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# Joint Master in Urban Planning and Master of Public Health Degree



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
Powerful ideas for a healthier world



Harvard University  
Graduate School of Design

## OVERVIEW

The master in urban planning (MUP) and master of public health (MPH) joint degree program at the Harvard Graduate School of Design and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health is designed to support students seeking a transdisciplinary education in urban planning and public health, and prepare them for leadership positions at the intersection of these fields. By enrolling concurrently in both the MUP and the 65-credit MPH, students will be introduced to the domestic and international issues entailed in promoting and designing healthier communities, cities, and metropolitan areas, as well as the environmental, social, and health issues that result from specific building and city designs.

The fields of urban planning and public health were tightly intertwined when they were first developed, with common goals of eliminating poverty and decreasing infectious diseases in emerging cities. Recently in the face of increasing urbanization and globalization, the fields have reconnected. There is a renewed recognition of the need for leaders to understand both disciplines to effectively influence planning and policy, and improve and protect the public's health.

The MUP/MPH joint degree program is an integrated experience that provides the student with a deeper, more cohesive understanding of the two distinct fields. The benefit of the concurrent degree program is that students are able to interweave and integrate coursework in the foundations of public health with the principles of urban planning and receive two degrees in one semester fewer than it would take to complete both degrees separately. This unique program provides students with the opportunity to gain skills in a number of areas including policy, sustainability, and social determinants of health.

Students may apply concurrently to the master in urban planning program at the Harvard Graduate School of Design and the master of public health 65-credit program at the Harvard Chan School. Current MUP students in their first year of study at the GSD also are eligible to apply. As part of the MUP/MPH joint degree program, students must complete their first year of study at the GSD. Thus, students currently enrolled in the 65-credit MPH program at the Harvard Chan School are not eligible to apply to the joint degree program. In the Harvard Chan School application through SOPHAS ([www.sophas.org](http://www.sophas.org)), applicants should indicate in their statement of purpose and objectives which MPH-65 field of study they wish to pursue (health and social behavior, health management, health policy, or nutrition).

A committee made up of Harvard Chan professor Francine Laden and GSD professor Ann Forsyth ("Faculty Committee") oversees the joint degree program. The Faculty Committee is responsible for making decisions regarding the structure and requirements of the program and for working with the students enrolled in the program.

## DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The MUP is a full-time degree program completed in four semesters with a total of 80 units. The MPH is a full-time degree program completed in three semesters, plus a summer, with a total of 65 credits. While the two degrees separately would total to seven semesters, plus a summer, the joint degree enables students to obtain an MUP and an MPH in six semesters.

During their time studying, students must satisfy all curricular course requirements for both the MUP and MPH programs required of all non-joint degree students.

### Course Requirements:

A total of six full-time semesters of coursework and a project-based learning experience is required for the MUP/MPH joint degree program. A full-time semester is equivalent to 20 units at GSD or 20 credits at the Harvard Chan School.

### Credit / Unit Conversion:

2.5 credits at the Harvard Chan School is equivalent to 2 units at the GSD

5 credits at the Harvard Chan School is equivalent to 4 units at the GSD

### The MUP requirements consist of the following:

For detailed information about the MUP curriculum and degree requirements, please refer to the link below listing the requirements in place at the time of matriculation into the joint degree program: [www.gsd.harvard.edu/resources/current-mup-degree-requirements](http://www.gsd.harvard.edu/resources/current-mup-degree-requirements)

### Core Studios (16 units):

- STU 1121 Core Urban Planning Studio I (8 units)
- STU 1122 Core Urban Planning Studio II (8 units)

### Course Requirements (12 units):

- VIS 2129 Spatial Analysis and the Built Environment (4 units)
- HIS 4115 History and Theory of Urban Inventions (4 units)
- SES 5103 Public and Private Development (4 units)

### Methods Requirements (12 units, with some alternative options):

- SES 5215 Analytic Methods of Urban Planning: Quantitative (2 units) —can be met with MPH biostatistics requirement (e.g., ID 201 or BST 201)
- SES 5216 Analytic Methods of Urban Planning: Qualitative (2 units)
- Economic methods requirement (4 units, choice from approved list)
- Implementation methods requirement (4 units, choice from approved list)

### Area of Concentration Requirement (12 units)

### Project-Based Learning Requirement (a minimum of 8 units)

- Option studios (up to 16 units) OR independent thesis (8 units, plus 4 units of ADV 9204), OR project-based courses (8 units minimum)

### Electives

## The MPH requirements consist of the following:

For detailed information about the MPH curriculum and degree requirements, please refer to the MPH-65 Curriculum Guide: [hsph.me/mph-curr-guide](https://hsph.me/mph-curr-guide)

