

CITY & REGIONAL PLANNING, MCP

The Master of City Planning core curriculum encompasses the basic skills and knowledge required of all planners regardless of their specialization, and is a hallmark of our cutting-edge and practical approach to educating city planners. Students who complete the core will understand the legal and historical basis of city planning; they will know how to use a wide variety of population and economic data to understand local communities; and they will understand the form and arrangement of cities and metropolitan areas around the world. Most important, they will understand which planning approaches work best in which contexts and circumstances.

For more information: <https://www.design.upenn.edu/city-regional-planning> (<https://www.design.upenn.edu/city-regional-planning/>)

The degree and major requirements displayed are intended as a guide for students entering in the Fall of 2026 and later. Students should consult with their academic program regarding final certifications and requirements for graduation.

Curriculum Requirements

A total of 18 course units are required for graduation. 15 course units must be in City Planning (CPLN) courses.

Code	Title	Course Units
Core Requirements		
CPLN 5000	Introduction to City Planning: History, Theory and Practice ¹	1
CPLN 5010	Quantitative Planning Analysis Methods ¹	1
CPLN 5020	Urban Economics and Public Finance	1
	or CPLN 5090 Law of Planning and Urban Development	
CPLN 6000	Studio I ¹	2
CPLN 7010	Planning Studio (or other CPLN 70x0 Studio)	2
Spatial Analysis Requirement		
CPLN 5030	Modeling Geographical Objects ¹	1
Electives		
	Select 3 CPLN Electives (CPLN courses or with FMCP attribute) (https://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/fmcp/)	3
	Select 2 to 3 General Electives (must be 5000-level or higher) ²	2-3
Concentration Requirements ³		4-5
Internship ⁴		
Total Course Units		18

¹ CPLN 5000, 5010, and 5030 are prerequisites for CPLN 6000. An approved waiver or a passing grade is required in each of these courses before a student can begin CPLN 6000. Students who do not successfully complete one or more of the first semester foundation

- courses (CPLN 5000, CPLN 5010, and CPLN 5030) may be required to take a leave from the program until they can re-take these courses.
- ² The Urban Design concentration requires 2 general elective credits instead of 3.
- ³ The Urban Design concentration requires 5 concentration credits instead of 4.
- ⁴ Because a planning education extends beyond the classroom, all MCP students are required to complete a planning internship, usually between their first and second years. Internships may be paid or unpaid, for at least six weeks. Internships can be completed at any government agency or commission, private consulting firm, or non-profit or advocacy organization involved in planning practice, or research.

Housing, Community and Economic Development

The Housing, Community and Economic Development concentration focuses on how planners and policy leaders influence the social and economic factors shaping metropolitan economies and urban neighborhoods, particularly low-wealth communities and communities of color. It prepares graduates for positions in housing, community and economic development finance, neighborhood revitalization, workforce development, center city re-development, and public sector management of urban and regional economic development.

Code	Title	Course Units
Required Courses		
CPLN 5200	Introduction to Housing, Community and Economic Development	1
CPLN 7200	Housing, Community and Economic Development Practicum	1
Theory/Methods Courses		
	Select one of the following:	1
CPLN 5400	Introduction to Property Development	
CPLN 6200	Techniques of Urban Economic Development	
CPLN 6270	Community Engagement for Planners, Policy Makers, and Designers	
Concentration Electives		
	Select one of the following:	1
CPLN 6210	Metropolitan Food System	
CPLN 6230	The Carceral State	
CPLN 6240	Race, Poverty and Place	
CPLN 6280	Migration and Development	
CPLN 6290	Housing, Community & Economic Development Topics Class	
CPLN 6420	Downtown Development: Rethinking and Restructuring U.S. Downtowns	
	Other HCE-related course with permission of advisor	
Total Course Units		4

Land Use and Environmental Planning

Land use and environmental planning are at the core of city planning. With the U.S. forecast to add more than 80 million new residents over the next forty years (and the world forecast to add 3 billion), land use and

environmental planners will have to figure out new ways to accommodate population and economic growth while strengthening existing cities and towns; preserving precious and irreplaceable farm and resource lands; promoting new urban forms such as transit-oriented and mixed-use development; taking advantage of new water, land, telecom, and transportation infrastructure systems; promoting clean air and water, and robust ecologies; and reducing the carbon footprint of cities and suburbs alike. Students who complete the Land Use and Environmental Planning concentration work for local and municipal governments, for land use and environmental planning consultants, for and regional growth management agencies, and for smart growth, land conservation, and sustainable development policy and advocacy organizations.

