

A blue-tinted photograph of two women in conversation. The woman on the left has dark hair and glasses, wearing a dark cardigan over a white t-shirt with a necklace. The woman on the right has long, curly hair and is wearing a dark top with a necklace. They appear to be in a professional or academic setting.

Master of Public Policy

Tufts
UNIVERSITY

GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Urban and Environmental
Policy and Planning

86%

graduation rate

37

median age of entering students

>1/2

of students are people of color

63%

of students are women

61%

of students are part-time

1.7

years to average program completion

Tufts University's Department of Urban & Environmental Policy and Planning (UEP) offers a unique graduate degree program that is attractive to experienced mid-career professionals with at least 7-years of experience in the fields of urban and environmental policy and planning. The Master of Public Policy (MPP) program is designed to help mid-career professionals take the next steps in their career and life, whether that is *enhancing professional practice, pursuing a shift in career, or simply creating space for reflection and rejuvenation*. The program enables students to broaden and deepen personal interests, policy knowledge, and professional skills. We are *a diverse, intimate and caring learning community*, with 10-15 students in each cohort from an array of professional experiences and racial/ethnic, socioeconomic, and geographic backgrounds. MPP students also enhance the vitality of UEP classes and benefit students pursuing other master's degrees at UEP.



Academics

MPP is *a flexible 1-3 year graduate degree program* designed to accommodate working professionals. MPP is a 10-course program that can be completed in one year full-time, with options for students to complete in 2-3 years on a part-time basis. MPP also offers flexibility for students to customize the program to suit their interests and work constraints needs.

Curriculum

UEP's *wide range of courses* offers MPP students the opportunity to strengthen their critical thinking, policy analysis, and communication skills; as well as improve their professional practice with courses such as Program Evaluation, Negotiations, Geographic Information Systems, Financial Management, and Philanthropy and Fundraising. A wide range of policy courses caters to various fields and interests, including Social Welfare, Housing, Community Development, Environmental Justice, Sustainable Communities, Food Justice, and Land Use.

There are 3 required core courses, including the MPP Seminar, Economics, and Quantitative Reasoning. Students can then customize their program with 7 elective courses, of which at least 4 need to be policy-focused. In addition to UEP, MPP students can take up to two courses from other Tufts departments and schools and one from other area universities.

Why Choose MPP?

MPP students benefit from *access to a vibrant network of other accomplished professionals, and the networks of distinguished faculty, students, and affiliated agencies at UEP and Tufts*. They are able to establish close professional relationships and networks among faculty, affiliated agencies, and other students, and access and remain connected to these networks and faculty after graduation.

MPPers are attracted to UEP because of the length of the program, along with UEP's social justice and community oriented values and program focus, relevance of the course of study, program flexibility, geographical convenience, and affiliation with Tufts University. MPPers like the program size, quality and availability of faculty, reputation of the program/department, the opportunity for critical reflection about racism and classism, and the attention to creating sustainable and mission-driven programs and organizations.

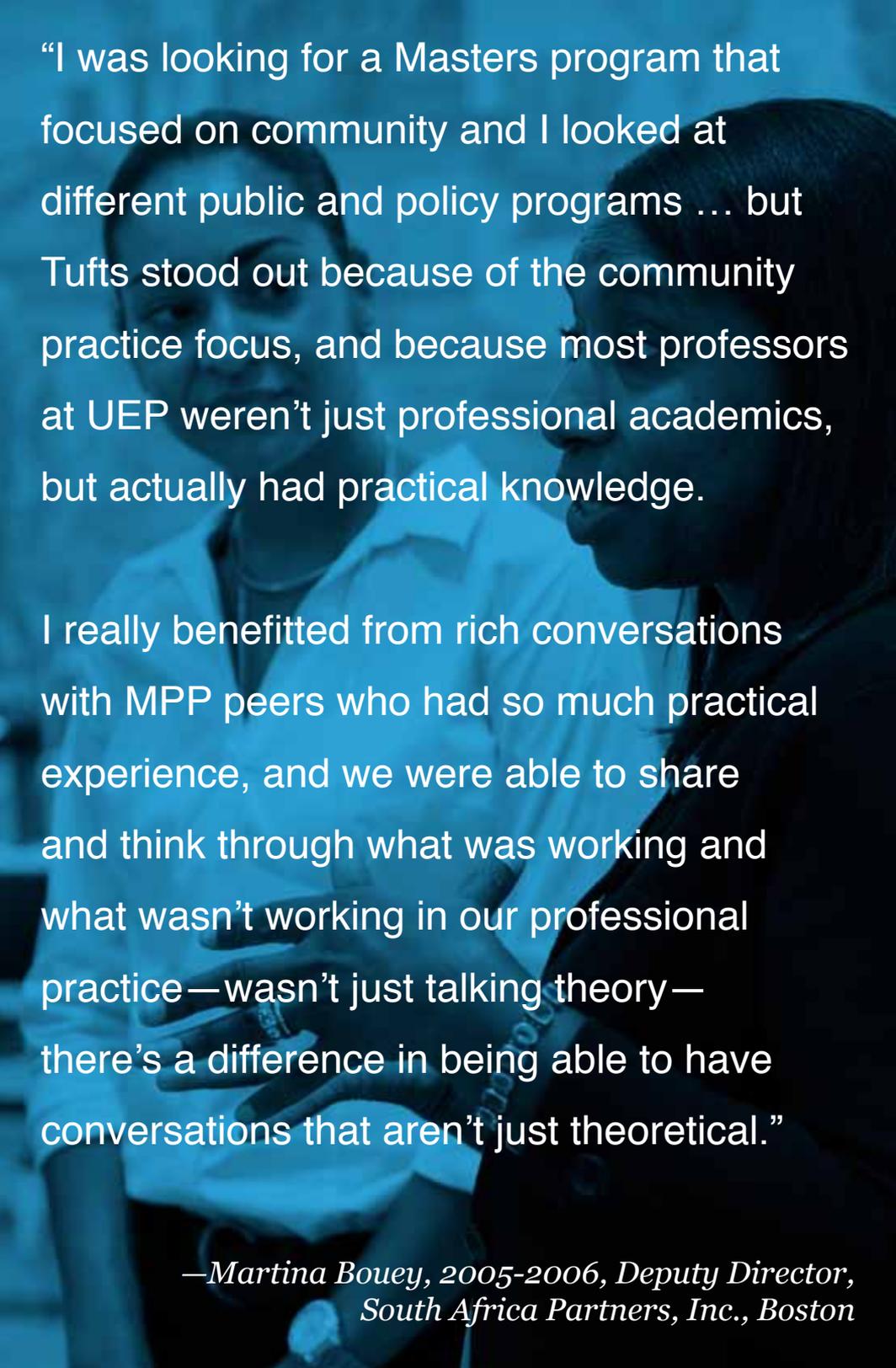
Students value the opportunity to reflect on their practice. Assignments enable students to cultivate core competencies around substantive knowledge, critical thinking, research and data analysis, and leadership and management skills.