### MPH Public Health Core Curriculum

- **Biostatistics and Epidemiology Core** (7.5-10 credits)
  - ID 201, Core Principles of Biostatistics and Epidemiology for Public Health Practice (7.5 credits), or BST 201, EPI 201, and EPI 202 (10 credits)
- **Foundations of Public Health** (online, non-credit short course)
- **MPH Core Short Course Sequence** (6.25 credits)
- **Applied Practice Experience** – can be fulfilled with one of the fall GSD courses from the list of MUP project-based courses (with approval from MUP/MPH faculty committee): [www.gsd.harvard.edu/resources/current-mup-degree-requirements](http://www.gsd.harvard.edu/resources/current-mup-degree-requirements)
- **Integrative Learning Experience** – fulfilled with an appropriate course at the Harvard Chan School
  - Students in the environmental health sciences field of study will enroll in EH 263 (5 credits) in Fall of their third year (current EHS students only)
  - Students in the nutrition field of study will enroll in NUT 232 (2.5 credits) in Fall 2 of their third year
  - For the health and social behavior, health management, and health policy fields of study, students will enroll in an approved independent study course by Spring of their third year

### Field of Study Requirements

Students must also fulfill requirements specific to their selected MPH field of study. For more information, please review the relevant field of study section in the MPH-65 Curriculum Guide: [hsph.me/mph-curr-guide](https://hsph.me/mph-curr-guide).

(Please note that the MPH-65 environmental health sciences field of study will not be accepting any new applicants for the 2020-2021 academic year and the MPH-65 global health field of study will no longer be offered.)

### Electives

Students have some credits available for elective courses, which may be taken at the Harvard Chan School or by cross-registering.

Note: MUP/MPH joint degree students must have a minimum of 45 credits on their Harvard Chan School transcript. These credits may include courses taken outside of the Harvard Chan School. Out of the 45 credits, 42.5 credits must be ordinal, and 2.5 credits may be pass/fail if used for an approved independent study course to fulfill the integrated learning experience requirement.

### **Applied Practice Experience:**

Both degree programs have an applied practice experience component. At the GSD, MUP students traditionally select to engage in project-based courses, an independent research thesis, or an elective studio to fulfill their intensive, project-based learning requirement. MPH students at the Harvard Chan School traditionally engage in a practicum that takes place in an agency, institution, or community. The joint degree program has the benefit of combining the applied practice activities required for both degrees into a single experience, providing students with direct practice to apply, integrate, and enhance their theoretical and practical skills development in both degree programs. At the same time, students develop the interpersonal, leadership, and communication skills necessary to be a productive member of any organization or team. They gain valuable experience in applying principles of both public health and urban planning.

Thus, students in the joint degree program will be expected to develop their applied practice experience for the MPH within the structure already in place at the GSD during the third year, with the understanding that this project will incorporate a public health theme. Joint degree students may select one of the fall GSD courses from the list of MUP project-based courses and use this course to fulfill the MPH applied practice experience requirement. Students should discuss their proposed GSD course(s) for the MUP project-based learning requirement with the MUP/MPH faculty committee to ensure that the selected course will also meet the applied practice experience requirement for the MPH.

In their final fall semester, at the beginning of the selected GSD course(s) that will be used to meet the MPH applied practice experience, students must also complete a Learning Agreement for the Harvard Chan School which outlines the scope, deliverables, work plan, and timeframe for the project. Learning Agreements are submitted through the CareerConnect web portal.

In their final spring semester, students will be required to submit two products that demonstrate attainment of five competencies, three of which are foundational competencies, and two of which are specific to their MPH field of study ([hsph.me/mph-competencies](https://hsph.me/mph-competencies)). Additionally, students will be required to present a poster in one of the MPH practice classes (but will not be required to enroll in the class).

A committee made up of designated faculty from both Schools will oversee the placement and supervision of students including appropriate matching of students and the MPH applied practice experience to ensure that the requirements for both degrees are met.

### **Integrative Learning Experience:**

Joint degree students will meet the integrative learning experience requirement for the MPH by taking an appropriate course at the Harvard Chan School. For the environmental health sciences field of study, students will enroll in EH 263 (5 credits) in fall of their third year to fulfill this requirement (current EHS students only). For the nutrition field of study, students will enroll in NUT 232 (2.5 credits) in Fall 2 of their third year to fulfill this requirement. For the health and social behavior, health management, and health policy fields of study, students will enroll in an approved independent study course by spring of their third year to fulfill this requirement.