Code	Title	Course Units
Required Courses		
CPLN 5300	Introduction to Land Use Planning	1
CPLN 5310	Sustainability and Environmental Planning	1
Concentration Electives		
Select two of the following:		2
CPLN 5040	Site Planning	
CPLN 6300	Innovations in Growth Management	
CPLN 6310	Planning for Land Conservation	
CPLN 6340	Climate Change: Plng for Mitigation and Adaptation	
CPLN 6350	Water Policy	
CPLN 7300	Sustainable Cities	
CPLN 6750	Land Use and Environmental Modeling	
Other LEP-related course with permission of advisor		
Total Course Units		4

Public and Private Development

Students in the Public & Private Development concentration will learn the planning, design, entrepreneurial, and financing principles of developing for-profit and community-oriented housing and commercial development projects; how to put together development proposals and plans that meet the needs of tenants, the marketplace, and the community; how to develop projects that are economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable; and how private developers can work in partnership with cities and towns, redevelopment agencies, non-profits, and community groups to create affordable housing and public-private development partnerships. These same skills and abilities will be widely valued outside the United States, especially in growing areas of Asia and South America.

Code	Title	Course Units
Required Courses		
CPLN 5400	Introduction to Property Development	1
CPLN 6410	Progressive Development	1
CPLN 6420	Downtown Development: Rethinking and Restructuring U.S. Downtowns	1
Concentration Electives		
Select one of the following:		1
CPLN 5040	Site Planning	
CPLN 6200	Techniques of Urban Economic Development	
CPLN 6430	Design and Development	

CPLN 6440	Housing Policy	
Other PPD-related course with permission of advisor		
Total Course Units		4

Self Designed

All students in the MCP program must choose a concentration. In addition to choosing between the six concentrations (Housing, Community, and Economic Development; Land Use - Environmental Planning; Public Private Development; Smart Cities; Sustainable Transportation and Infrastructure Planning; and Urban Design), students may petition to design their own concentration.

Petitions for the self-designed concentration may not be submitted until October 1 during the first semester and must be submitted by August 1 before the second year begins. This means that students enter the MCP program enrolled in one of the standard six concentrations and complete that concentration's introductory course in the first semester.

The petition should be submitted directly to the Chair of the Department of City and Regional Planning and include the following information:

- Rationale for designing a concentration rather than following an existing concentration;
- How the student's interests are better served by the self-designed concentration than they are by one of the existing concentrations;
- The logic behind how the proposed concentration and its courses cohere;
- The name of standing faculty member who has agreed to advise the self-designed concentration. (Note: standing faculty members are assistant, associate, and full professors, and associate and full professors of practice. Lecturers and other instructors are not able to advise self-designed concentrations.)

Code	Title	Course Units
Introductory Course		
CPLN 5200	Introduction to Housing, Community and Economic Development	1
CPLN 5300	Introduction to Land Use Planning	
CPLN 5400	Introduction to Property Development	
CPLN 5500	Introduction to Transportation Planning	
CPLN 5910	Introduction to Smart Cities	
CPLN 6600	Fundamentals of Urban Design	
Methods Course		
CPLN 5040	Site Planning	1
CPLN 5050	Planning by Numbers	
CPLN 5300	Introduction to Land Use Planning	
CPLN 5400	Introduction to Property Development	
CPLN 5600	Introduction to Graphics for Urban Design	
CPLN 6200	Techniques of Urban Economic Development	
CPLN 6270	Community Engagement for Planners, Policy Makers, and Designers	
CPLN 6710	Statistical and Data Mining Methods for Urban Data Analysis	
CPLN 6750	Land Use and Environmental Modeling	

Select 2 CPLN Electives	2
Total Course Units	4

Smart Cities

Today's combination of portable-yet-powerful computing and communication devices and Internet-accessible "big data" are democratizing all aspects of urban planning and decision-making. In the process, these factors are transforming planners from central information gatekeepers into bottom-up enablers who are helping city dwellers take better advantage of the opportunities and richness of urban life. By giving constituents quick access to usable information, these new technologies are connecting planners, residents, businesses, and non-profits to make them smarter and more productive. The purpose of this concentration is to give MCP students the skills and abilities they will need to develop planning applications that seamlessly combine user-friendly data retrieval and modeling procedures with individual and collaborative urban planning and design tools.

