Planning Your Planning Education

Gateway: Planning Action
The Objectives of Planning Education

• Socialization to the norms of the profession
• Learning a skill set
• Formulating and testing approaches to practice
• Tapping into professional networks
• Mastering a body of specialized knowledge
Roles that Planners Play

• The planner as manager
• The planners as designer
• The planner as futurist
• The planner as analyst
• The planner as mediator
• The planner as advocate
Skills that Planners Need to be Effective

• Written, spoke, and visual communication
• Data collection and analysis
• Program/policy design and evaluation
• Process design and group management
• Other?
Arguments For and Against Specialization

- **Arguments in favor of specialization**
  - Knowing which body of information to master
  - Knowing which skills to master
  - Tapping into a specific network
  - Learning about context

- **Arguments against specialization**
  - Artificial division of knowledge
  - Too narrow a set of skills
  - Too narrow a network
  - Flies in the face of career realities
DUSP’s Approach to Specialization

• Five Groups, but what do they mean?
• Advanced knowledge?
• Advanced skill sets?
• Multiple membership/multiple identities
• Interaction with the faculty
• The Thesis Experience
• Interaction with alumni
Structuring Your Time at MIT

• Courses to take?
• Activities in which to engage?
• Networks to join?
• Use of time
• Linking to Harvard and Tufts
• Community-based activities
Scheduled Panel Discussions

- Schedule
- Who is coming
- What to expect
- How to participate