Joint Master of Urban Planning and Master of Public Health Degree
OVERVIEW

The master of urban planning (MUP) and master of public health (MPH) joint degree program at the Harvard Graduate School of Design and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health is designed to support and encourage students seeking a transdisciplinary education in urban planning and public health, and prepare them for leadership positions at the intersection of these fields. By enrolling concurrently in both the MUP and the 65-credit MPH in the environmental health field of study with a track in sustainability, health, and the global environment, students will be introduced to the domestic and international issues entailed in promoting and designing healthier communities, cities, and metropolitan areas, as well as the environmental, social, and health issues that result from specific building and city designs.

The fields of urban planning and public health were tightly intertwined when they were first developed, with common goals of eliminating poverty and decreasing infectious diseases in emerging cities. Recently in the face of increasing urbanization and globalization, the fields have reconnected. There is a renewed recognition of the need for leaders to understand both disciplines to effectively influence planning and policy, and improve and protect the public’s health.

The MUP/MPH joint degree program is an integrated experience that provides the student with a deeper, more cohesive understanding of the two distinct fields. The benefit of the concurrent degree program is that students are able to interweave and integrate coursework in the foundations of public health with the principles of urban planning and receive two degrees in one semester fewer than it would take to complete both degrees separately. This unique program provides students with the opportunity to gain skills in a number of areas including policy, environmental exposures, sustainability, and social determinants of health.

A committee made up of Harvard Chan professor Francine Laden and GSD professor Ann Forsyth (“Faculty Committee”) oversees the joint degree program. The Faculty Committee is responsible for making decisions regarding the structure and requirements of the program and for working with the students enrolled in the program.
DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The MPH is a full-time degree program completed in three semesters, plus a summer, with a total of 65 credits. The MUP is a full-time degree program completed in four semesters with a total of 80 units. If students took the two degrees separately, it would total to seven semesters, plus a summer. With the joint degree, students are able to obtain an MUP and an MPH in six semesters, plus a summer.

During their time studying, students must satisfy all curricular course requirements for both the MUP and MPH programs required of all non-joint degree students.

Course Requirements:
A total of six full-time semesters of coursework and a summer internship is required for the MUP/MPH joint degree program. A full-time semester is equivalent to 20 credits at the Harvard Chan School or 20 units at GSD.

Credit / Unit Conversion:
2.5 credits at the Harvard Chan School is equivalent to 2 units at GSD
5 credits at the Harvard Chan School is equivalent to 4 units at GSD

The MUP requirements consist of the following:
Note: For a complete articulation of curriculum requirements, please refer to the online listed requirements in effect at the time of matriculation into the joint degree program at: www.gsd.harvard.edu/resources/current-mup-degree-requirements

Core Studio Requirements (16 units):
• GSD 1121 Core Urban Planning Studio I (8 units)
• GSD 1122 Core Urban Planning Studio II (8 units)

Course Requirements (12 units):
• GSD 2129 GIS and Representation for Planning (4 units)
• GSD 4115 History and Theory of Urban Inventions (4 units)
• GSD 5103 Public and Private Development (4 units)

Methods Requirements (12 units, with some alternative options):
• GSD 5215 Quantitative (2 units)—can be met with MPH biostatistics requirement
• GSD 5216 Qualitative (2 units)
• GSD 5203 Markets and Market Failures (or other Economic Methods) (4 units)
• Implementation methods requirements (4 units, choice from 3 courses)

Other
• Area of concentration (courses totaling 12 units)
• Project—Thesis (12 units) OR elective interdisciplinary studio (8 units) OR project-based/practicum style courses (8 units total)
The MPH requirements consist of the following:

- ID 201 Core Principles of Biostatistics and Epidemiology for Public Health Practice (7.5 credits), or BIO 201, EPI 201, and EPI 202 (10 credits)
- ID 216 Critical Thinking and Action for Public Health Professionals (5 credits)
- Practice and Culminating Experience

Environmental Health Field of Study Requirements
Sustainability, Health, and the Global Environment Track:

- EH 251 Public Health in Megacities: The Environmental Dimension (2.5 credits)
- EH 252 The Impact of Buildings on Health, Productivity, and Sustainability (5 credits)
- EH 257 Water Pollution or EH 297, Environmental Atmosphere Seminars (5 credits)
- EH 262 Introduction to the Work Environment (2.5 credits)
- EH 278 Human Health and Global Environmental Change (2.5 credits)
- EH 510 Fundamentals of Human Environmental Exposure Assessment (2.5 credits)
- EH TBD Energy and the Environment (2.5 credits)
- EH TBD Sustainability Leadership – Making the Business Case (2.5 credits)
- EPI 202 Epidemiologic Methods II: Elements of Epidemiologic Research (2.5 credits)
- ID 215 Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology (2.5 credits)
- ID 263 Practice of Occupational Health (5 credits)
- RDS 500 Risk Assessment (2.5 credits)
- Higher-Level Biostatistics (choice from approved list) (5 credits)
Possible Elective Courses:
Existing substantive courses that may be appropriate for the MUP/MPH joint degree*

Harvard Graduate School of Design
- GSD 3348 The Idea of Environment
- GSD 5206 Land Use and Environmental Law
- GSD 5330 Healthy Places
- GSD 6241 Ecologies, Techniques, Technologies III: Introduction to Ecology
- GSD 6337 Changing Natural and Built Coastal Environments
- GSD 6323 Brownfields Practicum Regeneration and Reuse of Brownfield Land
- GSD 5326 Housing and Urbanization in the United States
- GSD 5337 Housing and Urbanization in Global Cities
- GSD 5319 Urbanization and International Development

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
- GHP 272 Foundations of Global Health and Population
- GHP 557 Fundamentals of Global Health
- HPM 210 United States Health Policy
- SBS 511 Social Policy and Health in International Perspective
- SBS 514 Reducing Socioeconomic & Racial/Ethnic Inequalities in Health

*This list is not comprehensive and does not take into account course schedules

Practicum and Culminating Experience/Internship:
Both degree programs have a practice and culminating experience component. At the GSD, MUP students traditionally select to engage in project-based courses, an independent research thesis, or an elective studio to fulfill their intensive, project-based learning requirement. MPH students at the Harvard Chan School traditionally engage in a summer internship or practicum and culminating experience that takes place in an agency, institution, or community. The joint degree program has the benefit of combining the culminating activities required for both degrees into a single experience, providing students with direct practice to apply, integrate, and enhance their theoretical and practical skills development in both degree programs. At the same time, students develop the interpersonal, leadership, and communication skills necessary to be a productive member of any organization or team. They gain valuable experience in applying principles of both public health and urban planning.

A committee made up of designated faculty from both schools will oversee the placement and supervision of students including appropriate matching of students and culminating experience to ensure that the requirements for both degrees are met.
### Sample Curriculum

Based on starting at the Harvard Chan School in the Environmental Health Field of Study, Sustainability, Health, and the Global Environment Track

#### Year one

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<tr>
<th>FALL FIRST YEAR</th>
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CAREER GUIDANCE AND OPPORTUNITIES

Masters degree students find employment in a wide variety of capacities representing the diversity of design and environmental health practice. Faculty and alumni from both Schools have extensive networks locally, nationally, and internationally in a wide range of settings including governments, non-governmental organizations, universities, private industry, and consulting. For example, faculty from both GSD and the Harvard Chan School are collaborating in a joint initiative in India. This could provide opportunities and experiences for students in the MUP/MPH joint degree program. Students are advised to begin their networking activities as soon as commencing their studies and to continue to clarify their specific career path as they proceed through their degree programs. Internships, practicum, supervised and independent practice activities, and urban planning and environmental health alumni assist in this process as well through the above-mentioned internships and career panel presentations.

Students are directed to make full use of the Office for Alumni Affairs and Career Advancement, its online databases, and wide range of workshops focusing on such areas as CV writing, career searching, interviewing, and networking.

As with their academic studies, students are mentored that ultimately the success of their career search lies with their own efforts. While office and department faculty and staff provide a wealth and diversity of resources for students, the final trajectory of their careers are in their own hands.

