Course XI offers flexibility

(Continued from page 1)

prepares students to go out into the world and change it. Students in the department major in urban studies primarily for one of three reasons. Some are using the department as a stepping stone to graduate school in a field other than urban planning. Lawrence Susskind, the undergraduate coordinator of the department and one of the prime movers in the development of an undergraduate curriculum in urban studies in 1969, said that he expects "about one-third of this year's seniors to go to graduate school immediately and get a Masters in City Planning, another third are probably planning a professional career in urban studies. Some of these students will go on to graduate school immediately and get a Masters in City Planning, which is the professional degree in the field. Others will get jobs right away. Urban studies is one of the few remaining fields where the MIT graduate with just a bachelor's degree is highly employable. A student with a bachelor's from MIT frequently has a background about as strong as that of a student with an MCP from another school. Additionally, MIT students have a strong science background which adds to their perspective when studying problems. When employers are asked which they would rather hire, a student from here with a bachelor's or someone else with a master's, the student who is also lacking previous work experience, our graduates are frequently more desirable. Of course, the fact that they can be paid less because of their lesser education is a factor in the decision," said Susskind.

In discussing the future of this year's graduating class, Susskind also pointed out that about one-third of the seniors are not really sure what they want to do. Some of these students majored in Course XI because the urban and humanitarian outlook on problems was important to them. "And some of this year's graduating class will probably go into fields like environmental engineering. These kids are basically scientists and engineers who want another perspective of the problems they will face," added Susskind.

The curricula within the urban studies department is very flexible. There is no general introductory course. The field is simply too diverse to have one. Students who are interested in urban design have different needs from those interested in housing problems and they have different needs from students who are studying urban law and police organization to studying problems. When employers are asked which they would rather hire, a student from here with a bachelor's or someone else with a master's, the student who is also lacking previous work experience, our graduates are frequently more desirable. Of course, the fact that they can be paid less because of their lesser education is a factor in the decision," stated Susskind.

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