

School of Architecture and Planning
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

GRADUATE DUAL DEGREES IN PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE

Information for Students already enrolled in the School of
Architecture and Planning

The School of Architecture and Planning offers students the opportunity to pursue concurrently graduate degrees in the Department of Architecture and the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, based on an approved program of study. Students may write a single thesis for both degrees and complete their studies in less time than it would ordinarily take if they worked toward the degrees separately.

The Dual Degree Program is monitored by the Dual Degree Committee, composed of faculty representatives from both departments. The committee deals only with dual degrees in the two departments, involving MCP, MARCH, and SMARCHS degree programs. Members of the committee include faculty and degree administrators of the two departments.

The function of the committee is to advise students prior to application; to review the proposed program for dual study; to evaluate students record of performance and capability to successfully complete the proposed program; to recommend students to admissions committees of respective programs; and to review and monitor students progress.

What are the procedures for becoming a dual degree student if you are already enrolled in either Department?

1. Students prepare a written program proposal and a new application for admission to the degree program to which they are applying in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning or the Department of Architecture. Students should also request that their original admissions applications be forwarded to the dual degree committee to be included in their folder. Applications and requirements should be obtained from the department to which you are applying. These should be submitted to Selene Victor Room 10-485, by **January 4th**.
2. The Dual Degree Committee reviews the program proposals and application. The Committee makes one of three findings: not recommended (student's application rejected; no appeal); recommended (student's application forwarded to the appropriate admissions committee with recommendation to accept); or special circumstances (forwarded to admissions committee for review with no prejudice, along with a note explaining special circumstances.) Decisions from the Dual Degree Committee are announced on or about **January 19th**.
3. The applications and program proposals are then reviewed by the appropriate admissions committee of the Department of Urban Studies and Planning or the Department of Architecture. In reviewing dual degree applications, degree committees may take into

consideration whether the applicant is comparable to other students who have been admitted to the degree program, and other factors. Decisions from the Departmental Committees are sent out on or about *April 1st*.

This process is designed to ensure that the program of study represents a meaningful educational path and that the quality of dual degree candidates remains high. *Not all dual degree applications will be approved--only those which demonstrate a formulated educational program, and the capability to pursue it.*

What degree combinations are possible?

Within the School of Architecture and Planning, the status is open to students wishing to pursue either Master of City Planning/Master of Architecture or Master of City Planning/Master of Science in Architecture Studies. Students may begin their programs in either department. Students who wish to apply for a second Master's degree in a department other than DUSP or Architecture should consult the graduate advisor in their own department.

What constitutes an acceptable program?

The Dual Degree Committee looks for several points in judging the adequacy of a proposed program:

1. What is the student's eventual career objective? Would (s)he be aided by having formal credentials in both fields?
2. Will the program lead to special competence and skills in a particular area, or would it simply mean acquiring a loose collection of experiences in many different subjects?
3. Are there intellectual advantages to pursuing the two degrees simultaneously, or could the same or better effect be attained by studying the two fields sequentially?
4. Does the student evidence the ability -- judged in terms of prior accomplishments, record to date at MIT, participation in program activities -- etc., to integrate the educational experiences so that they are useful for future professional work?
5. Is the program able to be done in the time the student proposes to devote to studies?
6. Does the proposed program match our educational resources?

The student proposal should speak to each of these issues.

Who is eligible for the program?

A student must apply by January 5th *before beginning the last full year of graduate study on the first degree*. This means that MCP and S.M.Arch.S. students must apply during their first

year at MIT. Second year students of these programs are not eligible to apply to the Dual Degree Program. M.Arch. students (planning a normal 3 1/2 year program) must apply during or before their second year. The program is also open to any applicant to the school, who would need to submit two applications and be accepted to both departments. ***Students who are admitted simultaneously to two degree programs should immediately fill out a petition and submit a program statement in the application for dual degree status.***

Must students compete with all others applying for admission?

