Joint Master's Degree

Department of Economics
&
Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning (UEP)

There is a natural linkage between economics and urban and environmental policy and planning issues. Important public policy and planning questions have motivated some of the classic studies in economics, and the tools of economic analysis can be applied to a wide variety of policy and planning questions. Many students receiving master degrees in economics find employment in the policy and/or planning sector, and would benefit from courses explicitly directed at public policy and planning issues. Students studying public policy and planning would benefit from an exposure to the analytical tools of economics.

Application Process
Applicants should choose “Urban/Env. Policy & Planning and Economics” as the program of study. One personal statement addressing interest in the joint degree program should be submitted. Applicants must meet all application guidelines and deadlines set forth by the individual academic departments. Applications are evaluated by both departments using the same criteria that are applied to applicants of the MA degree in UEP and the MS degree in Economics. An applicant will be accepted into the joint program only if he/she is accepted by both the UEP and Economics Departments. Applicants who are accepted into only one program can choose to enroll in the graduate degree program in that department. Tuition for the joint degree is the same as tuition for the UEP MA program. Students accepted into the joint degree program are eligible for financial assistance subject to availability and need.

Tufts graduate students currently enrolled in the MS program in Economics or the MA program in UEP may apply for admission to the joint degree program after discussing this plan with their advisor and submitting a letter to their current program. The letter should include a statement of the student’s academic objectives. The application fee is waived for current Tufts graduate students, and the application process is streamlined. Current students need not submit credentials already on file, including transcripts and GRE scores. An updated personal statement addressing interest in the joint degree program should be submitted. The financial aid section of the application should be completed for students requesting a scholarship for the joint degree program, even if a scholarship was previously awarded with admission to the MS or MA program.

Joint Degree Requirements
The candidate for a joint master's degree in Economics and UEP must satisfy the joint degree requirements specified by each of the two departments. The joint degree requirements for each department are listed below. Guidance for joint degree candidates will be provided by advisors from each department. The advisors will help the candidate design a coherent program and aid in the direction of the thesis or capstone exam.

A student who completes these requirements is awarded a single joint MS degree in Economics and UEP (versus an MS degree in Economics and an MA degree in UEP). Students enrolled into the joint degree program can opt out at any time and decide to pursue the graduate degree in UEP or Economics. The student would then need to meet all the regular requirements for that program.


**Economics Requirements**

The Economics requirements for the joint degree program consist of a core of four required courses, and two elective courses to be selected from a list of approved courses. The core courses provide tools in statistics, econometrics, and microeconomic theory that can be applied to a wide variety of problems. The elective courses provide an introduction to the use of these tools in particular areas of economics.

1. **Core Courses (4 credits)**
   - Economics 201 Statistics
   - Economics 202 Econometrics
   - Economics 203 Microeconomic Theory I
   - Economics 204 Microeconomic Theory II

2. **Elective Courses (2 credits)**
   Each semester, the Economics Department selects a set of courses that satisfy the requirement for elective courses for the MS degree. Typically they include upper level undergraduate courses in the Economics and Mathematics Departments and courses in the Fletcher School. See the Economics Department website for a list of these courses each semester.

**UEP Requirements**

The UEP requirements for the joint degree program consist of a core of three required courses, four elective courses, a noncredit internship, and a thesis or capstone exam. The choice of electives, internship, and thesis or capstone exam is dependent on the interests of the student and will be chosen in consultation with his/her advisor.

1. **Core Courses (3 credits)**
   - UEP 250 Foundations of Public Policy and Planning
   - UEP 252 Cities in Space, Place and Time
   - UEP 255 Field Projects: Planning and Practice

2. **Elective Courses (4 credits)**
   A wide range of UEP and Tufts courses qualify as electives. These are chosen by the student with the approval of the UEP advisor.

3. **Internship (noncredit)**

4. **Thesis or Capstone Exam (1 credit)**
   The thesis requires that students conduct a research project that applies the knowledge and skills that they have developed during their course of study, while the capstone represents an exam format that tests students on their expertise in a select few subject areas. For additional detail on the content of the capstone/thesis requirements, please consult with the UEP office.

**Total Credits: 14 Credits, plus Internship**