## Sample Curriculum

### Year one

At the GSD

FALL FIRST YEAR			WINTER	SPRING FIRST YEAR			SUMMER
STU 1121	Core Urban Planning Studio I	8.0		STU 1122	Core Urban Planning Studio II	8.0	
VIS 2129	Spatial Analysis and the Built Environment	4.0		SES 5103	Public and Private Development	4.0	
HIS 4115	History and Theory of Urban Interventions	4.0			Economic Methods Requirement	4.0	
SES 5216	Analytic Methods: Qualitative	2.0			Implementation Methods Requirement	4.0	
Electives		2.0				0	
TOTAL CREDITS		20				20	

### Year two

At the Harvard Chan School

FALL SECOND YEAR			WINTER	SPRING SECOND YEAR			SUMMER
ID 201	Core Principles of Biostatistics and Epidemiology for Public Health Practice	7.5	Varies*		MPH Field of Study Requirements / Electives		
MPH 100a-e	MPH Core Short Course Sequence	6.25					
	MPH Field of Study Requirements / Electives						
Electives							
TOTAL CREDITS		Up to 27.5	Varies			Up to 27.5	

\*All full-time MPH students are expected to participate in a Winter Session activity that furthers their educational goals and is approved by the MPH Program Office – Office of Educational Programs. To learn more, visit [hsph.me/mpw-winter-session](https://hsph.me/mpw-winter-session).

### Year three

One semester at the GSD and one semester at the Harvard Chan School

FALL THIRD YEAR			WINTER	SPRING THIRD YEAR			SUMMER
	Area of Concentration Requirement for MUP	12.0			MPH Field of Study Requirements / Electives		
	Project-Based Learning Requirement for MUP, including one GSD project-based course to also fulfill the Applied Practice Experience Requirement for MPH	8.0			Integrative Learning Experience Requirement for MPH (varies by field of study)		
	Integrative Learning Experience Requirement for MPH (varies by field of study)						
Electives							
TOTAL CREDITS		20+				Up to 27.5	

## **CAREER GUIDANCE AND OPPORTUNITIES**

Master's degree students find employment in a wide variety of capacities representing the diversity of design and public health practice. Faculty and alumni from both Schools have extensive networks locally, nationally, and internationally in a wide range of settings including governments, nongovernmental organizations, universities, private industry, and consulting. For example, faculty from both the GSD and the Harvard Chan School are collaborating on a joint initiative in India. This could provide opportunities and experiences for students in the MUP/MPH joint degree program. Students are advised to begin their networking activities as soon as commencing their studies and to continue to clarify their specific career path as they proceed through their degree programs. Internships, practicum, supervised and independent practice activities, and urban planning and public health alumni assist in this process as well through the above-mentioned internships and career panel presentations.

Students are directed to make full use of the Office for Career Advancement, its online databases, and wide range of workshops focusing on such areas as CV writing, career searching, interviewing, and networking.

As with their academic studies, students are advised that ultimately the success of their career search lies with their own efforts. While office and department/program faculty and staff provide a wealth and diversity of resources for students, the final trajectory of their careers are in their own hands.

### **Potential Careers and Positions of Graduates:**

Graduate School of Design and Harvard Chan graduates choose a variety of career paths. Graduates secure positions in a wide range of international, national, regional, and local organizations, agencies, government departments, industries, consulting businesses, and institutions, which allow them to continue and expand their interest in urban design and public health practice. Career advice and opportunities are offered in a number of ways – through one-on-one career coaching, job postings, career fairs, and networking through faculty and alumni.

## **COMPETENCIES**

### **Harvard Chan's Competency and Application-Based MPH Curriculum:**

The MPH public health core curriculum is developed in accordance with the Council on Education for Public Health's Foundational Public Health Knowledge learning objectives and MPH Foundational Competencies required of all students receiving an MPH degree at accredited institutions. The 22 MPH Foundational Competencies are informed by the traditional public health core knowledge areas, (biostatistics, epidemiology, environmental health sciences, health services administration, and social and behavioral sciences), as well as cross-cutting and emerging public health areas. To learn more, visit [hsph.me/mph-competencies](https://hsph.me/mph-competencies).