Code	Title	Course Units
Required Courses		
CPLN 5910	Introduction to Smart Cities	1
CPLN 5920	Public Policy Analytics	1
or CPLN 6710	Statistical and Data Mining Methods for Urban Data Analysis	
CPLN 5050	Planning by Numbers	1
or CPLN 6710	Statistical and Data Mining Methods for Urban Data Analysis	
Concentration Electives		
Select one of the following:		1
CPLN 5710	Sensing the City	
CPLN 6720	Geospatial Data Science in Python	
CPLN 6750	Land Use and Environmental Modeling	
CPLN 6920	Java Script Programming for Planners and Designers	
CPLN 7900	MUSA/Smart Cities Practicum	
Other SMT-related course with permission of advisor		
Total Course Units		4

Sustainable Transportation and Infrastructure

This concentration explores the roles of transportation and other capital infrastructure systems in shaping urban and metropolitan development patterns in the U.S. and around the world. It focuses foremost on urban highway, public transit, and non-motorized transportation systems and their connections to sustainable, livable and economically-productive development forms; and secondly on water, energy, and communications infrastructure. It covers initial planning and development topics (such as right-of-way and system planning issues), linkages to urban and economic development issues (such as those surrounding high-speed rail), and ongoing finance and management topics such as pricing, equity of access, and value creation. Students who complete the Sustainable Transportation & Infrastructure Planning concentration work for local and municipal governments, for state highway departments and metropolitan transit operators, for transportation and infrastructure planning consultants, for system developers and utilities, and for policy

and planning organizations advocating more sustainable transportation and development choices.

Code	Title	Course Units
Required Courses		
CPLN 5050	Planning by Numbers	1
CPLN 5500	Introduction to Transportation Planning	1
CPLN 6500	Transportation Planning Methods	1
Concentration Electives		
Select one of the following:		1
CPLN 6540	The Practice of Trans.Plng:Crafting Policies & Bldg. Infrastructure	
CPLN 6550	Multimodal Transport	
CPLN 7500	Advanced Transportation Seminar	
Other SMT-related course with permission of advisor		
Total Course Units		4

Urban Design

The Urban Design concentration focuses on understanding the links between the physical form and structure of cities and regions and the economic, social and political forces that shape them. It provides knowledge about alternative theories and methods for the physical improvement of urban places and includes courses in graphic communication, the history and theory of design, and the context and operation of development incentives and controls. Graduates from the Urban Design concentration typically work in local government or for private design firms developing urban design plans, neighborhood and district plans, public space and street plans, and, increasingly, plans for new communities.

Code	Title	Course Units
Required Courses		
CPLN 6600	Fundamentals of Urban Design	2
CPLN 5040	Site Planning	1
CPLN 7600	Urban Design Capstone Studio	2
Other UDE-related course with permission of advisor		1
Total Course Units		6

Housing, Community and Economic Development

First Year		Course Units
Fall		
CPLN 5000	Introduction to City Planning: History, Theory and Practice	1
CPLN 5010	Quantitative Planning Analysis Methods	1
CPLN 5030	Modeling Geographical Objects	1

CPLN 5200	Introduction to Housing, Community and Economic Development (Concentration Requirement #1)	1
Course Units		4.00
Spring		
CPLN 6000	Studio I	2
Concentration Requirement ²		1
Choose 2 General Electives ^{1,2}		2
Course Units		5.00
Second Year		
Fall		
CPLN 7010	Planning Studio (or other 70x0 Planning Studio)	2
CPLN 5020	Urban Economics and Public Finance (or General Elective at 5000-level or higher) ³	1
Concentration Requirement ²		1
Choose 1 General Elective ^{1,2}		1
Course Units		5.00
Spring		
CPLN 5090	Law of Planning and Urban Development (or General elective at 5000-level or higher) ³	1
Concentration Requirement ²		1
Choose 2 General Electives ^{1,2}		2
Course Units		4.00
Total Course Units		18.00

¹ Electives must be 5000-level or higher. Undergraduate courses do not count towards CPLN degree requirements. Only 3 non-CPLN courses may be counted towards the degree; students must have 15 CUs under the CPLN subject heading.

² The scheduling of concentration courses and general electives is flexible and can be taken in the order that best works for the student. Note that some requirements are only offered in Fall or Spring and registration should be planned accordingly.

³ Students must take either CPLN 5090 (only offered in the Fall) or CPLN 5020 (only offered in the Spring). In the term when not registered for this requirement, register for a general elective.

