

MASTER OF CITY PLANNING PROGRAM STATEMENT AY 2021-22

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. Our goal is also to sustain a diverse, inclusive, and equitable department.

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 set to successfully practice planning in a variety of urban, metropolitan, and regional settings;
- An understanding of the history and theory of planning and 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 equity, diversity, and 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 (EPHC)
- Housing, Community and Economic Development (HCED)
- 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;
- The core curriculum;
- A concentration curriculum; and
- A capstone project consisting of a client report, a professional report, or a master's thesis

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/>.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING OR MATHEMATICS (STEM) DESIGNATED DEGREE PROGRAM

The Master of City Planning degree is an approved field of study within the U.S. government's official **STEM** fields list. For international students, practical work experience in your field of study, typically after completion of a degree for a maximum of 36 months (12 months of "regular" OPT with a 24-month extension possible). For further details regarding [STEM extensions](#), contact the [Berkeley International Office \(BIO\)](#).

PROGRAM SELECTION AND ADVISING

In the summer prior to the first semester in the program (mid-August), students are matched with a faculty advisor based on the following criteria: degree program, intended concentration, faculty availability and the faculty listed on admission application. 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 by the third week of classes. Students declare a concentration at the end of the first semester by completing a Concentration Declaration Form (concentration-specific, multiple forms can be submitted) by the end of October and submitting it to the [Graduate Student Affairs Officer \(GSAO\)](#).

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 active holds on their registration (check [CalCentral > My Dashboard](#)). 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 windows (Phase 1, Phase 2, Adjustment) in [CalCentral > My Academics](#). The academic calendar and schedule change deadlines are on the [Office of the Registrar's website](#). Semester course offerings are available on the [Class Schedule](#).

Note: The [Haas School and Business](#) and [Berkeley Law](#) do NOT allow students to enroll directly through CalCentral (must submit [request \(Haas\)](#) and [Law School Course Enrollment Application for UC Berkeley Graduate Students \(Berkeley Law\)](#)). For more information on how to petition for enrollment in these schools, please contact the [GSAOs](#).

COURSEWORK AND GRADING

Core and concentration requirements must be taken for a letter grade. No more than one-third (.33) of total units may be taken on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory (S/U) basis (excludes 299 and 375 courses). A maximum of six units of 299 independent study courses (Individual Study or Research for employment as a GSI/Reader, work on PR/CR/Thesis), and a combined total of three units of the 295 (Supervised Research for employment as a GSR) and 297 (Supervised Field Work for internships) courses, may be applied towards the M.C.P. degree. A [Petition for Independent Study](#) approved by a DCRP faculty member is required to enroll in these units.

We strongly prefer that all students enroll in graduate level courses (course numbers 200+, excludes 375 courses) to meet the minimum unit requirement to earn the MCP degree. 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. Please review course offerings online: [Course Catalog](#) and [Class Schedule](#).

INCOMPLETES

Students should always consult the [GSAOs](#) when considering an Incomplete grade. The [GSAOs](#) are able to help students understand how Incompletes may affect their future class schedules and progress towards graduation. Incomplete grades will only be assigned to a student by the instructor if a student's work in a course has been of passing quality to date and the class cannot be completed due to circumstances beyond the student's control. Graduate students do not have a specified deadline for the replacement of an I grade. The method of replacement of the I grade by a final grade is determined by the Dean of the Graduate Division and the Graduate Council. Please note, for Studio Courses, students must resolve the incomplete in order to advance to the next studio.

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 Chair reviews each request. A [Petition to Substitute/Waive Core/Concentration Requirement](#), course syllabus, and explanation

is submitted to [GSAO](#) and then to the MCP Committee Chair prior to the semester when the student is to take the course. Students are encouraged to submit their petitions as soon as possible and at the latest, before the end of the first year to plan their future schedules accordingly.

CORE COURSES are foundational building blocks for more advanced courses and should be completed in the first year of the program. Waivers and substitutions are RARE. Petitions must be submitted prior to the start of the semester in which the course is to be taken (before the end of the first year at the latest). No exceptions will be allowed. Waivers are NOT granted for CYPLAN 200 and 201A.

