MASTER of CITY PLANNING DEGREE
Department of City and Regional Planning
College of Environmental Design
University of California, Berkeley

PROGRAM STATEMENT 2013-14

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 five concentration areas:

Transportation Policy and Planning
Housing Community and Economic Development
Urban Design
Environmental Planning and Policy
Land Use Planning

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 Client Report, Professional Report, or 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). Students may change advisors to one in their declared 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.


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 to be completed in the first year of the program.

Waivers are rare as the list of courses offered is extensive but may be granted in cases where the student has taken equivalent graduate-level courses elsewhere. Waivers are reviewed by the beginning of the spring semester of the FIRST YEAR. No exceptions will be made to this policy. Students whose petition is approved must make up the units to degree by taking other courses.

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:
All students are expected to 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. International students who hold an F-1 or J-1 visa must complete an internship during their two years of study.

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

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

History and Theory Requirement – At least one of the following courses:
CY PLAN 200: History of City Planning (F, 3 units)
CY PLAN 281: Theories of Planning Practice (Sp, w/CP271, 3 units)

Skills and Methods Requirement – Minimum of 8 units from the following courses:
CY PLAN 204A: Methods of Planning Data Analysis (F, 2 or 4 units)
Note: CP 204A is a REQUIRED course and must be taken for 2 units minimum
CY PLAN 204B: Research Methods for Planners (Sp, 4 units)
CY PLAN 204C: Introduction to GIS and City 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)
CY PLAN 290: Survey Research for Planners (F, 2 units)

Institutions Requirement – At least one of the following courses:
CY PLAN 205: Introduction to Planning and Environmental Law (F, 3 units)
CY PLAN C251: Environmental Planning and Regulation (F, 3 units)

Economics Requirement – At least one of the following two courses:
CY PLAN 207: Land and Housing Market Economics (Sp, 3 units)
Note: Students who have not previously taken an undergraduate microeconomics course may take CY PLAN 113A prior to taking CY PLAN 207.

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: Same course may NOT be used to satisfy core and concentration requirements.

Transportation Policy and Planning
Faculty Advisors: Robert Cervero, Daniel Chatman, Elizabeth Deakin, Paul Waddell

The Transportation Concentration focuses on planning for urban transportation systems as well as the interaction between transportation and built, natural, and social environments. The concentration imparts the necessary knowledge and skills for rigorously analyzing contemporary transportation problems as well as a policy framework for probing the broader social, economic, and environmental implications of alternative choices. Contemporary topics covered in the transportation planning curriculum include: impacts of
transit and highways on urban form and economic development; impacts of transit-oriented development and new urbanism designs on travel behavior; sustainable transport investments; highway and transit finance; congestion pricing; social and environmental justice; jobs-housing balance and regional mobility; streets and pedestrian-oriented designs; transportation planning in the developing world; and comparative international transportation policies.

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

A two and a half year joint degree program in this area is available in Transportation Engineering in through the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, where students receive both M.C.P. and M.S. degrees. See the MCP Concurrent Degrees for additional information.

Required Courses

- CY PLAN C213/CIV ENG 290U: Transportation and Land Use Planning (F, 3 units)
- CY PLAN C217/CIV ENG 250: Transportation Policy and Planning (F, 3 units)

Required Studio

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

Recommended Electives (optional)
- CY PLAN 214: Infrastructure Planning and Policy (not offered in AY 13-14 3 units)
- CY PLAN 219: Comparative International Topics in Transportation (Sp 14, 3 units)

Concentration in Housing, Community and Economic Development (HCED)

Faculty Advisors: Nezar AlSayyad, Teresa Caldeira, Karen Chapple, Malo Hutson, Carolina Reid, Ananya Roy, 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. 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. In response to the failures of prior top-down policies and programs, the community development field 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 most social programs from the federal to the state/local level, along with the 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.

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

**Theory, Policy, and Practice**
- CY PLAN 223: Economic Development Planning (Sp, 3 units)
- CY PLAN 230: US Housing Planning and Policy (Sp, 3 units)
- CY PLAN 231: Housing in Developing Countries (not offered in AY 13-14, 3 units)
- CY PLAN 260: Theory, History, and Practice of Community Development (F, 3 units)

**Skills and Methods**
- CY PLAN 235: Methods of Project Analysis (Sp, 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)

**Studio**
- CY PLAN 228: Metropolitan and Regional Economic Development Studio (Sp, 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 (Sp, 4 units)

**Concentration in Urban Design**
Faculty Advisors: Nezar AlSayyad, Peter Bosselmann, Elizabeth Macdonald

Urban designers are concerned with how communities look, how they feel, and how they work for the people who use them. Urban design is the art of shaping urban environments over time and giving form to neighborhoods and cities, as well as creating environments that are educative and just. It is concerned with creating alternatives for the form, use, and management of the large-scale urban environment and draws upon city planning,
architecture, landscape architecture, and the social sciences for its theory and methods. “Design” is a key, operative word: urban designers design urban physical environments. Work ranges in scale from small public spaces or streets to neighborhoods, city-wide systems, or whole regions. Because urban designers work for the public in one way or another, they must have an understanding of the physical-form implications of social, legal, and economic policies.

