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		
Core Requirements		
CPLN 5000	Introduction to City Planning: History, Theory and Practice	1
CPLN 5010	Quantitative Planning Analysis Methods	1
CPLN 5020	Urban Economics and Public Finance	1
or CPLN 5090	Law of Planning and Urban Development	
CPLN 6000	Studio I	2
CPLN 7XXX	Planning Studio	2
Spatial Analysis Requirement		
Select one of the following:		1
CPLN 5030	Modeling Geographical Objects	
CPLN 6320	Modeling Geographic Space	
ENVS 5706	Modeling Geographical Objects	
General Electives		
Select 6 course units		6
Smart Cities Requirements		
Required Courses		
CPLN 5910	Introduction to Smart Cities	1
CPLN 5920	Public Policy Analytics	1
CPLN 5050	Planning by Numbers [2]	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		**18**

[1] Smart Cities students who take this course in place of CPLN 5030 in the core must take an additional Smart Cities elective.

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 2023 and later. Students should consult with their academic program regarding final certifications and requirements for graduation.