CONCENTRATION COURSES build on the core and provide the student with expertise in an area of planning. Petitions for substitutions must be submitted prior to the start of the semester in which the course is to be taken (before the end of the first year at the latest). No exceptions will be allowed. Waivers are NOT granted. GSAOs will contact first year students via email by early October of the first semester of study with instructions to fill out and submit the M.C.P. Concentration Declaration Form(s). The form is submitted to the GSAOs by the end of October of the first semester.

INTERNSHIPS

We strongly recommend that students complete a three-month internship in a planning-related position, usually between their first and second years of study. The work completed during a summer internship can serve as the basis for the Client Report or Professional Report. After the completion of the summer internship, in early fall of the second year, students may apply for 297 independent study units (1-2 units) towards M.C.P. degree by submitting a [Petition for Independent Study](#) approved by a DCRP faculty member.

ADVANCING TO CANDIDACY

Students advance to candidacy during their final semester of study. GSAOs will contact students via email 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 (concentration-specific). 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-in 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 (or any other 375 course).** 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. No more than one-third (.33) of total units may be taken on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory (S/U) basis (excludes 299 and 375 courses). For S/U courses, only those graded Satisfactory will count toward the degree.

FILING FEE

The Filing Fee is a reduced fee, one-half of the Student Services Fee (formerly the University Registration fee), which is available to master's students with no requirements remaining except for filing the thesis (Plan I or Plan II). Filing Fee is available for the fall and spring semesters only. The Filing Fee is not a form of registration. If students wish to use University services that are supported by registration fees, they must pay those fees. Students on Filing Fee status are not eligible to receive university funding or hold academic appointments because they are not registered. The Filing Fee may be used only once during a student's career. If a student does not complete the final degree requirements during the semester for which the Filing Fee is approved, the student must apply for readmission and pay regular registration fees during a subsequent semester to complete the requirements. For more information about the Filing Fee, see the [Guide to Graduate Policy](#).

FORMS

Please make note of the forms that you will utilize as an MCP student. [All forms can be found on this Graduate Forms + Documents > City + Regional Planning Forms.](#)

NAME	INSTRUCTIONS
Petition to Substitute MCP Core Concentration Requirement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use this form to petition for a waiver or substitution of a core and/or concentration course requirement (no waivers will be granted for 200, 201A or any concentration course). • The form MUST be pre-approved (digitally signed) by the student's DCRP Faculty Advisor prior to submitting to the GSAO. • Submit pre-approved (digitally signed) form to the GSAOs. • The GSAO will submit the form to MCP Program Chair for review and final decision (approval is NOT guaranteed). • The GSAO will notify the student of the petition results via email.
Petition for Independent Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use this form to enroll for independent study units (295, 297, 299) BEFORE the deadline to add classes without a fee (see Student Enrollment and Deadline Calendar for exact date). • The form MUST be approved (digitally signed) by DCRP Faculty Advisor prior to submitting to the GSAOs. • Submit approved form to the GSAOs. • The GSAO will provide the course number(s) via email for the student to enroll via CalCentral.
Graduate Petition to Change Class Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use this form to make changes to schedule AFTER the deadline for graduate students to add/drop classes or change units (see Student Enrollment and Deadline Calendar for exact date). • If the student is adding a course or changing units for a course, the form MUST be digitally signed by the instructor (approving of late enrollment or unit change) prior to submitting to the GSAO for processing. • A digital signature from the instructor is NOT required for dropping a course or changing the grading option for a course. • All forms MUST be signed by the student. • Submit the form with the appropriate signatures to the GSAOs for processing. • Note that there is a \$5 late add fee/course, a \$10 late drop fee/course, and no fee for changing the graduating options or units. • The final day to submit this form to process schedule changes is the Friday of Reading/Review/Recitation week (see Academic Calendar for exact date).
PR/CR Declaration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use this form to confirm your capstone committee members. • The form must be digitally signed by ALL members of your capstone committee. • Submit the form with the appropriate signatures to the GSAOs. • The final day to submit this form is the fall semester of your final year of graduate study.
PR/CR Title Page Template	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use this template to format the cover page of your Client Report (CR) or Professional Report (PR).
PR/CR Sign-off Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use this form to confirm final approval of your Client Report (CR) or Professional Report (PR). • The form must be digitally signed by the chair of your capstone committee on behalf of ALL members of your capstone committee. • Submit the signed form and digital copy with formatted title page to the GSAOs. • The final day to submit this form and digital copy of your capstone is the last day of the semester that you intend to file (see Academic Calendar for exact date).

