MCMP Specialization Areas
2014-15

The Master of City + Metropolitan Planning offers four specializations that reflect the strengths of the program’s faculty and represent major currents in the planning profession today: Ecological Planning, Smart Growth & Transportation, Urban Design, and Small Town and Resort Town Planning. Students who choose to pursue a specialization take (1) an introductory course, (2) a methods course, and (3) two electives in the area of specialization. The following materials describe the specializations and the courses required to complete them.

Ecological Planning. Ecological planning addresses the challenges and opportunities of human settlements in the 21st century by creating a human habitat that is ecologically integrated, builds on local assets and values, and optimizes social and ecological well-being. The Ecological Planning specialization is designed to develop ecological literacy in a planning context and to empower students with research and methods to implement an ecological worldview in the practice of urban planning. The acquired language, skills and understandings are valued in a range of employment opportunities including departments of health and environmental quality at all levels of government, metropolitan planning organizations, municipal planning departments and planning consultancies.

Introductory Course: 6610 Urban Ecology
Methods Course: 6960 Approaches to Ecological Planning
Electives:
6370 System Dynamics & Envtl Policy  6020 Urban and Regional Analysis
6371 Systems Complexity  6030 Leadership & Public Participation
6380 Green Communities  6350 Public Lands & Envtl Policy
6320 Open Space Design  6360 Envtl Planning Law & Policy
6390 Sustainability Planning  6600 Politics of Planning

Smart Growth & Transportation. America’s built environment is being transformed. The transformation is being driven by new demographic and economic trends; changing aspirations about homes, neighborhoods, and communities; and a growing awareness of the role that human relationships with natural resources have on sustaining quality of life. The purpose of this specialization is to improve our metropolitan areas while acknowledging constraints on the various costs of transformation. Smart Growth is a field of planning practice and research that aims to preserve public goods such as air, water, and land; secure positive land-use interactions and avoid adverse ones; effectively enhance economic/fiscal benefits; create desirable and resilient places; and apportion benefits and burdens equitably. Multimodal transportation systems are a key driver of smart growth. A highway dominated transportation system encourages sprawl, while a multimodal system encourages compact development.

Introductory Course: 6710 Introduction to Transportation Planning
Methods Course: 6322 City & Metropolitan Economics
Electives:
6270 Metropolitan Regional Planning      6020 Urban and Regional Analysis
6330 Urban Growth Management            6220 Land Use Planning
6460 R.E. Market Analysis for Planning & Dev  6300 Housing & Community Dev
6710 Introduction to Transportation Planning  6310 Urban Dev Methods & Policies
6720 Land Use and Transportation Planning  6340 City & Metro Economic Dev
6410 Site Development & Entitlement

Urban Design. Urban design is the practice of shaping cities and settlement patterns. The field bridges the professions of city planning, architecture, landscape architecture, engineering, government, and real estate development. Although the design of cities has been practiced for millennia, the field was reborn in the late 1950s in response to dissatisfaction with modern urbanism and the ill effects of placelessness. Since then, a prime concern for urban designers has been the creation of valued and memorable places that contribute to larger social, economic, and environmental goals. Growing in importance, urban design is critically embedded within the debates and issues of contemporary society: natural resource depletion, sustainability, sprawl, climate change, the wealth gap, economic and environmental resiliency, and urban livability.

Students who graduate with field expertise in urban design typically work for the public sector in a city’s urban design and planning division, engaged in municipal project management, civic engagement, development control, and design review. Alternatively, graduates in urban design work in private sector design firms where they are involved in designing and managing projects of both a private and public nature. Studios in Urban Design are collaborative undertakings by students from Architecture, Planning, and Real Estate Development. They are frequently associated with and funded by client cities looking for ideas and proposals that address specific issues in their municipality.

Introductory Course: 6440 Urban Design Principles
Methods Course: 6405 Urban Design Methods in Research

Electives:
6470 Case Studies in Urban Design & Dev’t  6420 Open Space Design
6445 Urban Design Elements Studio        6400 Urban Design Visualization
6446 Urban Design Practice Studio

Small Town and Resort Town Planning. This specialization introduces students to the planning issues particular to small and resort towns as well as planning in rural areas. Some of these issues include community and economic development, community engagement, historic preservation, land conservation, and interfacing with large and small farming enterprises.

Introductory Course: 6960 Small Towns and Resort Towns
Methods Course: 6960 Community and Small Town Planning

Electives:
6960 Conservation Planning and Development  ARCH 6230 Utah Architecture and Cities
6420 Open Space Design                     ARCH 6231 The American West
6960 Community and Economic Development    ARCH 6236 Cultures and Architecture of the SW
6405 Urban Design Methods                  ARCH 6018 Design Build Bluff Studio

Note: Students may petition to have courses in addition to those listed above count as electives for any specialization. See the MCMP Advisor for more information.