

Urban Planning and Policy, MS

The Master of Science in Urban Planning and Policy program trains leaders interested in building just and sustainable solutions to today's critical urban problems. Students in the program develop the theoretical and analytical tools to understand contemporary challenges of social, racial, and environmental injustice in cities and urban regions. They develop professional tools to work effectively in the realms of planning, policy, politics, and advocacy to impact urban challenges, including affordable housing provision, equitable and sustainable economic growth, sustainable transportation, and climate change adaptation and mitigation. This innovative program combines the expertise in urban planning and policy analysis data analytics of the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs with expertise in physical planning, design, and data visualization at the School of Architecture. The core curriculum of the program provides students with a solid foundation in essential skills and concepts, including techniques of effective community engagement, research design and statistics, economic analysis, legal foundations of urban planning and policy, and the history of urban development and urban planning. Students also have the opportunity to develop substantial expertise in a specialization area, including urban analytics, urban sustainability and resilience, urban design and physical planning, and urban development policy and planning.

The optional cooperative education experience (co-op) is available to eligible students. Cooperative education is central to both the Northeastern experience and to the College of Social Sciences and Humanities experiential liberal arts framework. Northeastern's signature co-op ecosystem provides qualified master's students with six-month work experiences in businesses, nonprofits, and government agencies in Boston and across the United States. Graduate students take their work from campus learning spaces, apply their knowledge outside of the classroom, and then bring knowledge and skills gained in community learning spaces back to our campus learning spaces during the cocurricular experiential integration course.

In addition to the co-op option, students in the program have opportunities to gain experience in the application of their knowledge and skills via internships, class projects, and a capstone research report. They graduate prepared for careers working for state and local government, federal agencies, community development corporations and other nonprofit organizations, research institutes, and as private-sector planning consultants.

Program Requirements

Complete all courses and requirements listed below unless otherwise indicated.

Core Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Planning and Policy		
PPUA 6201	The 21st-Century City: Urban Opportunities and Challenges in a Global Context	4
PPUA 6502	Economic Analysis for Policy and Planning	4
SUEN 6340	Topics in Urban Environmental Design	4
Research Design		
INSH 6300	Research Methods in the Social Sciences	4
Quantitative Techniques		
Students in the urban analytics focus area are encouraged to take INSH 5301.		
Choose one from the following:		4
INSH 5301	Introduction to Computational Statistics	
INSH 6500	Statistical Analysis	
Planning Law		
Choose one from the following:		2-4
LPSC 5201	Law and the City	
PPUA 5201	Urban Planning and the Law	
Planning and Social Justice		
Choose one from the following:		2-4
PPUA 5233	Contemporary Community Development	
PPUA 5235	Participatory Community Planning Methods	
PPUA 6219	Race, Justice, and Belonging in Planning Practice	

Focus Areas

Complete one of the following focus areas:

- Urban Design and Physical Planning (p. 2)
- Urban Analytics (p. 2)
- Sustainability and Resilience (p. 2)
- Urban Development Policy and Planning (p. 3)

URBAN DESIGN AND PHYSICAL PLANNING

Code	Title	Hours
Gateway Course		
ARCH 6340	Graduate Topics in Architecture	4
Tracks		
Complete one of the following tracks:		8
<i>Urban Design and Real Estate</i>		
ARCH 5310	Design Tactics and Operations	
ARCH 5530	Innovative Models in Real Estate Development and Design	
<i>Physical Planning and Design for Sustainable Urbanism</i>		
SUEN 7230	Urban Ecologies and Technologies 1	
SUEN 7240	Urban Ecologies and Technologies 2	
<i>Urban Experience Track</i>		
ARTG 5150 and ARTG 5151	Information Visualization Principles and Practices and Information Design Critique Seminar	
ARTG 6310	Design for Behavior and Experience	
Capstone		
SUEN 6120	Graduate Studio 2: Sustainable Urban Systems	6

URBAN ANALYTICS

Code	Title	Hours
Gateway Course		
PPUA 5262	Big Data for Cities	4
Required Courses		
ARTG 5150 and ARTG 5151	Information Visualization Principles and Practices and Information Design Critique Seminar	4
PPUA 5263	Geographic Information Systems for Urban and Regional Policy	4
Capstone		
PPUA 7673	Capstone in Public Policy and Urban Affairs	4

SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE

Code	Title	Hours
Gateway Course		
LPSC 7312 or SUEN 6310	Cities, Sustainability, and Climate Change Cities, Nature, and Design in Contemporary History and Theory	4
Methods		
Complete one of the following:		4
PPUA 5261	Dynamic Modeling for Environmental Decision Making	
PPUA 5263	Geographic Information Systems for Urban and Regional Policy	
SUEN 7230	Urban Ecologies and Technologies 1	
Capstone		
PPUA 7673	Capstone in Public Policy and Urban Affairs	4
Elective		
Complete one of the following:		4
PPUA 5231	Transportation Policy	
PPUA 5234	Land Use and Urban Growth Policy	
PPUA 5238	Climate Change and Global Urbanization	
PPUA 5249	Sustainable Urban Coastal Policy	
PPUA 5260	Ecological Economics	
PPUA 5261	Dynamic Modeling for Environmental Decision Making	
PPUA 5264	Energy Democracy and Climate Resilience: Technology, Policy, and Social Change	
SUEN 6110	Graduate Studio 1: Sustainable Urban Sites	
SUEN 6120	Graduate Studio 2: Sustainable Urban Systems	
SUEN 6220	Implementation and Visualization for Urban Environments 2	
SUEN 6310	Cities, Nature, and Design in Contemporary History and Theory	