MASTER OF CITY PLANNING CURRICULUM (For days/times offered, check the [Online Schedule](#).)

CORE CURRICULUM

History and Theory Requirement

The following course must be taken during the first semester in the first year.

- CYPLAN 200: Planning Histories and Practice: Frameworks, Opportunities and Dilemmas (F, 4 units)

Skills and Methods Requirement

CYPLAN 201A/B are required foundational courses and must be taken in sequence in the first year. Dual degree students may take these courses in sequence in the second year.

- CYPLAN 201A: Planning Methods Gateway I (F, 4 units)
- CYPLAN 201B: Planning Methods Gateway II (SP, 4 Units)

Planning Law Requirement – One course from the following:

- CYPLAN 205: Introduction to Planning and Environmental Law (SP, 3 units)
- CYPLAN C251: Urban Environmental Planning and Regulation (NOT OFFERED IN AY 21-22, F, 3 units) *
 - **May not be used towards EPHC Concentration requirement if taken to meet the Core Planning Law requirement.*
 - *Note: Students may [petition](#) the M.C.P. Committee to substitute other UC Berkeley courses with substantial law content. Petitions for the Core Planning Law requirement must be submitted before the end of the first year.*

Urban Economics Requirement – One course from the following:

- CYPLAN 113A: Economic Analysis for Planning (F, 3 units)
- CYPLAN 207: Land and Housing Market Economics (SP, 3 units)
- CYPLAN 220: The Urban and Regional Economy (F, 3 units) *
 - **May not be used towards HCED Concentration requirement if taken to meet the Core Urban Economics requirement.*
 - *Note: Students may [petition](#) the M.C.P. Committee to substitute other UC Berkeley courses with substantial economics content, or request a [waiver](#) of this requirement if they have a major or minor in economics from their undergraduate institution (one undergraduate course is NOT sufficient to warrant a waiver). Petitions for the Urban Economics requirement must be submitted before the end of the first year.*

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 (NOT OFFERED IN AY 21-22, F, 4 units)
- CYPLAN 238: Development - Design Studio (SP, 4 units)
 - *Note: CYPLAN 235 is a prerequisite.*
- CYPLAN C243: Shaping the Public Realm (F, 5 units)
 - *Note: Students must have significant design experience and be accepted into the class by the LAEP instructor of this jointly listed course.*
- CYPLAN 248: Advanced Studio: Urban Design/Environmental Planning (SP, 5 units)
 - *Note: CYPLAN 208 is a prerequisite for students without an advanced urban design background or experience.*
- CYPLAN 268: Community Development Studio/Workshop: Y-Plan (SP, 4 units)
- CYPLAN 291: Special Projects Studio in Planning (NOT OFFERED IN AY 21-22, SP, 4 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 third semester of second year of study)
 - *Note: Students can request a [waiver](#) from the M.C.P. Committee, with the approval of their committee chair.*

CONCENTRATIONS

Concentrations provide an opportunity for students to develop deeper knowledge and skills in a particular sub-area of planning. Please note that the same course may NOT be used to satisfy core and concentration requirements.

CONCENTRATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND HEALTHY CITIES (EPHC)

Faculty Advisors: Charisma Acey, Stephen Collier, Jason Corburn, Zoé Hamstead, John Radke

The concentration in Environmental Planning and Healthy Cities (EPHC) is designed to give M.C.P. students the broad knowledge and skills necessary to analyze and plan for 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 and mitigation, especially as they impact socially vulnerable people and communities. The concentration emphasizes the theory and practice behind the related ideas of urban sustainability, resilience, environmental justice and risk, 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 and inclusive community engagement recognizing that planners are increasingly required to work together with communities to analyze and act upon how the urban environment influences human well-being.

