

Urban Studies and Planning

Course 11

Do you care about the way cities work and settings change? Do you want to know how citizens can minimize their environmental impact? Do you have specific ideas about how society could be improved? Are you an activist? Are you looking for an outlet for your ideas? The Department of Urban Studies and Planning at MIT can teach you how to put those ideas into action.

City and regional planning is involved in shaping the patterns of human settlement and in providing housing, public services, employment opportunities, and other crucial support systems that make up a sustainable living environment. The subjects in the major teach students how the tools of economics, policy analysis, political science, and urban design can be used to solve social and environmental problems in the United States and abroad. In addition, students learn the skills and responsibilities of planners who seek to promote effective and equitable social change.

Urban Studies and Planning at MIT

The Department of Urban Studies and Planning (DUSP) at MIT is the top-ranked department of its kind in the country. The undergraduate program is small and offers the motivated student a flexible environment with a high degree of faculty contact.

Since its inception in 1933, the department has consistently remained one of the top planning schools in the country. It has the largest planning faculty in the United States, now totaling close to 60 teaching faculty members. The department is organized around the following core questions of engagement and progressive change: "Can we make a difference in the world? Can we design better cities? Can we help places grow more sustainably? Can we help communities thrive? Can we help advance equitable world development?"

Students at DUSP find a unique program reflected in the department's goals and objectives:

- The integration of MIT's vast technological resources into planning practice and education.
- The presence of practitioners as well as scholars among the faculty.
- The education of students for practice in the public, private, and nonprofit arenas.

Undergraduate Program

Nearly two dozen undergraduate subjects are offered within the department every year. Students may focus on urban and environmental policy and planning; urban society, history, and politics; or urban and regional public policy. Undergraduate students are also welcome to enroll in most Master's level courses offered by the department. Joint courses are offered with the Center for Real Estate and the Departments of Architecture, Engineering, Political Science, and Economics. DUSP courses include work in planning, statistics, and analysis of social problems, as well as in-depth study in one of four specializations. Two subjects are recommended for undergraduates as an introduction to the department: "Introduction to Urban Design and Development" and "Making Public Policy."

In addition, DUSP also hosts MIT's Teacher Education Program (TEP), which provides an option for students interested in exploring new ideas in teaching and learning as applied to K-12 schools. Studies in TEP can also lead to licensure in math or science teaching at the high school or middle school levels.

Minor in Urban Studies & Planning

The six-subject Minor in Urban Studies and Planning offers students an excellent opportunity to explore issues in urban studies and planning in some depth. Students initially take subjects that establish the government, economic, and urban design contexts for local, urban, and regional decision-making. Next,