2025-26

REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF TRANSPORT POLICY AND PLANNING MTP&P

(See also General Regulations and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula)

These regulations apply to candidates admitted to the Master of Transport Policy and Planning in the academic year 2025-26 and thereafter.

Any publication based on work approved for a higher degree should contain a reference to the effect that the work was submitted to the University of Hong Kong for the award of the degree.

Admission requirements

MTPP 1. To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Transport Policy and Planning, candidates

(a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;

(b) shall hold

  (i) a Bachelor's degree of this University or

  (ii) another qualification of equivalent standard from this University or from another university or comparable institution accepted for this purpose[1];

(c) for a candidate who is seeking admission on the basis of a qualification from a university or comparable institution outside Hong Kong of which the language of teaching and/or examination is not English, shall satisfy the University English language requirement applicable to higher degrees as prescribed under General Regulation G2(b); and

(d) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.

Qualifying examination

MTPP 2.

(a) A qualifying examination may be set to test the candidates' formal academic ability or their ability to follow the courses of study prescribed. It shall consist of one or more written papers or their equivalent and may include a project report.

(b) Candidates who are required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until they have satisfied the examiners in the examination.

Award of degree

MTPP 3. To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Transport Policy and Planning, candidates

(a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula; and

(b) shall complete the curriculum and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below.

Period of study

[1] Qualifications which are accepted include the Chartered Membership of The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (Hong Kong).

MTPP 4. The curriculum shall normally extend over one academic year for full-time study or two academic years for the two-year part-time study or three academic years for the three-year part-time study. Candidates shall not be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of three academic years for full-time study, or four academic years for the two-year part-time study, or five academic years for the three-year part-time study, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty.

Completion of curriculum

MTPP 5. To complete the curriculum, candidates

(a) shall satisfy the requirements prescribed in TPG 6 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;

(b) shall complete a total of 72 credits of courses, i.e. (i) for dissertation option, 7 compulsory courses (6 credits each), 2 elective courses (6 credits each) and a dissertation (equivalent to 3 courses 18 credits) as prescribed in the syllabuses; or (ii) for non-dissertation option, 7 compulsory courses (6 credits each), 3 elective courses (6 credits each) and a capstone project course (equivalent to 2 courses 12 credits) as prescribed in the syllabuses;

(c) shall follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed written work; and

(d) shall satisfy the examiners in all prescribed courses and in any prescribed form of examination.

Dissertation

MTPP 6. Subject to the provisions of Regulation MTPP5(b)(i), this regulation is applicable only to students who choose the "dissertation option".

(a) For the full-time study, the title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval not later than December 1 of that academic year;

(b) for the part-time study, the title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval not later than December 1 in the candidates' final year of study; and

(c) both full-time and part-time candidates shall submit a statement declaring that the dissertation represents their own work undertaken after registration as candidates for the degree.

(d) Except with prior approval from the Head of Department of Geography, students who are unable to submit the dissertation title by December 1 will not be allowed to do presentation in the Dissertation Seminar to be held in the second semester.

(e) Except with prior approval from the Head of Department of Geography, students who are absent from or unable to do presentation in the Dissertation Seminar will not be permitted to submit their dissertation for assessment purpose.

(f) Application for extension of dissertation submission deadline, with supporting reasons, should be made by writing to the Head of Department of Geography at least 1 month before the submission deadline. The recommendation of the Head of Department of Geography on the application would be considered by the Higher Social Sciences Degrees Committee and the Board of the Faculty.

Capstone Project

MTPP 7. Subject to the provisions of Regulation MTPP5(b)(ii), this regulation is applicable only to students who choose the "non-dissertation option".

(a) For the full-time study, the title of the capstone project shall be submitted for approval no later than December 15 of that academic year;

(b) for the part-time study, the title of the capstone project shall be submitted for approval no later than December 15 in the candidate's final year of study; and

(c) both full-time and part-time candidates shall submit a statement declaring that the capstone project report represents their own work undertaken after registration as candidates for the degree.

(d) Except with prior approval from the Head of Department of Geography, students who are unable to submit the capstone project title by December 15 will not be allowed to do presentation in the Capstone Project Seminar to be held in the second semester.

(e) Except with prior approval from the Head of Department of Geography, students who are absent from or unable to do presentation in the Capstone Project Seminar will not be permitted to submit their final project report for assessment purpose.

(f) Application for extension of final project report submission deadline, with supporting reasons, should be made by writing to the Head of Department of Geography at least 1 month before the submission deadline. The recommendation of the Head of Department of Geography on the application would be considered by the Higher Social Sciences Degrees Committee and the Board of the Faculty.