The first requisite is being admitted as a graduate student in the initial department. Applications for this are handled in the normal way. In being accepted for dual degrees, a special admission quota applies. MIT degree students do not compete for the small number of regularly available places in degree programs of the Department Architecture and the Department of Urban Studies and Planning. However, degree committees may take into consideration whether the applicant is comparable to other students who have been admitted to the degree program, and other factors. Non-MIT dual degree students must be admitted from the general pool.

How does the dual degree program relate to the degree requirements of the two departments?

Students will be expected to complete the coursework and core requirements of each of the two departments. ***Immediately upon being accepted into the MCP program, a student must begin the core courses in September of the second year. The core courses must have been successfully completed before a student can register for thesis.***

Subjects that carry joint numbers may be counted only towards work in one department or the other. For example, M.Arch. students must complete the studio sequence and the required number of subjects in each of the other mandatory areas. MCP and S.M.Arch.S. students must fulfill the respective core and other program requirements. The Institute policy as of March 1980 states that a student who is a candidate for the simultaneous award of two masters degrees and submitting one thesis ***must satisfy completely the minimum requirements for both departments separately*** -- example: 164 M.Arch. 66 S.M.Arch.S.; 126 MCP (without thesis). (In certain circumstances, a student may petition to reduce the number of credits for one degree or the other. Please consult with department administrators.)

In order to be eligible for the simultaneous award of two master's degrees, a student is required to file a petition with the Registrar, approved by both departments, at least two terms prior to graduation, stating the expected program in both departments. Students are expected to file this petition in their home department administrator immediately upon acceptance into the Dual Degree Program. For further information on the format of this petition, consult Architecture or DUSP Administrators.

In which department does a dual degree student register?

For SMARCHS students accepted into the MCP program, the student registers in Architecture for the first and second year, DUSP the third year. For MCP students accepted into the

SMARCHS program, the student registers in DUSP the first year, Architecture the second year, and DUSP the third year. *The student must be registered for a minimum of two full semesters beyond what would have been necessary to get the first degree.* M.Arch. students register for three and a half years in Architecture, or less as it is reduced by advanced standing; followed by at least two full semesters registered in DUSP. MCP students accepted into the MArch program will register in Architecture from their second year on.

What are the arrangements for theses?

Dual degree students must complete a thesis that is acceptable to both departments. Dual degree students may register for thesis prep and thesis in either department (subject to the approval of the departments), and will be governed by the administrative procedures in that department. *Thesis topics must be approved by a faculty thesis advisor from each department and at least one faculty member from each department must be represented on the thesis committee. The faculty thesis advisor from each department must sign the completed thesis (two signatures).*

What about financial aid?

Financial aid relating to MCP and SMARCHS students will be the responsibility of the “home” (first) department for the first two years of study, the other (second) department the last year of study. No aid is guaranteed. Financial aid involving MArch students will be determined by the department in which the student is registered.

SUMMARY -- DUAL DEGREE APPLICATIONS

Students wishing to apply for the dual dual degree should submit the following application materials to **Selene Victor in 10-485 by January 4th.**

1. Statement: Write a brief statement of how the two degrees relate to career plans, why having both degrees is essential to your work. We are aware that your plans may change; nevertheless, we are looking for your current program objectives. Describe:

- Why the pursuit of two degrees simultaneously, rather than sequentially, is critical.
- Issues or questions which you wish to pursue and how you see them relating to each other. What do you intend to draw from each of the two degree programs? What is your likely thesis area and what kind of a project can you imagine doing?
- Work or field experiences you have had which may demonstrate abilities in both fields.
- Which faculty members in the two departments you would expect to work most closely with? With which have you already worked?

2. **Study Plan:** In a table by semester, indicate what courses you intend to take in each of the two degree programs to complete the requirements of these programs. Be sure to include all core classes for each degree, required distribution of “g” and “h” subjects, thesis prep and thesis. Total the credits. You should have this table reviewed by the program administrator of the degree program to which you are applying.

3. **Letters:** At least 2 letters of reference must be included from your advisor(s) or instructors at MIT.

4. **Prior application:** Have this forwarded from your home department to the Dual Degree Committee (Selene Victor, Room 10-485) for inclusion in your folder for Dual Degree admissions.

Members of the Dual Degree Committee are available to discuss program proposals in draft form and to suggest improvements.