with the chair of your committee who is required to be a ladder rank DCRP faculty member.

What Needs CPHS/OPHS Review:	http://cphs.berkeley.edu/review.html
Where to Start: Decision Tree:	http://cphs.berkeley.edu/DecisionTree.pdf
CPHS Guidelines on Exempt Research:	http://cphs.berkeley.edu/exempt.pdf

ELECTIVE COURSES

The MCP common core and concentration requirements leave a number of units for students to select courses of interest to make up the required 48 units for the MCP degree (36 units for concurrent degree students). Please review course offerings in the General Catalog and schedule of courses at schedule.berkeley.edu.

ACCREDITATION

The Master of City Planning program at UC Berkeley is one of the oldest accredited planning programs in the country. **The Planning Accreditation Board (PAB)** last reviewed the MCP program in October 2012, and in Spring 2013 issued reaccreditation for five years. For more information about PAB, please visit <http://www.planningaccreditationboard.org/>.