HARVARD UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF DESIGN

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updated 7/20/26

Master in Urban Planning
Urban Analytics Concentration
2026-2027

Concentration Advisors: Carole Voulgaris (Fall 2026) and Rachel Weber (Spring 2027)

The Urban Analytics concentration introduces students to describing, analyzing, and prescribing solutions to urban planning problems using spatial data and analysis methods. An increasing share of urban planning work today addresses spatial interactions between numerous geographically bound actors and processes that are too complex to visualize and analyze without computational tools. The availability of "big data" and other administrative datasets is rapidly expanding and requires both proficiency and care when processing and applying them to planning and policy interventions. There are increasingly urgent ethical, institutional, and practical challenges to navigate and manage. Urban analytic tools are now used in a wide range of settings: Geographic Information Systems, spatial statistics, and algorithmic approaches to spatial data analysis are used in public and private planning practices at the local, regional and international scales.

FALL 2026 APPROVED COURSES:

COURSE #	COURSE TITLE	UNITS	TYPE	FACULTY
5258	Urban Economics 1 (Module 1)[1]	2	Lecture	Kelly
5259	Urban Economics 2 (Module 2)[1]	2	Lecture	Kelly
5999	The City as Method	4	Lecture	TBD
6472	Visualization (at SEAS)	4	Seminar	Pfister
6492	Quantitative Aesthetic: Introduction to Machine Learning and Perceptual Machines for Design	4	Lecture	Michalatos
6514	Spatial Hallucinations: Defining Geospatial Intelligence	4	Seminar	Zhang

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
5441	Policy Analysis	4	Seminar	Liete
5999	Urban Tech	4	Lecture	Zhu
5999	Transportation Data (TBD)	4	Lecture	TBD
6506	Design Analytics: Predicting Human Spatial Experience	4	Seminar	Srivastava
6509	Mapping the Region: Cartographic Methods for Place-Based Spatial Theory	4	Seminar	Kelly