SUEN 6340	Topics in Urban Environmental Design
SUEN 7230	Urban Ecologies and Technologies 1
SUEN 7240	Urban Ecologies and Technologies 2
SUEN 7320	Pro-Seminar: Issues in Designed Urban Environments

URBAN DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PLANNING

Code	Title	Hours
Gateway Course		
Complete one of the following:		4
PPUA 5230	Housing Policy	
PPUA 5231	Transportation Policy	
PPUA 5233	Contemporary Community Development	
PPUA 5265	Global Urbanization and Planning	
Methods		
PPUA 5263 or PPUA 5236	Geographic Information Systems for Urban and Regional Policy Introduction to Real Estate Development for Urban Policy Makers	4
Capstone		
PPUA 7673	Capstone in Public Policy and Urban Affairs	4
Elective		
Complete one of the following:		4
PPUA 5230	Housing Policy	
PPUA 5231	Transportation Policy	
PPUA 5232	Immigration and Urban America	
PPUA 5233	Contemporary Community Development	
PPUA 5234	Land Use and Urban Growth Policy	
PPUA 5236	Introduction to Real Estate Development for Urban Policy Makers	
PPUA 5265	Global Urbanization and Planning	
PPUA 5270	Food Systems and Public Policy	
PPUA 6506	Techniques of Policy Analysis	
PPUA 6551	Nonprofit Organizations and Social Change	
SUEN 6110	Graduate Studio 1: Sustainable Urban Sites	
SUEN 6120	Graduate Studio 2: Sustainable Urban Systems	
SUEN 6340	Topics in Urban Environmental Design	

Electives

Code	Title	Hours
Complete 4-8 semester hours of the following:		4-8
ARCH 5310	Design Tactics and Operations	
ARCH 5530	Innovative Models in Real Estate Development and Design	
ARCH 6100	Graduate Skills Studio	
ARCH 6330	Seminar in Modern Architecture	
ARCH 6340	Graduate Topics in Architecture	
ARTG 5100	Information Design Studio 1: Principles	
ARTG 5120	Research Methods for Design	
ARTG 5130	Visual Communication for Information Design	
ARTG 5330	Visualization Technologies 1: Fundamentals	
ARTG 6330	Information Design Mapping Strategies	
DA 5020	Collecting, Storing, and Retrieving Data	
DA 5030	Introduction to Data Mining/Machine Learning	
INSH 5302	Information Design and Visual Analytics	
PPUA 5230	Housing Policy	
PPUA 5231	Transportation Policy	
PPUA 5232	Immigration and Urban America	
PPUA 5233	Contemporary Community Development	

PPUA 5234	Land Use and Urban Growth Policy
PPUA 5236	Introduction to Real Estate Development for Urban Policy Makers
PPUA 5238	Climate Change and Global Urbanization
PPUA 5239	Problems in Metropolitan Policymaking
PPUA 5244	Comparative Public Policy and Administration
PPUA 5245	Education Policy in the United States
PPUA 5249	Sustainable Urban Coastal Policy
PPUA 5260	Ecological Economics
PPUA 5261	Dynamic Modeling for Environmental Decision Making
PPUA 5263	Geographic Information Systems for Urban and Regional Policy
PPUA 5264	Energy Democracy and Climate Resilience: Technology, Policy, and Social Change
PPUA 5265	Global Urbanization and Planning
PPUA 5270	Food Systems and Public Policy
PPUA 6202	Research Toolkit for Python for Policy
PPUA 6203	Research Toolkit for Effective Communications for Policy Impact
PPUA 6212	Research Toolkit for Urban and Regional Policy: Project Management
PPUA 6216	Research Toolkit for Urban and Regional Policy: Grant Writing
PPUA 6506	Techniques of Policy Analysis
PPUA 6551	Nonprofit Organizations and Social Change
PPUA 7237	Advanced Spatial Analysis of Urban Systems
SUEN 6110	Graduate Studio 1: Sustainable Urban Sites
SUEN 6120	Graduate Studio 2: Sustainable Urban Systems
SUEN 6210	Implementation and Visualization for Urban Environments 1
SUEN 6220	Implementation and Visualization for Urban Environments 2
SUEN 6310	Cities, Nature, and Design in Contemporary History and Theory
SUEN 6340	Topics in Urban Environmental Design
SUEN 7230	Urban Ecologies and Technologies 1
SUEN 7240	Urban Ecologies and Technologies 2
SUEN 7320	Pro-Seminar: Issues in Designed Urban Environments

Optional Co-op Experience

Code	Title	Hours
Requires two consecutive semesters of Co-op Work Experience and Experiential Integration:		2
PPUA 6964 and INSH 6864	Co-op Work Experience and Experiential Integration	

Program Credit/GPA Requirements

48 total semester hours required (50 with optional co-op)

Minimum 3.000 GPA required