

CITY & REGIONAL PLANNING: SMART CITIES, 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.

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.

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

Curriculum

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

Code	Title	Course Units
City & Regional Planning Requirements		
<i>Core Requirements</i>		
CPLN 500	Introduction to City Planning: Past, Present and Future	1
CPLN 501	Quantitative Planning Analysis Methods	1
CPLN 502	Public Finance and Public Policy	1
or CPLN 509	Law of Planning and Urban Development	
CPLN 600	Planning Workshop	2
CPLN 7XX	Planning Studio	2
<i>Spatial Analysis Requirement</i>		
Select one of the following:		1
CPLN 503	Modeling Geographical Objects	
CPLN 632	Modeling Geographic Space	
ENVS 541	Modeling Geographical Objects	
<i>Breadth Methods Requirement</i>		
Select one of the following:		1
CPLN 504	Site Planning	
CPLN 505	Planning by Numbers	
CPLN 506	Negotiation and Conflict Resolution	

CPLN 530	Introduction to Land Use Planning	
CPLN 540	Introduction to Property Development	
CPLN 560	Introduction to Graphics for Urban Design	
CPLN 627	Social Impact in Practice	
CPLN 675	Land Use and Environmental Modeling	
<i>General Electives</i>		
Select 4-5 course units		4-5
Smart Cities Requirements		
<i>Required Courses</i>		
CPLN 590		1
CPLN 591	INTRODUCTION TO SMART CITIES	1
CPLN 505	Planning by Numbers ²	1
or CPLN 671	Spatial Statistics and Data Analysis	
<i>Concentration Electives</i>		
Select one of the following:		1
CPLN 670	Geospatial Software Design	
CPLN 692	Java Script Programming for Planners and Designers	
CPLN 675	Land Use and Environmental Modeling	
CPLN 571	Sensing the City	
CPLN 691		
Total Course Units		18

¹ Smart Cities students who take this course in place of CPLN 503 in the core must take an additional Smart Cities elective.

² Students who take CPLN 505 to meet this requirement may NOT use it to meet the Core Breadth Methods requirement.

Internship Requirement

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.

The degree and major requirements displayed are intended as a guide for students entering in the Fall of 2020 and later. Students should consult with their academic program regarding final certifications and requirements for graduation.