

INDIVIDUALIZED SPECIALIZATION FORM

Students in the MUP program have the option to propose an individualized specialization. Individualized specializations should fall within the scope of generally recognized planning-related specializations in the field AND have faculty representation in the Department of Urban Design and Planning.

Instructions:

1. First consult with your faculty advisor to develop and plan the individualized specialization proposal and coursework. If deemed appropriate, you may shift to another MUP faculty advisor whose interests more closely align with your proposed interest, so long as that faculty member is willing to take you on as an additional advisee.
2. Attach a typed proposal, to include the headings and required content as outlined below, to this form.
3. Obtain a signature on this form from your faculty advisor with whom you will work on the individualized specialization, then submit it to Diana Siembor in 410 Gould Hall for review by the Department Chair. Please allow at least two weeks for the review, and do not assume an outcome until you hear back from the Chair.

STUDENT NAME _____ **DATE:** _____

Attach a typed proposal to this form, to include the headings and required content as outlined below:

A. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Provide a narrative description of the Individualized Specialization (approximately two pages) to include what you want to learn and how your topic relates to planning.

B. COURSE PLAN

Include a course plan that describes what courses you want to take and how they relate to your individualized specialization topic as indicated in your narrative description.

Your course plan should include at least five courses. Three foundational and two elective courses are recommended. Foundational courses should introduce or cover essential theory or methodologies within the field you is pursuing. Elective courses should provide more specialized knowledge within the field.

At least one of the courses should be offered in the Department of Urban Design and Planning (have a URBDP course prefix). In general, courses should be at the graduate level (500 and above). If you wish to take an undergraduate course, explain how it will fulfill your specialization requirement and your MUP degree overall. Please note that 300-level courses and lower cannot count towards a graduate degree. Be advised that classes you select for your individualized specialization, either within or outside of the Department, may be canceled or fill to capacity before you can enroll, and thus you should propose back-up options.

In your course plan, include the five courses you want to take, with an annotated description of each as follows:

1. which courses you consider foundational, and which are elective
 2. the sequence in which you will take the courses (list quarters)
 3. how each course relate to your narrative
 4. how each course will prepare you for a master's degree in urban planning
 5. back-up course options, in case your primary choices are unavailable
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C. SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION WITH FACULTY

Describe the consultation with your faculty advisor regarding your individualized specialization plan. Explain if you will stay with your assigned faculty advisor or are shifting to another faculty advisor.

D. POTENTIAL SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Identify the faculty that could potentially serve on your thesis or professional project supervisory committee. Policies regarding the supervisory committee, as well as a list of faculty who are eligible to serve, can be viewed on the MUP Thesis and Professional Project Guidelines, located on the MUP website. Identifying who could serve on the supervisory committee at this stage is not binding; it is intended to help you identify if faculty advising exists. You will later formalize your supervisory committee via the Student/Faculty Agreement Form for Thesis or Professional Project (located on the MUP website) once you enroll in or have completed URBDP 512 Research Methods, in your second year of study.

APPROVAL

I agree to conduct this Individualized Specialization in accordance with arrangements outlined above and under the supervision of the faculty member indicated.

Signature of Student

Date

FACULTY ADVISOR _____

I agree to supervise this Individualized Specialization and have made preliminary arrangements with the student for its being carried out in the terms of the statement and time frame attached.

Signature of Faculty Advisor

Date

- APPROVED**
 NOT APPROVED

Department Chair or GPC

Date