

MASTER of CITY PLANNING PROGRAM STATEMENT 2017-2018

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 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, with particular attention to social justice.

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 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 also guide students as they plan, develop, and write their Professional Report, Client Report or Thesis. First-year students should set up 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 Concentration Declaration Form and submitting it to 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 by the deadline set by the university, 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 in order to maintain financial aid eligibility. **Students awaiting funding disbursed by the Department or the Graduate Division Fellowships Office will not receive payments until they are officially registered. 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 assigned appointment period in [CalCentral](#). The academic calendar and deadlines are on the Office of the Registrar's website at <http://registrar.berkeley.edu/>. Semester course offering schedules are available at <http://classes.berkeley.edu/>.

Coursework and Grading:

Core and concentration requirements must be taken for a letter grade. No more than one-third of total units may be taken on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory (S/U) basis. A maximum of six units of 299 independent study courses, and a combined total of three units of the 295 (Supervised Research; usually for employment as a GSR) and 297 (Supervised Field Work for internships) courses, may be applied towards the M.C.P. degree.

We strongly prefer that all students enroll in graduate level courses to meet the unit requirement. However, upper division undergraduate courses (course numbers 100-199) may be taken as electives. Undergraduate lower division courses (course numbers 0-99) do not count towards the degree or toward the 12-unit semester registration requirement. Students who take lower division undergraduate courses will have to increase their semester course load to make up the additional units.

Requests for Waivers and Substitutions:

In rare instances students may be granted a waiver or substitution for a required course. The M.C.P. 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. Waiver requests must be submitted prior to the start of the semester in which the course is to be taken. No exceptions will be allowed. Waivers are not granted for CYPLAN 200, 201A, and 202. They are typically also not granted for the core requirement in urban economics, which is fulfilled by either CYPLAN 207 or CYPLAN 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:

We recommend 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, Client Report or Thesis.

Advancing to Candidacy:

Students advance to candidacy during their final semester of study. GSAOs will contact students at the end of the next-to-final semester of study with instructions to fill out and submit the M.C.P. Degree Checklist Form. This form is submitted to the GSAOs no later than the first week of study in the last semester, and reviewed with the GSAOs in a degree check meeting.

The M.C.P. Degree Checklist Form lists all courses and units taken for completion of the M.C.P. degree, for a minimum of 48 units (36 units for concurrent degree students). As noted above, no more than a maximum of six units of 299 independent study, and a combined total of three units of 295 and 297, 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 CYPLAN 375: Supervised Teaching in City and Regional Planning.** Two-thirds of all course work must be letter-graded. For letter-graded courses, only those graded C- or better will count toward the degree. For S/U courses, only those graded Satisfactory will count toward the degree.

MASTER of CITY PLANNING CURRICULUM

For days/times offered, check <http://classes.berkeley.edu/>.

CORE CURRICULUM

History and Theory Requirement

The following course must be taken during the first semester:

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

Skills and Methods Requirement

The following courses must be taken during the first year:

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

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

Planning Practice Requirement

The following course must be taken during the first year:

CYPLAN 202: Practice Gateway (Sp, 3 units)

Planning Law Requirement – One course from the following:

CYPLAN 205: Introduction to Planning and Environmental Law (3 units, not offered 2017-18)

CYPLAN C251: Urban Environmental Planning and Regulation (3 units, not offered 2017-18)

CYPLAN 252: Land Use Controls (Sp, 3 units)

Urban Economics Requirement – One course from the following:

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

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

Studio Requirement – One course from the following:

CYPLAN 208: Plan Preparation Studio (Sp, 5 units)

CYPLAN 218: Transportation Planning Studio (F, 4 units)

CYPLAN 228: Metropolitan and Regional Economic Development Studio (4 units, not offered 2017-18)

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

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

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

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

Note: CYPLAN 208 is a prerequisite for all students.

