BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PLANNING

Those students who choose to major in the Department earn a Bachelor of Science (SB) in Planning, an interdisciplinary pre-professional major designed to prepare students for careers in both the public and private sectors. It also provides a sound foundation for students intending to do graduate work in law, public policy, economic development, urban design, management, and planning. Majors take a set of common core courses, complemented by further course work in one of three streams: urban and environmental policy and planning; urban society, history and politics or urban and regional public policy. The courses in the major teach students how the tools of economics, policy analysis, political science, and urban design can be used to solve social and environmental problems in the United States and abroad. In addition, students learn the skills and responsibilities of planners who seek to promote effective and equitable social change.

Each year, the Department offers an urban field experience course, 11.027 City to City, to its majors. As part of this course, students research a policy or planning question in both Boston and a chosen city. In recent years, we have taken our undergraduate majors to Montreal, London, Barcelona, Venice, Mexico City, Paris, and Copenhagen.

The Department of Urban Studies and Planning offers many possibilities for creating a concentration tailored to your needs and interests in the following categories.

- Designing the Urban Environment
- Environmental Policy
- Urban History
- Policy Analysis and Urban Problems
- International Development
- Education

REQUIRED SUBJECTS (69 UNITS)

All of the following:

11.001J Introduction to Urban Design & Development, 12 units, HASS (4.250J)
11.002J Making Public Policy, 12 units, HASS-D, CI-H (17.30J)
11.011 The Art and Science of Negotiation, 12 units, HASS
11.123 Big Plans & Mega-Urban Landscapes, 9 units, HASS
14.01 Principles of Microeconomics, 12 units, HASS
11.188 Urban Planning and Social Science Laboratory, 12 units, LAB

The required laboratory, 11.188, emphasizes urban information systems and offers skills for measurement, representation, and analysis of urban phenomena. In the laboratory subject, students explore the ways emerging technology can be used to improve government decision-making.
THESIS (12 UNITS)

Majors are required to write a senior thesis. The thesis may consist of an analysis of a public policy issue, a report on a problem-solving experience from an internship or other field experience, or a synthesis of research on urban affairs.

The thesis writing process is accompanied by a required undergraduate thesis seminar, which meets in the fall.

11.ThTJ Thesis Research Design Seminar, 12 units, CI-M (4.THTJ)

PLANNED ELECTIVES (57-60 UNITS)

Majors are required to formulate or select one stream of coursework for further concentration. Students can select from the following recommended options or create their own stream tailored to a particular set of urban, policy, or planning concerns. Students are encouraged to develop a program that will strengthen their analytic skills and broaden their intellectual perspectives, and that will test these insights in real-world applications. Within the selected stream, students must take 57 units of coursework.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

11.003J Methods of Policy Analysis, 12 units, HASS, (17.303J)
and prereq: 11.002J, 17.30J; corequisite: 14.01
11.016J The Once and Future City, 12 units, HASS, CI-H (4.211J)
11.021J Environmental Law, Policy, and Economics: Pollution Prevention & Control, 12 units, HASS (1.801J, 17.393J) (meets with 1.811J, 11.630J, ESD.133J)
11.022J Regulation of Chemicals, Radiation, and Biotechnology, 12 units (1.802J)
(meets with 1.812J, 11.631J, ESD.134J)
11.161J Energy Decisions, Markets and Policies, 12, HASS-S
11.162 Politics of Energy & the Environment, 12 units
11.165 Energy and Infrastructure Technologies, 12 units, HASS (meets with 11.477)
11.168 Enabling Energy Efficiency: Practice & Innovation, 12 units (meets with 11.379)
URBAN HISTORY & SOCIETY

11.012J The Ancient City, 12, HASS-H
11.013J American Urban History I, 9 units, HASS (21H.231J)
11.014J American Urban History II, 9 units, HASS (21H.232J)
11.015J Riots, Strikes, and Conspiracies in American History, 12 units, HASS-D, CI-H (21H.104J)
11.019J Migration and Immigration in US History, 12 units, HASS (21H.221J)
11.026J Downtown, 9 units, HASS (21H.234J) (meets with 11.339)
11.150J Riots, Strikes, and Conspiracies in American History, 12 units, HASS (21H.235)
11.152J The Ghetto: From Venice to Harlem, 12, HASS-S

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

11.005 Introduction to International Development, 12 units, HASS
11.025J D-Lab: Development, 12 units, HASS (EC.781J) (meets with 11.472)
11.140 Urbanization and Development, 12 (meets with 11.480)
11.144 Project Appraisal in Developing Countries (meets with 11.484)
11.147 Urban Public Finance in Developing Countries
11.165 Energy and Infrastructure Technologies, 12 units, HASS (meets with 11.477)
11.166 Law, Social Movements, and Public Policy: Comparative and International Experience, 12 units, HASS (meets with 11.496)

*No subject can be counted both as part of the 17-subject GIRs and as part of the 180 units required beyond the GIRs. Every subject in the student’s departmental program will count toward one or the other, but not both.

URBAN FIELD EXPERIENCE

We encourage declared majors to take the optional urban field experience class, 11.027 City to City (CI-M), which is taught in the spring and includes a trip during spring break. Students may take this course multiple times, as the content differs each year, but it may only be counted once as a planned elective.

For DUSP majors interested in spending a semester abroad, we recommend the International Honors Program (IHP), which has a semester-long program called “Cities in the 21st Century.” (For further information, see http://www.ihp.edu/) The department offers transfer credit for courses taken as part of the IHP. If you are planning on studying abroad, contact the transfer credit examiner, for consultation on your course of study.