Course selection

MTPP 8.

(a) To complete the curriculum, candidates (full-time or part-time) are required to complete not less than 72 credits, including 7 compulsory courses (42 credits), 2 elective courses (12 credits) and a dissertation (18 credits) for dissertation option, or 7 compulsory courses (42 credits), 3 elective courses (18 credits) and a capstone project course (12 credits) for non-dissertation option.

(b) For the full-time study, candidates are required to declare their choice of dissertation or non-dissertation option before the end of the add/drop period of the first semester of that academic year.

(c) For the part-time study, candidates are required to declare their choice of dissertation or non-dissertation option before the end of the add/drop period of the first semester of the candidate's final year of study.

(d) For the 2-year part-time study, candidates are required to take at least 4 and not more than 6 courses (compulsory and elective) for dissertation option and at least 4 and not more than 7 courses (compulsory and elective) for non-dissertation option in the first year of study, and the remaining courses in the final year of study.

(e) For the 3-year part-time study, candidates are required to take at least 3 and not more than 5 courses (compulsory and elective) for both dissertation option and non-dissertation option in each of the first and second years of study, and the remaining courses in the final year of study.

Assessment

MTPP 9. Candidates shall be assessed for each of the courses for which they have registered, and assessment may be conducted in any combination of continuous assessment of coursework, written examinations and/or any other assessable activities. Only passed courses will earn credits.

MTPP 10. Candidates shall not be permitted to repeat a course for which they have received a passing grade for the purpose of upgrading.

MTPP 11. Candidates who

(a) have failed to satisfy the examiners at their first attempt in not more than two courses, not including the dissertation or capstone project, in an academic year may be permitted to repeat the failed course(s) by undergoing instruction and satisfying the assessments;

(b) have presented an unsatisfactory dissertation or capstone project may be permitted to revise and re-present the dissertation or capstone project within a specified period of not less than two months and not more than twelve months after receipt of a notice that it is unsatisfactory.

MTPP 12. Candidates who are unable because of their illness to be present at the written examination of any course may apply for permission to present themselves for a supplementary examination of the same course, which shall be held at a time to be determined by the Board of Examiners. Any such application shall be made on the form prescribed within seven calendar days of the first day of the candidate's absence from any examination. Candidates who fail to satisfy the

examiners in the supplementary examination shall be required to repeat the failed course.

MTPP 13. There shall be no appeal against the results of examinations and all other forms of assessment.

MTPP 14. Candidates who

(a) are not permitted to repeat any failed course(s) or to revise and re-present their failed dissertation or capstone project; or

(b) have failed to satisfy the examiners at a second attempt in any failed course(s) or their dissertation or capstone project; or

(c) have failed to satisfy the examiners in three or more courses, not including the dissertation or capstone project, in an academic year; or

(d) have exceeded the maximum period of registration may be required to discontinue their studies.

Grading system

MTPP 15. Individual courses shall be graded according to the following grading system:

Grade	*Standard*	*Grade Point*
A+	Excellent	4.3
A		4.0
A-		3.7
B+	Good	3.3
B		3.0
B-		2.7
C+	Satisfactory	2.3
C		2.0
C-		1.7
D+	Pass	1.3
D		1.0
F	Fail	0

Classification of awards

MTPP 16. On successful completion of the curriculum, candidates who have shown exceptional merit may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidates' degree diploma.

SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF TRANSPORT POLICY AND PLANNING

PURPOSE

The curriculum aims at providing the expanding transport sector in Hong Kong with a steady supply of well-trained professionals at the executive level, as well as providing training for graduates aspiring to pursue careers in the transport field. The curriculum offers those already working in the sector opportunities for updating themselves with the latest developments in transport studies. Graduates of this programme will be exempted automatically from the examination requirements leading to the qualification of Chartered Membership of The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (Hong Kong) - CMILT.

CURRICULUM

Coursework teaching conforms to the dates of semesters of the Faculty of Social Sciences. Examinations will be held at the end of the semester in which the courses are offered. To complete the curriculum, candidates shall successfully complete 7 compulsory courses (6 credits each), 2 elective

courses (6 credits each) and a capstone experience dissertation course (equivalent to 3 courses 18 credits) for dissertation option, or 7 compulsory courses (6 credits each), 3 elective courses (6 credits each) and a capstone project course (equivalent to 2 courses 12 credits), with a total of 72 credits.

