

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND HEALTH EQUITY (CPHL)

Graduate Degree Program
College: Architecture/Public Health

ABSTRACT

A core element central to both community planning and public health is the built environment, which includes human-designed and built surroundings that provide the settings for all aspects of human life, ranging from buildings and homes to parks and recreation facilities. A well planned community includes aspects of public health, while the public's health requires healthy facilities and a built environment that supports and promotes healthy living.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Aside from student loans through the university, MCP students are eligible to apply for graduate assistantships with URSP and the National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education. MCP applicants who are also Peace Corps veterans are eligible to apply for the Shriver Peaceworker fellowship program that is administered by the University of Maryland Baltimore County. Please note that competition is high for these financial awards. The program also maintains a list of internships, and many of our students work in part- or full-time jobs while completing the program. Program classes are scheduled to begin at 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to accommodate our working students.

CONTACT

Clara E Irazábal Zurita, Arch., M.Sc., M.Arch., Ph.D.

Program Director

Urban Studies and Planning Program

School of Architecture, Planning, & Preservation

1244 Architecture Building

3835 Campus Drive

University of Maryland

College Park, MD 20742

Telephone: 301.405.6290

Email: irazabal@umd.edu (dawkins1@umd.edu)

Website: <http://www.arch.umd.edu> (<http://www.arch.umd.edu/>)

Brit Saksvig, Ph.D.

Director of Graduate Student Services

2316 School of Public Health Building

4200 Valley Drive

University of Maryland

College Park, MD 20742

Telephone: 301.405.2491

Email: bsaksvig@umd.edu (xinhe@umd.edu)

Melvin Seale

Assistant Clinical Professor & Director of Graduate Studies

Department of Health Service Administration

School of Public Health

University of Maryland

College Park, MD 20742

Telephone: 301.405.6125

Email: mseale@umd.edu (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/health-equity-hleq/mseale@umd.edu>)

Website: <https://sph.umd.edu/academics/masters-degrees/mpH-master-public-health/mpH-health-equity> (<https://sph.umd.edu/academics/masters-degrees/mpH-master-public-health/mpH-health-equity/>)

ADMISSIONS

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- Statement of Purpose
- Transcript(s)
- TOEFL/IELTS/PTE (international graduate students (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/english-language-proficiency-requirements/>))

PROGRAM-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

- Letters of Recommendation (3)
- CV/Resume
- Writing Samples (optional, up to 2)
- Portfolio PDF Upload (optional)
- Must be admitted by both programs to pursue dual degree.

The application process consists of the following:

- First, fill out the on-line application for the University of Maryland Graduate School. Select "Dual Degree". The administrative code for the Community Planning program is "CPHL."
- Second, submit all transcripts, three professional letters of recommendation, statement of purpose, resume, official GRE test scores, and portfolio as part of the application.

All applicants must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution. There is no restriction on the applicants' previous field of study, and indeed we encourage diversity in all senses.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Type of Applicant	Fall Deadline
Domestic Applicants	
US Citizens and Permanent Residents	March 7, 2025
International Applicants	
F (student) or J (exchange visitor) visas; A, E, G, H, I and L visas and immigrants	March 7, 2025

RESOURCES AND LINKS:

Application Process: <https://sph.umd.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/graduate-application-process> (<https://sph.umd.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/graduate-application-process/>)

Admissions FAQ: <https://sph.umd.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/graduate-application-faqs> (<https://sph.umd.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/graduate-application-faqs/>)

REQUIREMENTS

- Community Planning and Health Equity, Master of Community Planning and Master of Public Health, (dual degree) (M.C.P. and M.P.H.) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/>)

community-planning-health-equity-cphl/community-planning-health-equity-mcp-mph/)