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.

Graduates in urban design work with public agencies, largely at the local government scale but also with 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.

A three or four year joint degree program in this area is available with the Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning, where students receive both M.C.P. and M.L.A. degrees. See the MCP Concurrent Degrees 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.

Required Studio
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 (optional)
Urban Design Studios:
CY PLAN 208: Plan Preparation Studio (Sp, 5 units)
CY PLAN C243: Shaping the Public Realm (not offered in AY 13-14, 5 units)
ARCH 201: Case Studies in Architectural Design – when urban design focus (5 units- check with Architecture Department)

Design in Process:
CY PLAN 249: Urban Design in Planning (not offered in AY 13-14, 3 units)

Natural Factors:
LD ARCH 222: Hydrology for Planners (3 units – check with LAEP Department) or
LD ARCH 225: Urban Forest Planning and Management – check with LAEP Department
Concentration in Land Use Planning
Faculty Advisors: Robert Cervero, Elizabeth Deakin, Fred Etzel, Paul Waddell

Land use planning is the heart of the profession of city and regional planning. Land use planning is tied to transportation and to housing, to urban design, and to environmental planning. Land use planners work with regional and metropolitan planners, with economic developers, and with developers of private projects. They work in towns, cities, counties, special districts, and states. They work in the private sector as planning consultants and as land planners. Land use planning, in short, is the “glue” that holds the field together.

The practice of land use planning is drawn from three traditions. The first is the tradition of the general plan: the idea of a constitution—put to map form—for local residents and their governments. The second is that of regulating local land uses to prevent negative spillovers. This tradition has grown from Euclidean Zoning and the principle of separating incompatible uses through subdivision controls, to modern times and the California Environmental Quality Act. The third tradition is more normative: it is based on the idea that good cities and good neighborhoods must be carefully thought out, planned, and designed.

Required Courses
CY PLAN 205: Introduction to Planning and Environmental Law (F, 3 units)
Note: If taken as core institutions requirement, another course must be taken from the list of electives below.
CY PLAN 252: Land Use Controls (Sp, 3 units)

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

Recommended Electives
CY PLAN C213: Transportation and Land Use Planning (F, 3 units)
CY PLAN 214: Infrastructure Planning and Policy (not offered in AY 13-14, 3 units)
CY PLAN C240: Theories of Urban Form and Design (Sp, 3 units)
CY PLAN 254: Sustainable Communities (Sp, 3 units)

Concentration in Environmental Planning and Policy
Faculty Advisors: Charisma Acey, Jason Corburn, Elizabeth Deakin, Elizabeth Macdonald, John Radke, Jennifer Wolch (on leave as Dean of UC Berkeley’s College of Environmental Design)

The environmental planning and policy concentration is designed to give M.C.P. students a broad knowledge of the relationship between the built environment and the natural environment, as well as specific technical skills that can be applied professionally to solve environmental problems. Environmental issues affect every aspect of planning, so it is necessary to have an understanding of history, theory, institutions, economics, law, quantitative and qualitative methods, urban design, and natural factors. The program is particularly concerned with the relationship between human settlements and the natural environment. Students are encouraged to consider how negative environmental impacts
can be mitigated through the development of alternative approaches to urban settlement patterns, urban design, and infrastructure systems. Both physical planning and non-spatial policy affect environmental planning and policy.

A three or four year joint degree program in this area is available with the Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning, where students receive both M.C.P. and M.L.A. degrees. See the MCP Concurrent Degrees Handbook for additional information.

Required Courses:
CY PLAN C251: Environmental Planning and Regulation (F, 3 units)
6 units from list of electives below

Studio (one of the following):
CY PLAN 291: Special Projects Studio in Planning (Sp, 4-6 units; with EP topic)
CY PLAN 268: Community Development Studio/ Workshop (Sp, 4 units)

Recommended Electives:
CY PLAN 204C: Introduction to GIS and City Planning (Sp, 4 units)
CY PLAN 256: Healthy Cities (F, 3 units)
CY PLAN C257: The Process of Environmental Planning (F, 3 units)
CY PLAN 254: Sustainable Communities (Sp, 3 units)
LD ARCH 221: Quantitative Methods in Environmental Planning (F, 3 units)
ENVECON Environmental Economics and Policy C101 (4 units)
ESPM 256: Science, Technology, and the Politics of Nature (3 units)
ENE,RES 275: Water and Development (3 units)
SOCIOU 205U: Society and Environment (3 units)
ESPM 214: Race, Science, and Resource Policy (3 units)
PB HLTH 267D Health Impact Assessment (3 units)
PB HLTH 271E: Science and Policy for Environment and Health (3 units)
PB HLTH 220C: Health Risk Assessment, Regulation, and Policy (4 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 cross-cutting 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.

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.

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

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.

**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/.