The program leading to the degree of Master of Urban Planning (MUP) consists of 48 semester units of coursework, normally requiring the equivalent of two years full-time graduate study to complete. In addition, students without prior planning experience complete a professional work experience requirement.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

*Core Seminars and Laboratory/Fieldwork Courses*

Students take a series of eight required courses (26 units total) that, collectively, provide a comprehensive background in the theories, methods, and practices underpinning contemporary planning practice. These required classes are URBP 200, 204, 225, 236, 241 (2 units), 275G (1 unit), 295 (6 units), and 297P (1 unit, prerequisite for enrolling in URBP 298A). Course descriptions and syllabi can be found at [http://www.sjsu.edu/urbanplanning/courses/](http://www.sjsu.edu/urbanplanning/courses/).

*Planning Report*

Students enroll in URBP 298A (3 units) and 298B (3 units) during the last two semesters of study. In these classes, students prepare a major planning report that represents an independent contribution to the field.

*Electives*

Students select a total of four elective courses (16 units) in conference with an advisor. Electives (upper-division undergraduate or graduate courses) from outside the Urban & Regional Planning Department may be taken, but must first be approved by the Graduate Advisor. Students are reminded that they must complete a minimum of 16 units of elective courses.

**WRITING SKILLS TEST (WST) REQUIREMENT**

The department requires students to take the WST before they begin the MUP program or during their first semester. Students must submit WST score reports to the urban planning department office during their first semester in the program. Students who fail the WST must take corrective action immediately to prepare to take the test again. Proof of passage of the WST is required to enroll in URBP 236, and URBP 298A, and for graduation. (This WST requirement is waived only for students who have completed a bachelors or masters degree from a California State University campus.)

The WST is administered at the SJSU campus. For information on registration and test dates, visit the Testing and Evaluation office website at testing.sjsu.edu or call (408) 924-5980.

**PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENT**

To graduate, students must have at least 180 hours of professional work experience in urban and regional planning or a closely related field. Students fulfill the requirement with an internship or professional employment during their time in the program. (If the student has completed such work on a paid or voluntary basis within five years of entering the program, then additional professional experience is recommended but not required. Paperwork confirming the experience must be submitted to the department.)

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1 For students entering the program Fall 2016 or after. For information about program requirements prior to this date, please contact the department graduate advisor.
**Areas of Focus**

**Affordable Housing and Community Development Finance**
This focus area provides students with a deep understanding of the interrelationships between urban & regional development, housing markets (especially affordable housing market), and financing of public infrastructure and services. Elective courses in this concentration are:

- URBP 205 Private Development and Urban Planning
- URBP 223 Housing Economics and Policy
- URBP 250 Urban Planning Public Finance
- URBP 255 Urban and Regional Growth Management

**Applications of Technology in Planning**
This focus area enables students to develop knowledge and skills for using computer technology in the planning process. Classes and studies draw on the rich agglomeration of technical applications and skills available in the Silicon Valley region. Elective courses in this concentration are:

- URBP 232 Urban Design Studio
- URBP 248 Spatial Visualization Technology in Urban Planning
- URBP 276 Social Media & Planning
- URBP 278 Geographic Information Systems Planning Applications
- URBP 279 Advanced GIS Planning Applications

**Community Design and Development**
This focus area provides students with knowledge and skills that planners use to ensure that development in our communities is equitable and inclusive; respects the needs and aspirations of residents of diverse cultural, racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds; and considers the process by which buildings, open spaces, streets and all the other physical elements of the city and towns are arranged to define local character. Towards that aim, this area examines the interactions among social, economic, political, and cultural factors and the built environment. Elective courses in this concentration are:

- URBP 163 Twentieth Century Urban Design (3 units)
- URBP 231 Urban Design in Planning
- URBP 232 Urban Design Studio
- URBP 233 Social Issues in Planning
- URBP 248 Spatial Visualization Technology in Urban Planning
- URBP 255 Urban and Regional Growth Management

**Environmental Planning**
The linkage between the built environment and the natural environment is a subject of growing concern to planners at the local, regional, and national levels. This focus area prepares graduates to understand the linkages between land use patterns and the natural environment, as well as the policy tools that planners use to promote sustainable urban development. Elective courses in this concentration are:

- URBP 185 Environmental Impact Analysis
- URBP 190 Advanced Environmental Impact Analysis
- URBP 240 Environmental Planning
- URBP 260 Environmental Planning Topics (repeatable for credit)

**Real Estate Development**
This focus area is designed to help current and aspiring real estate developers and city planners to prepare for successful real estate development careers. More particularly, they will acquire the knowledge and skills needed to initiate, navigate, and manage real estate development projects located in existing communities in Northern California. Courses marked with an asterisk are required. Elective courses in this concentration are:

- URBP 205 Private Development and Urban Planning (3 units)
- URBP 206 Market Analysis, Appraisal, and Finance of Real Estate Development (3 units)
- URBP 208 Urban Real Estate Development Studio (3 units)
- URBP 223 Housing Economics and Policy

**Transportation and Land Use Planning**
Students in this focus area learn the principles of transportation and land-use planning at the local and regional levels. In today’s rapidly growing regions, planners recognize that transportation and land use planning are intricately connected and must be planned together to allow residents and freight carriers to access destinations quickly and efficiently, improve accessibility options for residents who cannot or choose not to drive, and build economically and environmentally sustainable communities. Elective courses in this concentration are:

- URBP 211 Regional Analysis and Planning
- URBP 226 Regional Transportation Planning
- URBP 255 Urban Growth Management
- URBP 256 Local Transportation Planning

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