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# Dual 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) dual 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 pursuing the dual degree, 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 dual degree program provides the student with a deeper, more cohesive understanding of the two distinct fields. The benefit of the dual degree program is that students can combine coursework in public health and urban planning. This unique program provides students with the opportunity to gain skills in a number of areas including policy, sustainability, and social determinants of health.

## **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 two semesters with a total of 45 credits. To learn more about the MUP and MPH curricula and degree requirements, please refer to the [MUP Degree Requirements](#) and [MPH-45 Curriculum Guide](#).

During their time studying, students must satisfy all curricular course requirements for both the MUP and MPH programs required of all non-dual degree students. Students pursuing the dual degree must be in good standing at the end of their first year at GSD.

A committee made up of Harvard Chan professor Francine Laden and GSD professor Ann Forsyth ("Faculty Committee") oversees the dual 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.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

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

There is no direct application to the dual MUP/MPH program. To pursue the MUP/MPH dual degree, students must apply and be admitted to the master in urban planning program at the Harvard Graduate School of Design and the master of public health 45-credit program (not the 65-credit program) at the Harvard Chan School at the same time. (Students currently enrolled in the MUP program at GSD are not eligible to apply to the dual degree program.)

In their statement of purpose and objectives, MUP/MPH applicants should indicate which MPH-45 field of study they want to pursue, with the following exceptions:

- Dual degree applicants may not apply for the MPH-45 Clinical Effectiveness field of study because it starts with the summer Program in Clinical Effectiveness (PCE) and only accepts clinicians who have completed their residency.
- Dual degrees pertain to residential degree programs, therefore dual degree applicants are not eligible to apply to the hybrid MPH in Epidemiology or the online MPH Generalist fields of study.

Certain fields of study within the MPH-45 program have specific admissions requirements. Please review the [eligibility requirements](#) for your desired MPH-45 field of study carefully. The first year of study in the MUP program at GSD may be counted as the equivalent of one year of work experience.

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

- First year: Students complete the first half of the MUP program at GSD (and are granted a one-year deferral to the MPH 45-credit program).
- Second year: Students complete the MPH 45-credit program at the Harvard Chan School, full-time.
- Third year: Students complete the second half of the MUP program at GSD. Students receive the MUP and MPH degrees upon successful completion of the academic requirements for each degree.

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

Since this is not a separate degree, students cannot transfer directly into the program.

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

Tuition and fees are assessed separately for the MUP and MPH programs. For further details, please see GSD tuition and fees and Harvard Chan tuition and fees. 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: Dual 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: The GSD Financial Aid Office will process loans/and or FWS for those eligible.

### **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:  
[www.gsd.harvard.edu/admissions](http://www.gsd.harvard.edu/admissions)  
[admissions@gsd.harvard.edu](mailto:admissions@gsd.harvard.edu)
- Financial Aid Office: [financial\\_aid@gsd.harvard.edu](mailto:financial_aid@gsd.harvard.edu)
- Program Information:  
Sean Conlon, Registrar, Director of Enrollment Services;  
[sconlon@gsd.harvard.edu](mailto:sconlon@gsd.harvard.edu)

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

- Admissions:  
[hsph.me/admissions](http://hsph.me/admissions)  
[admissions@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:admissions@hsph.harvard.edu)
- Office of Financial Aid: [financialaid@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:financialaid@hsph.harvard.edu)
- Program Information:  
MPH Program Office – Office of Educational Programs  
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