Joint Master's Degree

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

The joint UEP/Biology interdisciplinary master’s degree is a 14-credit graduate program. Students matriculate sequentially into two departments at Tufts University – Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning (UEP) and Department of Biology – and fulfill the general requirements for each. Students have the choice of receiving an MA or MS degree.

The joint master's degree in UEP/Biology responds to the need for biological literacy by professionals working in policy areas such as natural resources or environmental health. The program is designed for individuals who are interested in understanding the science side of policy and planning, as well as the implementation of policy (e.g., regulations), the formulation of policy (e.g. legislation), the impacts of policies (e.g. impact assessment) and accounting for biological aspects of land-use issues (e.g. working with governmental and non-governmental conservation and planning organizations).

Application Process
The preferred sequence of enrollment is for students to apply to and enroll in UEP first. Applicants should choose “Urban/Env. Policy & Planning” as the program of study. Applications are evaluated by UEP using the same criteria that are applied to applicants of the MA degree in UEP. Once enrolled in UEP, a student may apply for admission to the joint degree program after demonstrating capability (through either prior biological work or current graduate work in one or two biology courses). The student should submit a letter to the chair of the UEP department that includes 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 MA program at UEP.

Joint Degree Requirements
The candidate for a joint master's degree in Biology 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 students will be provided by advisors from each department. The advisors will help students design a coherent program and aid in the direction of the thesis. Students must complete at least 12 courses, an internship, and a thesis. The coursework is divided as follows: UEP core courses (4 credits), UEP electives (2-3 credits), Biology (5 credits), Statistics (1 credit), and master’s thesis (1-2 credits).

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

- **Core Courses (4 credits)**
  UEP 250 Foundations of Public Policy and Planning
  UEP 251 Economics for Policy and Planning Analysis
  UEP 252 Cities in Space, Place and Time
  UEP 255 Field Projects: Planning and Practice

- **Elective Courses (2 or 3 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.

- **Internship (noncredit)**

**Biology Requirements**

- Five approved Biology courses above 100-level. Joint-degree candidates must have taken or arrange to take the prerequisites required for the 100-level courses.

- One course in quantitative reasoning, statistics, or similar quantitative areas: UEP 254 Quantitative Reasoning, UEP 294 Advanced GIS, Bio 132 Biostatistics, BIO 133 Ecological Models and Data, CEE 215 Environmental Systems Modeling, or similar courses involving analysis or modeling of quantitative data sets.

**Thesis (1 or 2 credits):** The thesis requires that students conduct a research project that applies the knowledge and skills they have developed. The thesis committee for a joint degree candidate must include at least one faculty member from each department. The advisor can be from either department. After selecting a thesis topic the student must present a written prospectus to the committee for its approval. Upon completion of the written thesis, there shall be an oral defense of the thesis before the members of the thesis committee.

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