

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

Master of Transport Policy and Planning

CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT

(applicable to students admitted in the academic year 2025-26 and thereafter)

The Master of Transport Policy and Planning curriculum consists of broadly six different types of courses which are taught using distinctive learning modes. The majority of courses are 6-credit courses, but we also have a 18-credit dissertation course and a 12-credit capstone project course. The total student learning hours of the curriculum is 1,800 hours and the total contact hours is 300 hours.

Although we use 150 hours of student learning activity (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activity) as the norm for a 6-credit courses, the contact hours and output requirements for different types of courses vary according to the learning modes employed. Normally, the contact hour for a standard 6-credit course is ranging from 24 to 36 hours. The six categories of courses are summarized as follows:

1. Thematic courses (6 credits)

These courses focus on thematic contents and introduce subject-specific skills in the field of transport policy and planning. They are taught by a combination of lectures (24 hours), class discussions, exercises and presentation. Assessment is generally by means of end-of-semester examination and/or a variety of coursework assignments with output not exceeding 3,000 words (30-100% coursework, 0-70% exam).

2. Laboratory-based courses (6 credits)

These courses aim at introducing and enriching the students' discipline-specific skills. They are taught by a combination of lectures and laboratory-based practicals (with a minimum of 36 contact hours). Assessment is by practical assignments, and group and individual projects with output not exceeding 3,000 words (100% coursework).

3. Field trip course (6 credits)

The Master of Transport Policy and Planning curriculum offers a 6-credit field trip course. This field trip course aims at giving students an opportunity to external exposure to transport-related issues outside of Hong Kong, through a variety of contexts. The course consists of a small number of lectures and a 4-5 days field trip in a destination outside of Hong Kong. Assessment is by a combination of field participation and a written report (3,500 words) (100% coursework).

4. Research method course (6 credits)

The aim of this course is to equip students with essential research skills, as well as scientific and technical writing skills. In this full-year course, students will learn how to prepare research proposal and write a good dissertation or capstone project report. Teaching normally takes the form of 2-hour lectures and seminars through the first and second semesters. Assessment is based on class participation, assignments and research proposals, with output not exceeding 3,000 words (100% coursework)

5. Dissertation course (18 credits)

For students who select dissertation option, the capstone experience course takes the form of dissertation writing. Dissertation writing will last for two semesters for a total of 18 credits. Students are required to design an empirical research study, collect and analyze data, and write a formal dissertation at about 10,000-20,000 words. In addition, students also need to give a seminar presentation on their research work as part of the formal assessment. Students are required to have at least 10 meetings with the supervisors (100% coursework). The total student learning hours is 450, including 20-40 contact hours.

6. Capstone project course (12 credits)

For students who select non-dissertation option, the capstone experience course takes the form of capstone project. The course will last for two semesters for a total of 12 credits. Students are required to collaborate in groups of four individuals to apply the knowledge and skills garnered during the programme in addressing a practical transport-related issue of societal relevance. Students are required to write individual capstone project reports at about 5,000-8,000 words, based on the collaborative project work. Students are required to have at least 10 meetings with the supervisors (100% coursework). The total student learning hours is 300, including 20-40 contact hours.

October 2024