

Master in Urban Planning

Housing, Community, and Economic Development Concentration

2026-2027

Concentration Advisor: [Toni L. Griffin](#)

This area of concentration is for those students who are interested in planning, developing, and regulating housing resources and their surrounding neighborhoods. Planners who choose this concentration may envision themselves as professionals who will work in the public sector as policy makers, program administrators, or development facilitators or in the non-profit or for-profit sector as developers, community activists, or consultants. In whatever role they choose, these students are interested in shaping the part of the built environment that provides the setting for the residential and closely related functions of the city.

Because housing is a vital social as well as economic element of the city, a wide range of courses are relevant to this work. Concentrators may choose to focus on aspects of the work as diverse as housing policy, market analysis, physical design and planning, real estate finance, the development process, community engagement, implementation strategies and regulatory regimens. The same is true for neighborhoods, which are complex parts of the metropolitan environment, requiring a wide range of skills for those who would shape them. This element of the concentration may include work on many of the topics listed above as well as land use regulation, urban design, demographic and economic analysis, local politics and related disciplines such as transportation, infrastructure, retail and social networks.

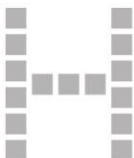
FALL 2026 APPROVED COURSES:

COURSE #	COURSE TITLE	UNITS	TYPE	FACULTY
5213	Building Equitable Cities: Policy Tools for Housing and Community Development (at HKS)	4	Lecture	Carras
5258	Urban Economics 1 (Module 1) ¹	2	Lecture	Kelly
5259	Urban Economics 2 (Module 2) ¹	2	Lecture	Kelly
5464	Do No Harm: Dilemmas in Planning for Health	4	Lecture	Maaoui
5486	The Gentrification Debates: Perceptions and Realities of Neighborhood Change	4	Seminar	Griffin
5490	Affordable Housing and Community Development (Module 1)	2	Lecture	Curtis
5531	Building Beyond Capitalism: Community Ownership as Counterproject?	4	Seminar	Iyengar, Griffin
7459	Negotiating Actionable Plans	4	Lecture	Podziba

1. May count toward an Area of Concentration OR the Economic Methods requirement, but not both. Both Urban Economics Module 1 and Module 2 must be completed to satisfy the Economic Methods requirement.

SPRING 2027 APPROVED COURSES:

COURSE #	COURSE TITLE	UNITS	TYPE	FACULTY
5326	Housing and Urbanization in the United States	4	Lecture	Molinsky, Stockard
5440	Public Finance for Planners: Creating Equitable & Sustainable Communities ¹	4	Lecture	German
5502	Urban Governance and the Politics of Planning in the Global South ²	4	Lecture	Silva
5999	Cultural Planning	4	Seminar	Lubenau
SUP 683M	State and Local Economic Development (Module 2; HKS) ¹	2	Lecture	Carbonell



Updated 7/28/2026

1. *May count toward an Area of Concentration OR the Economic Methods Requirement, but not both.*
2. *May count toward an Area of Concentration OR the Legal and Institutional Methods Requirement, but not both.*