Potential Careers and Positions of Graduates:
The Graduate School of Design and Harvard Chan School graduates choose a variety of career paths. Graduates secure positions in a wide range of international, national, regional, and local organizations, agencies, government departments, industries, consulting businesses, and institutions, which allow them to continue and expand their interest in urban design and environmental and public health practice. Career advice and opportunities are offered in a number of ways – through job postings, a school-wide annual career fair, and networking through faculty and alumni.
COMPETENCIES
Competencies for Master of Urban Planning and Master of Public Health Joint Degree Program:

- Evaluate and assess the determinants of healthy places, in terms of environmental, social, political, and global factors and urban planning.
- Evaluate research regarding the environmental and social impact and processes pertaining to the development, preservation, and enhancement of a productive, sustainable, and equitable built environment.
- Analyze the historical, economic, political, legal, social, cultural, ecological, and aesthetic influences shaping the built environment and the impact policy, planning, and programs have on the physical and social environment.
- Apply conceptual frameworks for understanding the environmental (e.g. air and water pollution, metals, organic pollutants, microbial and chemical contamination of drinking water, physical hazards, etc.) and social (e.g. neighborhood, occupation, income, race, gender, etc.) determinants of health.
- Examine the forces shaping the built environment through technical facility and creative interventions with implementing laws, institutions, markets, politics, and design to address health issues associated with the physical and social environment.
- Apply skills in intelligent planning analyses using qualitative, quantitative, and visual methods as well as base knowledge and technical skills used by urban planners and public health professionals to generate, evaluate, and implement ideas, plans, and projects.
- Analyze sources, pathways, and routes of exposure to environmental and social factors, and determine the populations with a high risk of exposure.
- Evaluate different approaches and types of study of design (e.g. cross-sectional, cohort, case-control, clinical trial, etc.) and related data collection methods.
- Assess health issues in the built environment with social, environmental, and spatial context to frame research questions.
- Assess, synthesize, and interpret demographic, spatial, and health data sources to discern trends in urban form and health using relevant statistical software (e.g. Geographic Information Systems) for basic spatial analysis and mapping.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I apply directly to joint degree program? How do I apply?
There is no direct application to the joint MUP/MPH program. Prospective students will apply to the Harvard Graduate School of Design and the Harvard Chan School separately and be admitted to each program separately. For the MPH program, visit MPH Admissions; for the MUP program, visit MUP Admissions.

What would my course of study look like if I pursue an MUP/MPH degree?
Students may complete both the MUP and MPH degrees in six semesters of intensive full-time study, including one summer. The preferred sequence is for students to enroll in the MPH program for their first and second semesters followed by enrollment in the MUP program in their third and fourth semesters. The final year is split between MUP and MPH enrollment. Students are encouraged to integrate their knowledge in both programs from the start, as those enrolled in either program may take courses to fulfill degree requirements via cross-registration. When registered at the Graduate School of Design, students cross-register for MPH classes; when registered at the Harvard Chan School, they cross-register for GSD classes.

If I have already started in a degree program, can I transfer into the joint degree program?
Since this is not a separate degree, students cannot transfer directly into the program. Students, who have started coursework in either the Graduate School of Design on the MUP track, or in the 65-credit MPH in the Environmental Health field of study in the Sustainability, Health, and the Global Environment track, are able to apply to the adjoining school and start the interdisciplinary degree.

What are tuition costs for the MUP/MPH joint degree program?
Enrollment in the joint degree program will result in significant tuition savings compared with the cost of pursuing the two degrees separately. Joint degree program students should apply for financial aid through the GSD Financial Aid Office for the first year at the GSD and through the Harvard Chan Office of Financial Aid for the first year at the Harvard Chan School. For the fifth and sixth terms, students should apply to the respective school in which they will enroll for a given term.

Can I take courses at the adjoining school during any semester of the degree?
Yes, students can cross-register between schools at any point in the degree program.

What career opportunities are available with an MUP/MPH?
Through the interdisciplinary study, students will have a solid understanding of the built environment along with population health issues. Students will be prepared for positions that involve urban planning and design both in developed and developing societies, policy development and evaluation at the local, state, or federal level, metropolitan sustainability planning, health impact assessments, and environmental justice advocacy.
CONTACT INFORMATION

Harvard Graduate School of Design
- Admissions: Geri Nederhoff and Gail Gustafson, Admissions Directors; 617-495-5453
  www.gsd.harvard.edu/admissions
- Program Information: Sean Conlon, Registrar; 617-496-5154
- Financial Aid Office: financial_aid@gsd.harvard.edu; 617-495-5455

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
- Harvard Chan School Admissions Office:
  158 Longwood Avenue, Boston, MA 02115-5810
  admissions@hsph.harvard.edu; 617-432-1031
- Office of Financial Aid: osfs@hsph.harvard.edu; 617-432-1867