CYPLAN 268: Community Development Studio/ Workshop (Sp, 4 units)

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

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

Professional Report/Client Report/Thesis Workshop

CYPLAN 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, John Radke, Jennifer Wolch (on leave as Dean of CED), Malo Hutson (on leave)

The concentration in environmental planning and healthy cities is designed to give M.C.P. 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 (M.C.P. & M.L.A.) and the School of Public Health (M.C.P. and Masters in Public Health, M.P.H.).

Required Courses (choose two from this list):

CYPLAN C251: Urban Environmental Planning and Regulation (3 units)

CYPLAN 254: Planning for Sustainable Communities (3 units)

Note: either CYPLAN C251 or CYPLAN 254 will be offered in spring 2018

CYPLAN C256: Healthy cities (F, 3 units)

Concentration in Housing, Community and Economic Development (HCED)

Faculty Advisors: Teresa Caldeira, Carol Galante, Carolina Reid, Karen Chapple (on leave), Malo Hutson (on leave).

The housing, community and economic development (HCED) concentration focuses on the equitable development of neighborhoods, cities and regions in the United States and internationally. This concentration is distinguished by its attention to issues of racial, social and economic justice within the built environment, often from the perspective of historically disinvested and segregated communities. Faculty in this concentration work on topics such as:

- Planning for sustainability, including issues related to regional governance, affordable housing, and the linkages between land use and climate change
- Gentrification and displacement

- Housing and real estate development, including access to credit, the financing and construction of affordable housing, and housing policy
- Spatial segregation and social discrimination in both the United States and in the Global South
- Forms of political participation and resistance
- International development, including the provision of housing, water and sanitation in informal settlements
- Community development and community organizing, including programs and policies designed to remediate concentrated poverty and longstanding patterns of residential segregation

Faculty within the HCED concentration draw on multidisciplinary perspectives including research in anthropology, economic, history, and sociology, and incorporate both qualitative and quantitative methods in their research. Students in this concentration go on to work in a wide variety of roles in the public and private sectors. We encourage students to take classes in all three concentration subfields, since in practice they are closely intertwined.

Required courses (choose 2 from this list):

- CYPLAN 220: The Urban and Regional Economy (F, 3 units)*
- CYPLAN 230: US Housing Planning and Policy (Sp, 3 units)
- CYPLAN 231: Housing in Developing Countries (Not offered in 2017-17, 3 units)
- CYPLAN 235: Methods of Project Analysis (F, 3 units)
- CYPLAN 260: Theory, History, and Practice of Community Development (Sp, 3 units)
- CYPLAN C261: Citizen Involvement in the City Planning Process (F, 3 units)

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

The following studios are recommended to fulfill the core studio requirement:

CYPLAN 228: Research Workshop in Metropolitan Regional Planning (4 units, not offered 2017-2018)

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

CYPLAN 268: Community Development Studio/ Workshop (Sp, 4 units)

Students in the HCED concentration are also encouraged to take electives in other departments that cover housing, community, and economic development topics such as:

- Business Administration 280: Real Estate Investment and Market Analysis
- Public Health 204D: Community Organization and Building for Health

Concentration in Transportation Planning

Faculty Advisors: Daniel Chatman, Karen Frick, Daniel Rodriguez, Paul Waddell

The transportation planning 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 may seek to pursue the concurrent degree program in transportation planning and engineering. This option confers both the M.C.P. and the M.S. upon students who complete 60 units of course work, normally over five semesters. For further information about concurrent M.C.P./M.S. degree requirements, contact Professor Dan Chatman at dgc@berkeley.edu.

Required Courses:

CYPLAN C213/CIV ENG C290U: Transportation and Land Use Planning (F, 3 units)
CYPLAN C217/CIV ENG C250: Transportation Policy and Planning (Sp, 3 units)

The following studios are highly recommended to fulfill the studio requirement:

CYPLAN 208: Plan Preparation Studio (Sp, 5 units)
CYPLAN 218: Transportation Planning Studio (F, 4 units)

Recommended Electives:

CYPLAN 205: Introduction to Planning and Environmental Law (Sp, 3 units)
CYPLAN 216: Active Transportation (F, 3 units)
CYPLAN 252: Land Use Controls (Sp, 3 units)*
CYPLAN 254: Sustainable Communities (Sp, 3 units)

Concentration in Urban Design

Faculty Advisors: Karen Frick, Elizabeth Macdonald

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 M.C.P. 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 often 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 the M.C.P. and the M.L.A. degree. A joint degree is also available with the Department of Architecture, where students receive both M.C.P. and M.Arch degrees.

