

CITY & REGIONAL PLANNING, MCP: URBAN DESIGN

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.

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.

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

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 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 7010	Planning Studio (or other CPLN 70x0 Studio)	2
<i>Spatial Analysis Requirement</i>		
CPLN 5030	Modeling Geographical Objects	1
<i>Electives</i>		
Select 3 CPLN Electives (CPLN courses or with FMCP attribute) (http://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/fmcp/)		3
Select 2 General Electives (must be 5000-level or higher)		2
Urban Design Requirements		
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

Total Course Units 18

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.

Plan of Study

Standard Course of Study

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

The degree and major requirements displayed are intended as a guide for students entering in the Fall of 2025 and later. Students should consult with their academic program regarding final certifications and requirements for graduation.