



(2019)

1.0 Degree Title

Please specify the two degrees for concurrent degree programs

M.Sc.

2.0 Administering Faculty or GPS

Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

1.1 Major (Subject/Discipline) (30-char. max.)

Urban Planning, Policy and Design

Offering Faculty & Department

Engineering / School of Urban Planning

1.2 Concentration (Option) (30 char. max.)

3.0 Effective Term of Implementation

(Ex. Sept. 2019 or 201909)

Term

202209

1.3 Complete Program Title (info from boxes 1.0+1.1+1.2+5.2)

M.Sc. in Urban Planning, Policy and Design (Thesis)

4.0 Rationale and Admission Requirements for New Program/Concentration

See attached.

5.0 Program Information

Indicate an "x" as appropriate

5.1 Program Type

Bachelor's Program

X Master's

M.Sc.(Applied) Program

Dual Degree/Concurrent Program

Certificate

Diploma

Graduate Certificate

Graduate Diploma

Professional Development Cert

Ph.D. Program

Doctorate Program

(Other than Ph.D.)

Self-Funded/Private Program

Off-Campus Program

Distance Education Program

Other (Please specify)

5.2 Category

Faculty Program (FP)

Major

Joint Major

Major Concentration (CON)

Minor

Minor Concentration (CON)

Honours (HON)

Joint Honours Component (HC)

Internship/Co-op

X Thesis (T)

Non-Thesis (N)

Other

Please specify

5.3 Level

Undergraduate

Dentistry/Law/Medicine

Continuing Studies (Non-Credit)

Collegial

X Masters & Grad Dips & Certs

Doctorate

Post-Graduate Medicine/Dentistry

Graduate Qualifying

5.4 Requires Centrally Funded

Resources

Yes ___ No X

6.0 Total Credits or CEUs (if latter, indicate "CEUs" in box)

45

7.0 Consultation with

Related Units

X Yes No

Financial Consult

Yes X No

Attach list of consultations

8.0 Program Description (Maximum 150 words)

The M.Sc. in Urban Planning, Policy and Design (Thesis) is centered around an independent research thesis. Original research on an urban issue of interest with implications for planning, policy or design will be conducted. The program focuses on critical skills in research, analysis and interpretation that are applicable in academia and practice.

9.0 List of proposed new Program/Concentration

If new concentration (option) of existing program, a program layout (list of all courses) of existing program **must** be attached.

Proposed program (list courses as follows: Subj Code/Crse Num, Title, Credit Weight under the headings of: Required Courses, Complementary Courses, Elective Courses)

M.Sc. in Urban Planning, Policy and Design (Thesis)
(45 credits)

Required courses (27 credits)

URBP 606D1 Research Seminar (3 credits)
URBP 606D2 Research Seminar (3 credits)
URBP 612 History and Theory of Planning (3 credits)
URBP 690 Thesis Submission (18 credits)

Complementary Courses (12 credits)

3 credits selected from the following research methods courses:


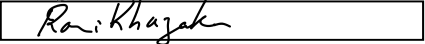

URBP 505 Geographic Information Systems (3 credits)
URBP 608 Advanced GIS Applications (3 credits)
URBP 633 Research Methods for Planners (3 credits)
URBP 640 Introduction to Planning Statistics (1 credit)
URBP 641 Reading the Urban Landscape (1 credit)
URBP 642 Introduction to Planning Data (1 credit)
URBP 643 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (1 credit)
URBP 644 Multivariate Statistics (1 credit)
URBP 645 Social Research Methods 1 (1 credit)
URBP 646 Social Research Methods 2 (1 credit)
URBP 647 Selected Methods in Planning 1 (1 credit)
URBP 648 Selected Methods in Planning 2 (1 credit)

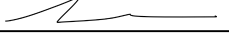
Note: Students may also take research methods courses at the 500 or 600 level in other academic units at McGill or another Montreal university, subject to the approval of the School.

9 credits selected from among the 500 or 600 level URBP courses offered by the school.

Elective Courses (6 credits)

6 credits offered at the 500 or 600 level by any academic units at McGill or at another Montreal university, with the approval of the School, if they are related to one or more subject areas in the field of planning. Choices usually include courses in urban geography, sociology, anthropology, law, politics, and environmental science. Students must confirm with the Thesis Supervisor prior to registration that the selected course(s) can be counted toward the M.Sc. program.