Required Courses:

CYPLAN 208: Plan Preparation Studio (1st year Sp, 5 units)

Note: Students with a design background who have taken a similar course may petition to substitute a different studio for this course.

CYPLAN 248: Advanced Studio: Urban Design/ Environmental Planning (2nd year Sp, 5 units)

Note: This course satisfies the core studio requirement.

CYPLAN 249: Urban Design in Planning (Sp, 3 units)

Recommended Electives:

Design Practice, Design Methods and Additional Urban Design Studios:

CYPLAN C240: Theories of Urban Form and Design (3 units, not offered in 2017-18)

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

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

CYPLAN 255: Urban Informatics and Visualization (F, 3 units)
ARCH 201: Case Studies in Architectural Design – when the studio has an urban design focus (5 units –check with Architecture Department)
ED 201: Urban Places Advanced Studio (F, 5 units)
ED 251: Discourses in Urban Design (F, 1 unit)

Natural Factors:

LDARCH 222: Hydrology for Planners (3 units – check with LAEP Department)
LDARCH 225: Urban Forest Planning and Management (3 units– check with LAEP Department)

Law and Land Use:

CYPLAN 205: Introduction to Planning and Environmental Law (3 units, not offered 2017-18)
CYPLAN 252: Land Use Controls (3 units)

Self-Defined Concentration

Students are strongly encouraged to complete one of the defined M.C.P. concentrations. Self-defined concentrations that are not substantively focused on city and regional planning topics and related 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 M.C.P. common core curriculum and identify a willing faculty advisor who can provide substantive guidance. The self-defined concentration must include three courses, including a studio, which ordinarily should be drawn from 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, the student must supply a syllabus, and explain what compelling substantive material the course provides that DCRP courses cannot fulfill, and why the course can't be taken as an elective.

Procedures:

Approach the faculty advisor to discuss. Prepare a one- to two-page proposal, including a justification and an explanation about 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 and explanation (see above) must be included as a separate attachment. Submit these materials to the faculty advisor.

The student's faculty advisor must review the proposal and indicate approval by signing the form. After approval by the advisor, submit the packet to 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 M.C.P. Program Committee will review the proposal and inform the student of its decision.

THE COMPREHENSIVE EXAM: FINAL DEGREE REQUIREMENT

To fulfill the comprehensive exam requirement, M.C.P. students must complete a Professional Report (PR), Client Report (CR) or Thesis, typically during the final year of their course work. A maximum of three credits of CYPLAN 299 may be taken for writing a PR or CR, or a maximum of four credits for writing a Thesis. Students are required to enroll in the PR/CR/Thesis Workshop Course during the second or third semester of the M.C.P. 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 catalogued in the College of Environmental Design Library.

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

The Professional Research Report (PR) is undertaken for an outside client or for a real-world policy or planning problem. 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 or propose specific planning policy or implementation research questions themselves.

PR clients, unlike CR clients, will not provide day-to-day input or management, nor specify the report format. In fact, a client's direct involvement is not required at all for a PR though it is appropriate to have a client in mind. 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 catalogued 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. The student must pose an original research question, and develop and carry out an appropriate research design. A thesis will typically be longer than a PR and will be less constrained by the specific 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: <https://about.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 that 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. However, any student wishing to publish their results is required to go through CPHS/OPHS review. Theses usually do require CPHS/OPHS review. To determine if your project requires CPHS/OPHS review, we suggest that you consult the links below. In addition, please discuss with the faculty chair of your committee.

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 M.C.P. 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 M.C.P. 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 M.C.P. program in Fall 2016, and in Spring 2017 issued reaccreditation for five years. For more information about PAB, please visit <http://www.planningaccreditationboard.org/>.