Land Use and Environmental Planning

First Year		
Fall		
CPLN 5000	Introduction to City Planning: History, Theory and Practice	1
CPLN 5010	Quantitative Planning Analysis Methods	1
CPLN 5030	Modeling Geographical Objects	1
CPLN 5300	Introduction to Land Use Planning	1
Course Units		4.00
Spring		
CPLN 6000	Studio I	2
Concentration Requirement ¹		1
Choose 2 Electives ^{1,2}		2
Course Units		5.00
Second Year		
Fall		
CPLN 7010	Planning Studio (or other 70x0 Planning Studio)	2
CPLN 5020	Urban Economics and Public Finance (or Elective at 5000-level or higher) ³	1
Concentration Requirement ¹		1
Choose 1 Elective ^{1,2}		1
Course Units		5.00
Spring		
CPLN 5090	Law of Planning and Urban Development (or Elective at 5000-level or higher) ³	1
Concentration Requirement ¹		1
Choose 2 Electives ^{1,2}		2
Course Units		4.00
Total Course Units		18.00

¹ The scheduling of concentration courses and general electives is flexible and can be taken in the order that best works for the student. Note that some requirements are only offered in Fall or Spring and registration should be planned accordingly.

² Electives must be 5000-level or higher. Undergraduate courses do not count towards CPLN degree requirements. Only 3 non-CPLN courses may be counted towards the degree; students must have 15 CUs under the CPLN subject heading.

³ Students must take either CPLN 5090 (only offered in the Fall) or CPLN 5020 (only offered in the Spring). In the term when not registered for this requirement, register for a general elective.

Public and Private Development

First Year			Course Units
Fall			
CPLN 5000	Introduction to City Planning: History, Theory and Practice	1	
CPLN 5010	Quantitative Planning Analysis Methods	1	
CPLN 5030	Modeling Geographical Objects	1	
CPLN 5400	Introduction to Property Development	1	
			Course Units 4.00
Spring			
CPLN 6000	Studio I	2	
Concentration Requirement ¹		1	
Choose 2 Electives ^{1,2}		2	
			Course Units 5.00
Second Year			
Fall			
CPLN 7010	Planning Studio (or other 70x0 Planning Studio)	2	
CPLN 5020	Urban Economics and Public Finance (or Elective at 5000-level or higher) ³	1	
Concentration Requirement ¹		1	
Choose 1 Elective ^{1,2}		1	
			Course Units 5.00
Spring			
CPLN 5090	Law of Planning and Urban Development (or Elective at 5000-level or higher) ³	1	
Concentration Requirement ¹		1	

Choose 2 Electives ^{1,2}			Course Units
			4.00
			Total Course Units 18.00

¹ The scheduling of concentration courses and general electives is flexible and can be taken in the order that best works for the student. Note that some requirements are only offered in Fall or Spring and registration should be planned accordingly.

² Electives must be 5000-level or higher. Undergraduate courses do not count towards CPLN degree requirements. Only 3 non-CPLN courses may be counted towards the degree; students must have 15 CUs under the CPLN subject heading.

³ Students must take either CPLN 5090 (only offered in the Fall) or CPLN 5020 (only offered in the Spring). In the term when not registered for this requirement, register for a general elective.

Self Designed

First Year			Course Units
Fall			
CPLN 5000	Introduction to City Planning: History, Theory and Practice	1	
CPLN 5010	Quantitative Planning Analysis Methods	1	
CPLN 5030	Modeling Geographical Objects	1	
CPLN 5200	Introduction to Housing, Community and Economic Development (Concentration Requirement #1)	1	
			Course Units 4.00
Spring			
CPLN 6000	Studio I	2	
Concentration Requirement ²		1	
Choose 2 General Electives ^{1,2}		2	
			Course Units 5.00
Second Year			
Fall			
CPLN 7010	Planning Studio (or other 70x0 Planning Studio)	2	

CPLN 5020	Urban Economics and Public Finance (or General Elective at 5000-level or higher) ³	1	
Concentration Requirement ²		1	
Choose 1 General Elective ^{1,2}		1	
		Course Units	5.00
Spring			
CPLN 5090	Law of Planning and Urban Development (or General elective at 5000-level or higher) ³	1	
Concentration Requirement ²		1	
Choose 2 General Electives ^{1,2}		2	
		Course Units	4.00
		Total Course Units	18.00

¹ Electives must be 5000-level or higher. Undergraduate courses do not count towards CPLN degree requirements. Only 3 non-CPLN courses may be counted towards the degree; students must have 15 CUs under the CPLN subject heading.

² The scheduling of concentration courses and general electives is flexible and can be taken in the order that best works for the student. Note that some requirements are only offered in Fall or Spring and registration should be planned accordingly.

³ Students must take either CPLN 5090 (only offered in the Fall) or CPLN 5020 (only offered in the Spring). In the term when not registered for this requirement, register for a general elective.

