The Master of City and Regional Planning (MCRP) degree program prepares students to excel as professionals capable of understanding and resolving complex urban planning problems. The curriculum gives students both a broad understanding of the urban and regional environment and a foundation of skills needed to plan for this environment.

The MCRP program strives for a careful balance between the theoretical, historical, and conceptual knowledge about urban and regional development on the one hand, and the acquisition of practical skills and methods of analysis on the other. The program offers six specializations as well as dual degree programs with architecture, civil engineering, law, and public policy.

The curriculum is a two-year, fifty-five-semester-hour program. The curriculum requirements include seven core courses, a specialization, electives, and an internship. Two options exist for completing the curriculum: the thesis or the applied research option paper.

The core courses are designed to impart fundamental planning knowledge applicable to wide sectors of the discipline. These include courses examining planning theory, planning methods, planning law, economic analysis, and planning practice. Students must earn a grade of C or better in all core courses to meet the core course requirements.

In the specialization coursework and the internship, the student develops skills focused on a particular aspect of city and regional planning. To enable students to focus their education on a consistent and cumulative body of knowledge, the program offers six specializations: economic development, environment and health planning management, housing and community development, land use planning, transportation planning, and urban design.

In addition to the core and specialization areas, the curriculum includes electives that can be used to deepen the student's knowledge in a specialization or to broaden exposure to additional areas of planning. Students may take electives within the school, within the College of Design, in other schools at Georgia Tech (e.g. Architecture, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Public Policy, Information Systems, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences), or at other area universities such as Georgia State University or Emory University. Through the cross-registration system, students are allowed to enroll in a number of courses that are not offered at Georgia Tech.

The applied studio course allows students to synthesize their planning knowledge and skills in a real-world situation ranging from neighborhood to metropolitan regions. Our studios are conducted locally throughout Atlanta, which provides an excellent laboratory, as well as nationally and internationally. Finally, a thesis or applied research paper provides an opportunity for focused study in the student's major area of specialization.

Students are admitted to the MCRP program to begin studies in the fall term only. With rare exceptions, involving transfer students and dual degree students, applicants will be considered for spring term admission. Applications must be completed by January 15 to ensure consideration for merit-based financial aid, and by February 15 if no financial aid is sought.