10.0 Approvals			
Routing Sequence	Name	Signature	Meeting Date
Department	Richard Shearmur		April 20, 2021
Curric/Acad Committee	Roni Khazaka		May 5, 2021
Faculty 1	Roni Khazaka		May 25, 2021
Faculty 2			
Faculty 3			
CGPS			
SCTP			
APC			
Senate			

Submitted by		To be completed by ES:	
Name	Anna Kramer 		
Phone		CIP Code	
Email	anna.kramer@mcgill.ca		
Submission Date	June 1, 2021		

REMINDERS:

*Box 5.4 – Must be completed; see section 6.5.4 within the New Program Guidelines at:

<https://www.mcgill.ca/sctp/guidelines>.

**All new program proposals must be accompanied by a 2-3 page support document.

Program Rationale

The rationale for adding this program to those already offered by the school is to diversify our offerings to clearly differentiate the paths for graduate students in urban planning. Our existing professional Masters of Urban Planning (M.U.P.) has a high proportion of standardized courses to meet the external competencies set by the Professional Standards Board for the Planning Profession in Canada (PSB). The professional degree is focused on a series of studios, where students work in teams to build collaboration skills and experience in planning practice. The PSB increasing accreditation requirements and the studio focus don't leave enough space for a full research thesis, although students complete a capstone independent research paper. The M.Sc. Thesis program will offer an alternative Masters degree serving students interested in completing a substantive independent research project who are considering a PhD or research-based career in urban policy. This program would:

1. Increase student enrollment within current resources

Our current enrollment to a yearly cohort maximum of 25 students into the MUP degree is limited by the capacity of our studio courses, where students work in teams to build collaboration skills. With more than 200 applicants a year, we have a large and high-quality applicant pool to draw from demonstrating a strong demand for urban planning graduate study. We currently have many excellent applicants and turn away those with an accredited undergraduate planning degree. Opening up a research-based thesis will allow us to moderately increase our student intake without requiring additional resources: most of the School's complementary courses have the capacity to accommodate at least 5 more students. We anticipate that we would enroll around 10 thesis students each year and decrease the MUP cohort to 20 students per year, for a total cohort of 30 students.

2. Maintain and expand funding opportunities for student research

Our Masters students have strong success rates in terms of funding for their capstone research papers. However, funding bodies such as the Fonds du recherche du Québec and the federal Tri-Council fellowship programs are shifting funding opportunities away from professional programs towards thesis-based masters programs. An in-depth independent thesis project would continue to qualify for funding. This would allow us to use our dedicated alumni-funded scholarships for needs-based MUP funding, diversifying our funding streams and increasing equity-based access to our programs.

3. Strengthen research capacity

Our complement of core faculty members has grown in the last 20 years with a major emphasis on research, and we have consequently diversified our array of complementary courses, but some of these courses remain undersubscribed relative to their potential. We have a recently approved PhD program in Urban Planning, Policy and Design and are welcoming a growing cohort of PhD students. A Thesis-based masters would create a pathway for individuals considering the PhD program to work with faculty, enabling faculty to involve graduate students more effectively in longer-term research projects. Students who wish to develop a substantial piece of original research would benefit significantly from crafting a fully developed project expressed as a thesis. Faculty research supervision would be directed to the thesis students and growing cohort of PhD students in our recently approved PhD program.

Of the peer institutions in Canada offering urban planning programs in English, such as the University of British Columbia's SCARP and the University of Toronto's Department of Geography and Planning, only the Planning MES degree at York University's Faculty of Environment and Urban Change offers a thesis option. Most thesis-based Masters programs focusing on urban issues are found in sister social science and humanities disciplines such as Geography, Sociology, Political Science, and Urban Studies, rather than in Urban Planning. Of French-language programs in Quebec, the Université de Montréal's Faculté de l'aménagement offers a *Maîtrise Ville, territoire et paysage* that requires an academic research *mémoire*, but is not offered in English. The INRS's *Maîtrise en Études Urbaines* is an urban studies program that does not have an urban planning or design emphasis. McGill's proposed thesis-based Masters in Urban Planning, Policy and Design would complement existing programs at peer institutions by offering an English-language research-based masters focusing on urban planning and design issues.

In summary, offering a thesis program will allow us to build on our research capacity by involving students in more in-depth independent research project and support equity of access through funding opportunities. For students, it will offer new pathways to research-based careers in urban issues in the public, private, and non-profit sectors and open up pathways to further academic study.