The 12 Foundational Public Health Knowledge learning objectives and the 22 MPH Foundational Competencies are primarily met through the Harvard Chan MPH public health core curriculum, the Applied Practice Experience, and the Integrative Learning Experience. Each field of study has defined five distinct competencies that enhance the 12 Foundational Public Health Knowledge learning objectives and the 22 MPH Foundational Competencies.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Do I apply directly to the joint degree program? How do I apply?**

There is no direct application to the joint MUP/MPH program. Prospective students must separately apply and be admitted to both the Harvard Graduate School of Design and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. In the Harvard Chan School application through SOPHAS ([www.sophas.org](http://www.sophas.org)), applicants should indicate in their statement of purpose and objectives which MPH-65 field of study they wish to pursue (health and social behavior, health management, health policy, or nutrition). For the MUP program, visit [www.gsd.harvard.edu/admissions](http://www.gsd.harvard.edu/admissions); for the MPH program, visit [hsph.me/admissions](http://hsph.me/admissions)

### **What would my course of study look like if I pursue an MUP/MPH joint degree?**

Students may complete both the MUP and MPH degrees in six semesters of intensive full-time study. Students must enroll in the MUP program for their first and second semesters followed by enrollment in the MPH program in their third and fourth semesters. The final year is split between MUP and MPH enrollment. Students are encouraged to integrate their knowledge in both programs from the start, as those enrolled in either program may take courses to fulfill degree requirements via cross-registration. When registered at the Graduate School of Design, students cross-register for MPH classes; when registered at the Harvard Chan School, they cross-register for GSD classes.

### **If I have already started in a degree program, can I transfer into the joint degree program?**

Since this is not a separate degree, students cannot transfer directly into the program. Students who have started coursework at the Graduate School of Design in the MUP program are able to apply to the Harvard Chan School and start the interdisciplinary degree after their first year at the GSD. As part of the MUP/MPH joint degree program, students must complete their first year of study at the GSD. Thus, students currently enrolled in the 65-credit MPH program at the Harvard Chan School are not eligible to apply to the joint degree program.

### **What are tuition costs for the MUP/MPH joint degree program?**

Pursuing the MUP and MPH through the joint degree program results in some tuition savings, compared to pursuing the two degrees separately. Tuition is paid as follows:

	<b>GSD Tuition Paid</b>	<b>Harvard Chan Tuition Paid</b>
<b>First Year Students (at GSD):</b>	Full (2 semesters) + Student Activity Fee	None
<b>Second Year Students (at SPH):</b>	None	Full (2 semesters)
<b>Third Year Students:</b>	1 semester's worth (instead of 2) + Student Activity Fee	1 semester's worth (instead of 2)

Students also are charged for the Harvard University Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) and the Harvard University Student Health Fee (SHF) each year.

**How do I apply for financial aid?**

First year: Joint degree program students should apply for financial aid through both schools to know whether scholarships will be offered; however, the GSD Financial Aid Office will process loans/and or Federal Work-Study (FWS) for those eligible.

Second year: Students should apply through the Harvard Chan Office of Financial Aid for loans and/or FWS.

Third year: Students can chose either school to process loans and/or FWS. Please note that the annual federal direct unsubsidized loan limit is higher at the Harvard Chan School since it is a health professions school (\$33,000) than at the GSD (\$20,500).

**Can I take courses at the adjoining school during any semester of the degree?**

Yes, students can cross-register between schools at any point in the degree program.

**What career opportunities are available with an MUP/MPH?**

In addition to the specific areas of expertise developed in their MPH field of study, students will be prepared for positions that involve urban planning and design both in developed and developing societies and policy development and evaluation at the local, state, or federal level, among others.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Harvard Graduate School of Design

- Admissions:  
[Gail Gustafson](#) and [Geri Nederhoff](#), Admissions Directors;  
48 Quincy Street, Gund Hall 422, Cambridge, MA 02138  
[admissions@gsd.harvard.edu](mailto:admissions@gsd.harvard.edu); 617-495-5453  
[www.gsd.harvard.edu/admissions](http://www.gsd.harvard.edu/admissions)
- Financial Aid Office: [financial\\_aid@gsd.harvard.edu](mailto:financial_aid@gsd.harvard.edu); 617-495-5455
- Program Information:  
John Aslanian, Director of Recruitment; [jjaslanian@gsd.harvard.edu](mailto:jjaslanian@gsd.harvard.edu); 617-496-4559  
Sean Conlon, Registrar; [sconlon@gsd.harvard.edu](mailto:sconlon@gsd.harvard.edu); 617-496-5154

### Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

- Admissions:  
158 Longwood Avenue, Boston, MA 02115  
[admissions@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:admissions@hsph.harvard.edu); 617-432-1031  
[hsph.me/admissions](http://hsph.me/admissions)
- Office of Financial Aid: [osfs@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:osfs@hsph.harvard.edu); 617-432-1867
- Program Information: MPH Program Office – Office of Educational Programs;  
[mph@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:mph@hsph.harvard.edu); 617-432-0090