Compulsory Courses

Students shall complete all of the following seven courses:

GEOG7001. Survey and data analysis in transport studies (6 credits)
GEOG7002. Transport and development (6 credits)
GEOG7006. Engineering for transport systems (6 credits)
GEOG7007. Analysis, modelling and project appraisal in transportation (6 credits)
GEOG7011. Research methods in transport studies (6 credits)
URBP6123. Public transport systems (6 credits)
URBP6131. Transport policy and planning (6 credits)

Elective Courses

Students shall complete two of the following courses for dissertation option and three of the following courses for non-dissertation option:

CIVL7018. Data science for civil engineering (6 credits)
CIVL7019. Statistical methods for civil engineering (6 credits)
GEOG7003. Transport economics (6 credits)
GEOG7010. Transport law and management (6 credits)
GEOG7012. Transport field trip (6 credits)
GEOG7014. GIS in transport planning and management (6 credits)
DASE7222. Decision analytics in global logistics (6 credits)

Capstone Experience Courses (Compulsory)

Candidates shall complete one of the following capstone experience courses:

GEOG7013. MTP&P dissertation (equivalent to 3 courses 18 credits)
GEOG7015. MTP&P capstone project (equivalent to 2 courses 12 credits)

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Compulsory Courses

GEOG7001. Survey and data analysis in transport studies (6 credits)

Surveys are commonly used to collect useful data in transport studies. A myriad of survey methods and instruments are available. This course covers the major aspects including survey design, sampling, hypothesis testing, interview and questionnaire design, survey implementation and administration, data processing, analysis and report writing. Different aspects of surveys are discussed with reference to the transport-related professions and disciplines in different political and socio-economic contexts. Examples include travel characteristics, origin-destination, freight and public transport surveys conducted in Hong Kong and the other parts of the world. The fundamentals of spatial and non-spatial data analysis are covered using selected software. Moreover, some key opportunities and challenges of big data and insights from data science are discussed.
Assessment: 100% coursework

GEOG7002. Transport and development (6 credits)

This course introduces the interrelation of, and interaction between the transport system and development at global, national, regional and local levels. Topics with reference to the development theories and the elements of sustainable development are covered. In addition, the impact of transport development on spatial organization and the significance of integrating transport with land use planning

are presented. Furthermore, the influence of technological advancement on transport operation and the implications of political activities on transport decisions are discussed.

Assessment: 30% coursework, 70% examination

GEOG7006. Engineering for transport systems (6 credits)

This course introduces students to the engineering aspects of typical transport systems covering their planning, policy formulation, design, implementation, and operation. It utilizes theoretical/conceptual ideas and practical examples to build a systems perspective of the railway, road, and intermodal systems. Key aspects of the development of transport infrastructure, choice of systems to meet transport demand, technological applications and institutional arrangements for the administration and operation of these systems will be presented.
Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination

GEOG7007. Analysis, modelling and project appraisal in transportation (6 credits)

This course introduces students with case studies to various practical travel demand modelling and project appraisal techniques developed for and employed in the transportation sector. The first part of the course covers various techniques used to model travel behaviour and discusses the role and limitations of model application in the transport planning process. The basic concepts, structures and assumptions of transport modelling including traffic generation, distribution, modal split and traffic assignment, are introduced and illustrated using local examples. The application of transport models in traffic impact assessment will be discussed. The second part covers appraisal principles, methods and procedure of transport projects. Financial analysis, cost-benefit analysis and sensitivity analysis will be discussed with reference to assessments of actual transport projects. The emphasis of the course is on the application of the techniques and methods commonly used in transport planning and project appraisal. The course will enable students to understand the theories and techniques in demand modelling and project appraisal, and apply them to practical exercises in transport planning and project development.
Assessment: 100% coursework

GEOG7011. Research methods in transport studies (6 credits)

This course aims at guiding students to prepare the MTP&P Dissertation and Capstone Project through presenting a conceptual framework of the major/classic research methods, data analysis techniques and related group discussion sessions. Major aspects of scientific research will be covered, including proposal writing, literature review, research integrity, academic presentation and scientific writing. Also, it provides opportunities to students to learn and reflect the latest developments in transport-related field via the endorsed seminars.
Assessment: 100% coursework

URBP6123. Public transport systems (6 credits)

This course is designed to examine the nature and the role of public transport systems mainly in the urban context with special reference to high density development. Topics include the nature and the characteristics of passenger transport, the operation and management of public transit systems, deregulation and privatization, the role of para-transit, and multi-modal cooperation and competition.
Assessment: 100% coursework

URBP6131. Transport policy and planning (6 credits)

