

Columbia University Master of Science in Urban Planning Program
 Career Services Timeline for Students (as of February 2025)

	First year	Second year
September-October	Arrange initial meeting with Associate Director for Professional Development to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> go over career interests and ways in which they influence course selections, review resume if already developed, and discuss general timeline for following summer's internship applications and campus opportunities. Set up a LinkedIn profile if not already.	Arrange meeting with Associate Director for Professional Development to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> set goals for job search and networking, and discuss general timeline and strategies for job applications. Initial contact with mentor if matched in the Mentorship Program.
November	Attend alumni/student networking mixer and prepare a professional resume.	Attend alumni/student networking mixer and revise a professional resume.
December	Check Gateway over break for internship opportunities for following summer and submit final resume.	Check Gateway over break for job opportunities and submit final resume.
January	Draft and revise a cover letter template that can be customized for different internship positions.	Draft and revise a cover letter template that can be customized for different positions. Mid-way check-in with mentor if in the Mentorship Program.
February	Attend GSAPP Career Fair and review list of employers, and attend the virtual All Ivy Environmental and Sustainable Development Career Fair.	Attend GSAPP Career Fair and review list of employers, and attend the virtual All Ivy Environmental and Sustainable Development Career Fair.
March	Submit applications for summer internships.	Consult with Career Services for leads and ideas about job search, and begin submitting applications for jobs.
April	Attend alumni/student networking mixer.	Attend alumni/student networking mixer. Evaluate job-search strategies and adjust as needed.
May	Review CPT requirements for international students planning to work outside Columbia. Register for Elective Internship course. Consider applying for the Mentorship Program.	Review OPT requirements for international students hoping to work in U.S. Continue job search – you can do it!

ONE-ON-ONE CONSULTATION

A key service is one-on-one consultations, at least once a semester for each student, to explore what types of work you are interested in and what potential places of employment you hope to connect with.

WORKSHOPS

Each semester we offer workshops on developing resumes and cover letters, where to find jobs and internships, interviewing, and preparing for the AICP exam.

STUDENT/ALUMNI MIXERS

Twice a year we connect students and alumni for informal networking events.

GSAPP GATEWAY CAREER PLATFORM

GSAPP Gateway is a career services management and engagement platform for Columbia GSAPP students and alumni. Through this online platform you can explore jobs and internships (updated regularly by UP and the other programs), register for events, share your resume with employers currently recruiting at GSAPP, and network with alumni.

OFFICE VISITS

During each semester, the UP Program organizes tours to planning organizations within New York City to give you exposure to different careers and opportunities available to our graduates. Students have visited the Regional Plan Association, Karp Strategies, New York City Housing Authority, NYC Emergency Management, Arup, WSP, HR&A Advisors, and the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development.

CAREER FAIR

Each spring semester, you have the opportunity to meet with top employers in the NYC area at our GSAPP Career Fair. Employer representatives from the public and private sector meet with students one-on-one for informational interviews, job and internship opportunities. At the 2024 Career Fair, we hosted representatives from AECOM, Association of Neighborhood Housing Developers (ANHD), Dudek, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Macro Consultants Inc., NYC Department of City Planning, New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), One Architecture & Urbanism Inc., Skidmore Owings and Merrill, Steer Davies Gleave, Karp Strategies, Leviticus Fund, and more.

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The UP program organizes a mentorship program for the duration of the academic year, pairing alumni with second year students based on their interest and experience. Mentors help you explore your career interests, discuss the transition into the professional world, give feedback on your strategy for the job search, and help make introductions to others in the field. The main goal of mentoring is to help you achieve your potential and discover your strengths. Sign up for the program will be announced in early June.

CAREER PATHS

On the next page, you will see a table illustrating thirteen of the possible career paths related to urban planning. The second column gives examples of organizations for each career path. The third column gives recommendations for what type of coursework you should consider during your time in the MSUP program to help prepare you for that career.

Career Path	Example Organizations	Consider Coursework in
Municipal government agency in planning or neighboring fields	NYC Dept of City Planning (DCP) NYC Dept of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) NYC Dept of Transportation (DOT) NYC Emergency Management	Built Environment Courses in politics and policy Climate Adaptation
State or federal government agency in planning or neighboring fields	U.S. Dept of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) U.S. Dept of Transportation (DOT) U.S. Naval Facilities Engineering Command NYS Department of Environmental Conservation	Built Environment Courses in politics and policy Climate Adaptation
Nonprofit corporation or joint venture	Empire State Development Corporation NYC Economic Development Corporation (EDC) NYC Housing Development Corporation (HDC) Port Authority of New York and New Jersey	Community and Economic Development Courses in Business School
Nonprofit organization or community based organization	Harlem Community Development Corporation Hester Street Collaborative Waterfront Alliance WE ACT	Community and Economic Development Courses in Public Health
Advocacy group	Association of Neighborhood Housing Developers (ANHD) New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC) Regional Plan Association (RPA) of New York Urban Justice Center	Community and Economic Development Courses in Public Health Climate Adaptation
Global NGO (non-governmental organization)	CARE International Council for European Urbanism Oxfam Slum Dwellers International	International Planning Climate Adaptation Courses in SIPA Courses in Public Health
International organization	Asian Development Bank Inter-American Development Bank United Nations (UN) World Bank	International Planning Climate Adaptation Courses in SIPA Courses in Public Health
Research organization or think tank	Earth Institute Urban Institute Urban Land Institute World Resource Institute	Courses with more theoretical content Courses with comparative content Courses in research methods
Private consulting firm	AECOM Calthorpe Associates HRA Advisors WSP	Built Environment Courses in Economic Development Urban Analytics Courses in RED program
Real estate firm	Camber Property Group Compass JLL Savills Beijing	Courses in Economic Development Courses in RED Program Courses in Business School
Urban technology firm	CAUPD - Alibaba UrbanX Lab Envelop.City Gridics Sidewalk Labs	Urban Analytics Courses in Visual Studies Courses in Data Institute
Design firm	Ecosystema Urbana Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates (KPF) One Architecture & Urbanism WXY Architecture and Urban Design	Built Environment Courses in Visual Studies Courses in Architecture
Doctoral studies	Columbia GSAPP MIT UC Berkeley University of Tokyo	Courses with more theoretical content Courses with comparative content Courses in research methods