



MIT Technology and Policy Program



Education

Research

Policy

Practice

Alumni



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TPP.MIT.EDU

The Technology and Policy Program (TPP) addresses societal challenges through research and education at the intersection of technology and policy. TPP is a part of the MIT Institute for Data, Systems, and Society (IDSS).

Our interdisciplinary two-year Master of Science program educates students to address issues that involve science, technology, and society. Our educational philosophy centers on the idea that effectively informing policy decision-making requires understanding not only classical science and engineering concepts, but also theory and practice of policy and policy making. It further requires integrating and applying this knowledge in the context of concrete problems.

TPP prepares and educates leaders who will be able to address important technological issues confronting society. We welcome a diverse class of students each year who are interested in combining mastery of a specific domain – energy, environment, computation, transportation, aerospace, etc. – with rigorous applied social science, such as economics, political science, management, or law. We prepare graduates for careers in government and industry as well as continued academic work.

The program's overall goal is to mobilize knowledge across disciplines to inform intelligent, responsible strategies and policies to benefit communities from local to global.



“ TPP is a university-wide, interdisciplinary program with a 50-year legacy dedicated to addressing societal challenges and advancing positive societal impact through education and research at the intersection of technology and policy. ”

–CHRISTINE ORTIZ, Director, TPP

EDUCATION

TPP Master's students take methods and frameworks courses that cover key concepts in technology and policy, as well as microeconomics and quantitative methods. They design an individual technical concentration in an area of study that is aligned with their research area, and complete a thesis that puts a technical problem in a policy context. They also receive training in communication and leadership. In addition to our Master of Science program, TPP also administers MIT's graduate-level certificate program in Science, Technology, and Policy.

RESEARCH

TPP research tackles problems in domains such as environment and sustainability, health, internet policy, transportation, security, and energy. Students conduct research together with faculty and senior researchers in labs and centers across the MIT campus, including the Sociotechnical Systems Research Center, the MIT Energy Initiative, and the Internet Policy Research Initiative, among many others.

Some TPP research focuses on informing concrete problems in complex, socio-technical systems with policy relevance. Other projects involve efforts to develop methodological principles and approaches that can help understand and inform the management of complex systems that involve multiple stakeholders and varying preferences.

POLICY

TPP students and researchers engage in policy at local, regional, national, and global scales. In engaging with policy-makers, we work together with entities across MIT such as the Policy Laboratory at the Center for International Studies (PL@CIS) and MIT's Washington Office. Our annual student-run Policy Hackathon brings interdisciplinary teams to campus to address real-world challenges submitted by interested stakeholders.

PRACTICE

Incoming TPP students bring perspectives from their prior education and work experience in multiple industries and sectors in countries around the world. Some students undertake summer internships in government and industry between their first and second year of the program. TPP also organizes an annual student visit to Washington, DC.

Industry is invited to partner with TPP to address problems at the interface of technology and policy. For more information contact: idss-industry@mit.edu.

ALUMNI

TPP alumni hold key roles in industry, non-profits, government, and academia. Alumni support provides funding for summer internships and enhances recruitment and outreach. Alumni also sponsor targeted initiatives for students, including a program for women in technology and policy.