Joint degree programs 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.) are available for interested students. For further information about concurrent M.C.P./M.L.A. degree requirements, contact [Professor John Radke](#). For further information about concurrent M.C.P./M.P.H. degree requirements, contact [Professor Jason Corburn](#). Prospective applicants must notify the [GSAOs](#) in advance (November) of applying.

Required Courses (choose two from this list):

- CYPLAN 214: Infrastructure Planning and Policy (SP, 3 units)
- CYPLAN C251: Urban Environmental Planning and Regulation (NOT OFFERED IN AY 21-22, F, 3 units) *
- CYPLAN 254: Planning for Sustainable Communities (NOT OFFERED IN AY 21-22, SP, 3 units)
- CYPLAN C256: Healthy Cities (F, 3 units)

*May NOT be used towards EPHC Concentration requirement if taken to meet the Core Planning Law requirement.

CONCENTRATION IN HOUSING, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (HCED)

Faculty Advisors: Sai Balakrishnan (on sabbatical, SP22), Teresa Caldeira (on sabbatical, F21), Daniel Chatman, Zachary Lamb, Ben Metcalf, Carolina Reid (on sabbatical, AY 21-22)

The Housing, Community and Economic Development (HCED) concentration focuses on the equitable development of neighborhoods, cities and regions. From “housing as a human right” to addressing the systemic inequalities that produce segregated landscapes of poverty and wealth, this concentration is distinguished by its attention to issues of racial, social and economic justice. It seeks to expose the linkages between land use, governance, capitalism, and inequality, and explore how communities chart varied development pathways. Berkeley’s program is distinguished by two strong strands of expertise among its faculty: a theoretically informed understanding of private property and land tenure, segregation, and the right to housing, and a practice-oriented approach to housing policy, affordable housing development, and inclusionary forms of land organization, both in the context of the United States and the Global South.

Faculty in this concentration work on topics such as:

- 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 the Global South
- The politics of land ownership, tenure, and property rights
- Gentrification and displacement
- 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 address longstanding patterns of residential segregation
- Planning for sustainability, including issues related to regional governance, resilience, affordability, and the linkages between land use and climate change

Faculty within the HCED concentration draw on multidisciplinary perspectives including anthropology, economics, history, planning, and sociology, and incorporate both qualitative and quantitative methods in their research.

Graduates in the HCED concentration go on to work in a wide variety of positions, including nonprofit and public sector agencies (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Living Cities, Metropolitan Transportation Commission/MTC, PolicyLink, San Francisco Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development, the City of Richmond, the Association of Bay Area Governments/ABAG, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development), affordable housing developers (e.g., BRIDGE Housing, Eden Housing, Mercy Housing, and Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation/TNDC), as well as community-based organizations (e.g., East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation/EBALDC, East Bay Housing Organizations/EBHO, Enterprise Community Partners, Inc. Local Initiatives Support Corporation/LISC and Mission Economic Development Agency/MEDA).

Required Courses (choose two from this list):

- CYPLAN C215: Global Urban Inequalities (F, 3 units)
- CYPLAN 220: The Urban and Regional Economy (F, 3 units) *
- CYPLAN 230: U.S. Housing Planning and Policy (F, 3 units)
- CYPLAN 235: Methods of Project Analysis (F, 4 units)
- CYPLAN 250: Spatial Politics of Land: A Transnational Perspective (NOT OFFERED IN AY 21-22, SP, 3 units)
- CYPLAN 260: Theory, History, and Practice of Community Development (NOT OFFERED IN AY 21-22, SP, 3 units)
- CYPLAN C261: Citizen Involvement in the City Planning Process (F, 3 units)
- CYPLAN 290: Race and the City (TBD, SP, 3 units)

*May NOT be used towards HCED Concentration requirement if taken to meet the Core Economics requirement.