Smart Cities

First Year			
Fall			
CPLN 5000	Introduction to City Planning: History, Theory and Practice	1	Course Units
CPLN 5010	Quantitative Planning Analysis Methods	1	
CPLN 5030	Modeling Geographical Objects	1	
CPLN 5400	Introduction to Property Development	1	
		Course Units	4.00
Spring			
CPLN 6000	Studio I	2	
Concentration Requirement ¹		1	

Choose 2 Electives ^{1,2}		2	
		Course Units	5.00
Second Year			
Fall			
CPLN 7010	Planning Studio (or other 70x0 Planning Studio)	2	
CPLN 5020	Urban Economics and Public Finance (or Elective at 5000-level or higher) ³	1	
Concentration Requirement ¹		1	
Choose 1 Elective ^{1,2}		1	
		Course Units	5.00
Spring			
CPLN 5090	Law of Planning and Urban Development (or Elective at 5000-level or higher) ³	1	
Concentration Requirement ¹		1	
Choose 2 Electives ^{1,2}		2	
		Course Units	4.00
		Total Course Units	18.00

¹ The scheduling of concentration courses and general electives is flexible and can be taken in the order that best works for the student. Note that some requirements are only offered in Fall or Spring and registration should be planned accordingly.

² Electives must be 5000-level or higher. Undergraduate courses do not count towards CPLN degree requirements. Only 3 non-CPLN courses may be counted towards the degree; students must have 15 CUs under the CPLN subject heading.

³ Students must take either CPLN 5090 (only offered in the Fall) or CPLN 5020 (only offered in the Spring). In the term when not registered for this requirement, register for a general elective.

Sustainable Transportation and Infrastructure

First Year			
Fall			
CPLN 5000	Introduction to City Planning: History, Theory and Practice	1	Course Units
CPLN 5010	Quantitative Planning Analysis Methods	1	

CPLN 5030	Modeling Geographical Objects	1
CPLN 5400	Introduction to Property Development	1
Course Units		4.00

Spring

CPLN 6000	Studio I	2
Concentration Requirement ¹		1
Choose 2 Electives ^{1,2}		2
Course Units		5.00

Second Year

Fall

CPLN 7010	Planning Studio (or other 70x0 Planning Studio)	2
CPLN 5020	Urban Economics and Public Finance (or Elective at 5000-level or higher) ³	1
Concentration Requirement ¹		1
Choose 1 Elective ^{1,2}		1
Course Units		5.00

Spring

CPLN 5090	Law of Planning and Urban Development (or Elective at 5000-level or higher) ³	1
Concentration Requirement ¹		1
Choose 2 Electives ^{1,2}		2
Course Units		4.00
Total Course Units		18.00

¹ The scheduling of concentration courses and general electives is flexible and can be taken in the order that best works for the student. Note that some requirements are only offered in Fall or Spring and registration should be planned accordingly.

² Electives must be 5000-level or higher. Undergraduate courses do not count towards CPLN degree requirements. Only 3 non-CPLN courses may be counted towards the degree; students must have 15 CUs under the CPLN subject heading.

³ Students must take either CPLN 5090 (only offered in the Fall) or CPLN 5020 (only offered in the Spring). In the term when not registered for this requirement, register for a general elective.

Urban Design

First Year

Fall

CPLN 5000	Introduction to City Planning: History, Theory and Practice	1
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CPLN 5010	Quantitative Planning Analysis Methods	1
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CPLN 5030	Modeling Geographical Objects	1
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CPLN 6600	Fundamentals of Urban Design	2
Course Units		5.00

Spring

CPLN 6000	Studio I	2
CPLN 5040	Site Planning (or Elective)	1
Choose 1 Elective ¹		1
Course Units		4.00

Second Year

Fall

CPLN 5020	Urban Economics and Public Finance (or Elective) ²	1
CPLN 7010	Planning Studio (or other 70x0 Planning Studio)	2
Choose 2 Electives ¹		2
Course Units		5.00

Spring

CPLN 5090	Law of Planning and Urban Development (or Elective) ²	1
CPLN 7600	Urban Design Capstone Studio	2
Choose 1 Elective ¹		1
Course Units		4.00
Total Course Units		18.00

¹ Electives must be 5000-level or higher. Undergraduate courses do not count towards CPLN degree requirements. Only 3 non-CPLN courses may be counted towards the degree; students must have 15 CUs under the CPLN subject heading.

² Students must take either CPLN 5090 (only offered in the Fall) or CPLN 5020 (only offered in the Spring). In the term when not registered for this requirement, register for a general elective.

- City & Regional Planning, MCP + Public Health, MPH (<https://catalog.upenn.edu/graduate/programs/dual-degree-mph-mcp/>)