

Admissions

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

The application submission and postmark deadline for applications is **December 5, 2008**.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

1. Online application
2. Two copies of all official transcripts of all college-level work.
3. Three letters of recommendation (minimum)
4. The DCRP supplement.
5. All applicants must submit a recent Graduate Record Exam (GRE) score
6. International applicants from countries in which the official language is not English must take: the TOEFL or IELTS exam
7. All M.C.P. applicants to the Urban Design concentration must submit a design portfolio.

MCP ADMISSIONS

The MCP Admissions Committee is concerned with an applicant's intellectual ability, maturity, self-discipline, preparation, self-understanding, desire and sensitivity. We look at what you have undertaken as an undergraduate, both inside and outside the classroom, and whether you have done it well.

Admissions are drawn from many different majors. The tendency in admissions has been in the direction of individuals with social science majors—economics, political science, sociology—but each year half the class is drawn from majors in architecture, geography, engineering, etc.

PH.D. ADMISSIONS

The principal admission requirements to the Doctoral Program in City and Regional Planning are overall excellence in past academic work and research, demonstrated creativity and intellectual leadership in professional activity, and the strong promise of sustained intellectual achievement, originality, and scholarship. The emphasis in the Doctoral Program is upon scholarship and research.

To be considered for admission to the PhD program at Berkeley, applicants must have completed a Masters degree in planning or a related field. If your ultimate degree objective is a PhD but you do not hold a Master's degree, consider applying for admission to the Department of City and Regional Planning with the goal of achieving an MCP degree. You may then apply for admission to the PhD program during the second year of study toward the MCP degree.

Funding Graduate Education

Graduate students can apply for merit- and need-based fellowships, as well as Graduate Student Instructor (GSI) and Graduate Student Researcher (GSR) positions.

A number of research institutes and faculty offer GSR appointments to graduate students. Similarly these appointments may carry partial or full fee remissions. Some of the research institutes that provide such opportunities for DCRP students are:

- Institute for Urban and Regional Development
- Center for Cities and Schools
- Center for Community Innovation
- UC Transportation Center
- Institute for Transportation Studies (ITS)
- Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS)
- Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES)
- Center for Southeast Asian Studies
- Fischer Center for Real Estate and Urban Economics

It is also beneficial for applicants to seek financial support that is independent of university sources.

If you are an international student, look for fellowships from your home country or through international agencies.



*University of California
Berkeley*

DEPARTMENT OF

CITY AND
REGIONAL
PLANNING

M.C.P.
&

PH.D.
PROGRAMS

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About the Department

The Department of City & Regional Planning (DCRP), one of the nation's top-rated graduate planning programs, is internationally recognized for its first-rate educational offerings and cutting-edge, faculty-led research. The department's rigorous curriculum spans such areas as transportation, housing, community and economic development, urban design, land-use planning, environmental planning, regional development, comparative and international planning, and spatial modeling. Complementing courses in these areas are real-world, hands-on practicums that cut across fields, including recent international studios on pressing urban issues in China, Thailand, and India.

The 2009 Planetizen Guide to Graduate Urban Planning Programs ranked us number two in overall Best Graduate Urban Planning Programs and included every one of our areas of specialization in its listings of The Best Graduate Urban Planning Programs by Specialty. We are also ranked number two in scholarly citations per faculty member based on the Institute for Science Information data base.

Besides faculty, course offerings, and rankings, what makes DCRP a truly exceptional place to study city and regional planning are its top-flight students — smart, engaged, and passionate in their commitment to constructive social, economic, and environmental change.

M.C.P. Degree

- Our program is designed to provide students with:
- Lifelong analytical, research, and communication skills;
- The knowledge and skill sets to successfully practice planning in a variety of urban, metropolitan, and regional settings;
- An understanding of the history and theory of cities and urban regions, and expertise in various fields and sub-fields of city and regional planning.

AREAS OF CONCENTRATION AND FIELDS

The Master of City Planning degree combines a common core curriculum with the opportunity to specialize in one of five concentration areas and two field areas. Concentrations provide an opportunity for students to develop deeper knowledge and skills in a particular sub-area of planning. Fields offer further specialization that students can pursue in conjunction with any one of the concentrations. Students also have the option of developing their own individualized concentrations with their faculty advisor.

CONCENTRATIONS: Transportation Policy and Planning; Housing, Community, and Economic Development; Urban Design; Land Use Planning; and Environmental Planning and Policy.

FIELDS: International and Comparative Planning; and GIS and Spatial Analysis.

DUAL DEGREE PROGRAMS

Understanding the need for professionals with the knowledge and skills of more than one discipline within the fields of planning and design, the Department of City & Regional Planning offers the following joint degree programs with other departments and colleges at UC Berkeley:

- Architecture (M.C.P./ M.ARCH)
- Environmental Planning or Urban Design (M.C.P./ M.L.A.)
- International and Area Studies (MCP/ MA)
- Law (M.C.P./ J.D.)
- Public Health (M.C.P./ M.P.H.)
- Transportation Engineering (M.C.P./ M.S.)

PROGRAM SELECTION AND ADVISING

Students plan their individual programs with the help of their faculty advisor. We encourage students to choose advisors in their concentration or area of interest.

INTERNSHIPS

All students are expected to complete an internship of their choosing in a planning-related position between their first and second years of study.

Ph.D. Program

The doctoral program in City and Regional Planning at the University of California, Berkeley prepares students for careers in teaching, research, and professional practice. The program is recognized nationally and internationally as a source of planning educators, researchers, theoreticians, and practitioners. The goals of PhD program include:

- To provide competent and critical understanding of current planning theories and practices;
- To educate graduates who have deep expertise in one or more areas of specialization within planning while being broadly educated about the entire field of planning;
- To prepare graduates to be experts at identifying and refining researchable questions in city and regional planning & policy analysis;
- To develop sophistication in research methods
- To guide students as they prepare doctoral dissertations involving original research in the fields of city and regional planning;
- To create and nurture a supportive community devoted to planning scholarship.

The DCRP PhD program allows students to pursue traditional city and regional planning fields or explore novel courses of study and research. The program is also outward-looking, encouraging students to explore courses and fields available across the campus.

Students are expected to complete five requirements: (1) Planning Theory; (2) Field Requirements, including Inside and Outside Field; (3) Research Methods; (4) Oral Qualifying Examination; and (5) Dissertation. The average time to complete the Ph.D. program ranges between five to six years.