ONE of the following studios is recommended to fulfill the core studio requirement:

- CYPLAN 228: Research Workshop in Metropolitan Regional Planning (NOT OFFERED IN AY 21-22, F, 4 units)
- CYPLAN 238: Development - Design Studio (SP, 4 units)
 - Note: CYPLAN 235 is a prerequisite.
- CYPLAN 268: Community Development Studio/Workshop: Y-Plan (SP, 4 units)
- CYPLAN 291: Special Projects Studio in Planning (NOT OFFERED IN AY 21-22, SP, 4 units)

CONCENTRATION IN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Faculty Advisors: Daniel Chatman, Marta González, Daniel Rodríguez, Karen Trapenberg Frick

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 (M.C.P. & M.S.). This option confers both the M.C.P. and the M.S. ([with Civil and Environmental Engineering](#)) 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 Daniel Chatman](#). Prospective applicants must notify the [GSAOs](#) in advance (November) of applying.

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)

ONE of the following studios is recommended to fulfill the core 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 (NOT OFFERED IN AY 21-22, F, 3 units)
- CYPLAN 254: Sustainable Communities (NOT OFFERED IN AY 21-22, SP, 3 units)

Concentration in Urban Design

Faculty Advisors: Zachary Lamb, Elizabeth Macdonald

Urban designers are concerned with how places look, how they feel, how they relate to natural processes, 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 shape built and natural environments both directly through their proposals for specific interventions and indirectly through their contributions to policies and plans that shape the actions of other city making actors. Urban design work ranges in scale from small public spaces and streets to neighborhoods, citywide systems, and regional strategies. The emphasis of much urban design work is on the public realm of cities, with central concerns being livability, identity, place-making, equity, environmental performance, the interface between the public and private realms, 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 through visual and verbal communication. Learning from local and global contexts, and how cities have been designed and inhabited in the past, students envision possibilities for the future. Graduates in urban design work for public agencies across scales, advocacy organizations, and private architectural, landscape, city planning, and community development firms whose clients are both public and private.

Students concentrating in urban design often have some prior design training or experience, 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. For further information about concurrent M.C.P./M.L.A. degree requirements, contact [Professor John Radke](#). A joint degree is also available with the [Department of Architecture](#), where students receive both M.C.P. and M.Arch degrees. For further information about

concurrent M.C.P./M.Arch degree requirements, contact [Professor Elizabeth Macdonald](#). Prospective applicants must notify the [GSAOs](#) in advance (November) of applying.

Required Courses:

- CYPLAN C240: Theories of Urban Form and Design (F, 3 units)
- CYPLAN C241: Research Methods in Environmental Design (F, 4 units)

The following studio is also required, and satisfies the core studio requirement:

- CYPLAN 248: Advanced Studio: Urban Design/ Environmental Planning (SP, 5 units)
 - Note: CYPLAN 208: Plan Preparation Studio (SP, 5 units) is a prerequisite for students without an *advanced urban background or experience*.

Recommended Electives:

Design Practice, Design Methods and Additional Urban Design Studios:

- CYPLAN 255: Urban Informatics and Visualization (SP, 3 units)
- CYPLAN C243: Shaping the Public Realm (F, 5 units)
 - Note: Students must have significant design experience and be accepted into the class by the LAEP instructor of this jointly listed course.
- ARCH 201: Architecture and Urbanism Design Studio – when the studio has an urban design focus (F, 5 units; check with Department of Architecture)
- ENVDES 251: Discourses in Urban Design (F, 1-3 units; check with Department of Architecture)
- LDARCH 201: Ecological Factors in Urban Landscape Design (F, 5 units)

Natural Factors:

- LDARCH 222: Hydrology for Planners (SP, 4 units; check in with LAEP for semester offered)
- LDARCH 237: The Process of Environmental Planning (NOT OFFERED IN AY 21-22, F, 3 units)

Law and Land Use:

- CYPLAN 205: Introduction to Planning and Environmental Law (SP, 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 THESIS OR CAPSTONE PROJECT

To fulfill the capstone requirement, M.C.P. students must complete a Thesis, Client Report (CR), or Professional Report (PR), typically during the final year of their coursework. The goal of the thesis/capstone project is to support a student's professional development by completing a significant body of work representing advanced subject and methodological expertise. **Students are encouraged to review and follow the deadlines stated in the [CR PR Thesis Handbook](#).**

Master's Thesis – Plan I

The Thesis is an academic publication that undertakes original research on a topic related to planning. It is most often chosen by students who are considering a Ph.D. degree, and/or students who wish to immerse themselves in an academic research project. Theses follow standard academic research paper conventions, including a literature review, an original research question, and the development and execution of data collection and analysis.