This course focuses on key issues in transport policy and the implementation of transport plans and programmes. It examines the role of private and public modes within the overall urban transport system

as well as pedestrian movement planning, airport development and seaport development. The course uses examples drawn from various countries to evaluate the appropriateness and effectiveness of alternative policies and implementation mechanisms.
Assessment: 100% coursework

Elective Courses

CIVL7018. Data science for civil engineering (6 credits)

This course aims to introduce the theory of data science and its application in a wide range of civil engineering problems. Topics will include linear basis function models, regularization approaches, linear discriminative analysis, logistics regression, support vector machines, ensemble learning, neural networks for solving supervised learning problems, k-means clustering, expectation-maximization for solving unsupervised learning, and reinforcement learning. Software packages such as PyTorch and scikit-learn will be used to support the demonstration of practical civil engineering applications in the course.
Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination

CIVL7019. Statistical methods for civil engineering (6 credits)

Multiple linear regression, logistic regression, logit models, Poisson regression models, duration models, time series models for data analytics and behavioural studies.
Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination

GEOG7003. Transport economics (6 credits)

This course helps to develop a specialist appreciation of the economics of urban transport provision. It highlights the economic principles and techniques employed in planning, operating and managing our city transport systems and concentrates on topics such as: travel time valuation, road congestion costing and pricing, public transport finance and cost-recovery, and economic appraisal techniques employed therein.
Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination

GEOG7010. Transport law and management (6 credits)

This course covers the legal framework for carriage and the mechanisms of transport management. Under transport law, topics covered include the contracts of carriage, bills of lading, charterparties, freight and demurrage, master's authority, shipowner's duties, loading and unloading, introduction to admiralty jurisdiction, marine insurance and protection and indemnity clubs (P & I Clubs) and an introduction to carriage by the air and by road. Built on the legal background, the topics of transport management include the administrative and regulatory measures generally applied in particular for road traffic, public transport services and transport infrastructures.
Assessment: 40% coursework, 60% examination

GEOG7012. Transport field trip (6 credits)

This programme-based field trip is designed to provide opportunities for students to examine first hand transport-related developments and problems in China or nearby region with a comparison to the situation in Hong Kong. Before the field trip, students are required to attend a number of pre-trip lectures. After participating in the field trip, students are required to submit a field trip report and attend de-briefing sessions. The report will be formally assessed. The field trip will be organized during the

reading week either in the first semester or second semester, subject to the final decision of the field trip co-ordinator. Students enrolling in this course has to bear their own cost on air tickets and accommodation.
Assessment: 100% coursework

GEOG7014. GIS in transport planning and management (6 credits)

This course introduces the principles and applications of applying geographic information technologies to transport planning and management. It focuses on the operation and practice of GIS to solve real-world transportation problems such as finding the shortest route, identify service area, solving the traveling salesman problem, locate facilities and allocate demands to existing facilities and so forth. After this course, students are able to demonstrate the skill of applying GIS to solve problems related to transportation issues.
Assessment: 100% coursework

DASE7222. Decision analytics in global logistics (6 credits)

Global logistics and trade; key stakeholders in logistics; global logistics network modeling; characteristics of freight transportation modes; transportation mode selection; transportation demand and supply analysis; logistics service pricing; truck fleet problem; vehicle routing problem; scheduling problem; container loading problem; shipping route planning; ship emission controls; speed optimization; intermodal terminal operations.
Assessment: 40% coursework, 60% examination

Capstone Experience Course

GEOG7013. MTP&P dissertation (18 credits)

To complete the curriculum, a candidate of dissertation option must complete a topical study or research project under the supervision of a dissertation supervisor in two parts. The first part is a dissertation of 10,000 - 20,000 words, with a focus on one of the passenger or freight transport modes and on a global, regional, or local scale. The second part consists of a signed communication record with the supervisor and a presentation of research findings in the 'dissertation seminars' series. Attendance and participation in the 'dissertation seminars' series are required. Students who have not presented in the dissertation seminar series will not be permitted to submit their written dissertations for grading purpose.
Assessment: 100% coursework

GEOG7015. MTP&P capstone project (12 credits)

To complete the curriculum, a candidate of non-dissertation option must complete a practical transport-related group project and an individual report. The capstone project course offers students the opportunity to work collaboratively under the supervision of a project supervisor, typically from the transport industry or the government, and apply the knowledge and skills they have acquired throughout the programme to tackle a practical transport-related problem and complete a project that is relevant to society. Based on the group project work, individual capstone reports will be prepared and assessed.
Assessment: 100% coursework