Who Comes to MPP?

MPP is broadly known as a *social justice and community-oriented professional public policy program* whose graduates are contributing to diverse fields of policy and planning and the development of more just, inclusive, and sustainable communities.

MPP attracts *professionals from a wide range of social, urban, and environmental policy fields in the non-profit, public, and private sectors*. MPP students have included public officials, agency heads, executive directors, and program staff from a broad range of planning, community development, and environmental organizations. MPP students come from diverse careers in community development corporations, advocacy organizations, government agencies, grassroots neighborhood groups, human service agencies, environmental organizations, public education, and more. A number of MPPers are coming from private sector careers and seeking to shift into the public and nonprofit sectors. MPPers bring at least 7 years of relevant professional experience working on issues like affordable housing, neighborhood development, social welfare, sustainable communities, and environmental management.

As social movements for justice and sustainability grow in the face of ever more apparent racial and socio-economic inequalities, UEP's focus on these issues is particularly appealing to a diversity of prospective students. MPP students represent a high degree of racial/ethnic diversity, with almost half being people of color. There are also a growing number of international mid-career students, some of who come with the support of their governments.



“I was looking for a Masters program that focused on community and I looked at different public and policy programs ... but Tufts stood out because of the community practice focus, and because most professors at UEP weren’t just professional academics, but actually had practical knowledge.

I really benefitted from rich conversations with MPP peers who had so much practical experience, and we were able to share and think through what was working and what wasn’t working in our professional practice—wasn’t just talking theory—there’s a difference in being able to have conversations that aren’t just theoretical.”

—Martina Bouey, 2005-2006, Deputy Director,
South Africa Partners, Inc., Boston

The Neighborhood Fellows

MPP attracts *a diverse and accomplished set of urban community leaders of color* to UEP through the Neighborhood Fellows program. This full tuition scholarship was established in 2005 and has helped MPP recruit up to 5 accomplished urban leaders of color each year working in Boston and surrounding cities. Neighborhood Fellows have had deep experience and demonstrated significant leadership in urban communities. Neighborhood Fellows is an essential resource for attracting professionals of color to UEP, particularly Blacks and Latinos. Fellows account for nearly 75% of MPP students of color.

“Most MPPers like myself ... brought a lot of real life experience to the class. Faculty really saw us as resources and not as competition and threat to their authority, and [had an attitude of] ‘hey, we have some really talented people in the class, speak up!’”

— *Bob Terrell, 2010-2012, Executive Director,
Fair Housing Center of Greater Boston*

MPP Contributions to UEP and Tufts

The diversity of MPP students and the significant practical experience they bring *enhances the vitality of UEP classes, enriching the experience of UEP's MA degree students and the broader Tufts community.*

Virtually all MPP respondents in a recent survey valued the idea of contributing their expertise and knowledge to others at UEP and to Tufts as a whole. MPP students and alumni are regularly invited to be guests in other courses in order to promote more interaction with the MA students. For example, MPP students have given presentations in several UEP courses (such as required courses Foundations and Cities as well as other electives such as Child and Family Policy) and at the UEP Colloquium.



MPP Alumni are an impressive set of leaders and *practical visionaries.*

John Barros	<i>Before MPP</i> Executive Director, Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative	<i>Currently</i> Chief of Economic Development, City of Boston
Melissa Colón	Associate Director, Gaston Institute, UMass Boston	Ph.D. candidate, Tufts Child Studies
Sarah Howard	Executive Director, Earthos Institute	<i>Same</i>
Lilly Marcelin	Founder & Director, Resilient Sisterhood Project	<i>Same</i>
Elaine Ng	Executive Director, Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center	Executive Director, TSNE MissionWorks
Alexandra Oliver-Davila	Executive Director, Sociedad Latina	<i>Same</i> - Appointed to Boston School Committee in 2016

Connect with UEP

UEP website:
as.tufts.edu/uep

Practical Visionaries
blog:
practical-visionaries.org

Off the Wall:
This weekly e-letter
keeps you up to date with
UEP announcements,
events, and job/
internship postings. To
sign up, send an email to
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