Thesis requirements are set by the Graduate Division, and students must comply with the University requirement for the Plan I degree option. 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 pursuing the thesis option, and who are collecting data from human subjects, **MUST** receive clearance from UC Berkeley's Institutional Review Board (IRB) for their research project. The [Committee for Protection of Human Subjects \(CPHS\)](#) serves as the IRB at UC Berkeley, and reviews and approves the use of human subjects in research. The IRB process is designed to ensure that the rights and welfare of human subjects are protected throughout their participation in research projects. Note that if thesis research includes data collection from vulnerable populations (e.g., children, unhoused individuals or families), the thesis research will NOT be eligible for expedited review and the full IRB review process can take 4-6 months to complete.

Client Report (CR) – Plan II

The Client Report (CR) is undertaken for an outside client or agency and aims to satisfy the needs of the sponsoring organization. It provides an opportunity for students to study a real-world planning issue by 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.

The CR is written under the supervision of a three-person committee. This committee must be chaired by a ladder-rank DCRP faculty member. The second reader can be a ladder rank faculty member, adjunct faculty member, or lecturer from DCRP. For dual degree students, one of the two readers can be from the joint degree department, as long as at least one committee member is ladder-rank faculty. The third member is generally the Client for whom the report was written. Final CRs are submitted electronically (with [Title Page](#) and [Sign Off Form](#)) to the [GSAO](#) and will be catalogued in the College of Environmental Design Library.

The format of the CR is determined in collaboration with the Client, and can include non-traditional options (e.g., memos, presentations, web sites, software applications, or podcasts/videos), provided that there is a short memo accompanying the final product that describes 1) the motivation and context for the project, 2) the relevance to planning, and 3) how the project contributed to the student's professional development.

Professional Research Report (PR) – Plan II

The Professional Research Report (PR) is undertaken by the student independent of an external client sponsor, but is still focused on an applied policy or planning issue. The objective is to allow a student to explore in-depth an issue of interest to them, and to build additional substantive and analytical skills.

The PR is written under the supervision of a two-person committee. Only ladder-rank faculty (Professor, Associate Professor or Assistant Professor) can serve as Chair of PR committees. The second reader can be a ladder rank faculty member, adjunct faculty member, or lecturer from DCRP. For dual degree students, one of the two readers can be from the

joint degree department, as long as the Chair is ladder-rank faculty. Final PRs are submitted electronically (with [Title Page](#) and [Sign Off Form](#)) to the [GSAO](#) and will be catalogued in the College of Environmental Design Library.

The format of the PR is determined in collaboration with the student’s committee chair. Possible options for the PR include:

- A report the student produced for their internship but, for various reasons, is not a client report.
- An issue the student would like to learn more about, but wasn’t covered in-depth in their coursework.
- A project a student worked on in another class (e.g., one of the concentration courses or a studio) that they would like to extend. The student must do additional work – it cannot just be a paper or project turned in for a class.
- A project the student worked on as a GSR.

Students may collaborate on a PR. However, each student’s work must be presented in a way that it can be evaluated individually. PR’s can include non-traditional options (e.g., memos, presentations, web sites, software applications, or podcasts/videos), provided that there is a short memo accompanying the final product that describes 1) the motivation and context for the project, 2) the relevance to planning, and 3) how it contributed to the student’s professional development.

In general, PRs and CRs do not require IRB review because they are not considered generalizable research. However, all 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 their CR/PR. In addition, students intending to collect primary data from vulnerable populations (and/or on sensitive topics), or students who wish to publish their research in an academic journal, should consult with their committee chair or client organization to determine if IRB clearance is advisable.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Please visit the Graduate Division’s page on [Resources and Services for Graduate Students](#).

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