

Urban Studies Major

www.urbanstudies.pitt.edu

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The Urban Studies Program offers a major for students who have an interest in unraveling the complexities of the urban world. The major is interdisciplinary, meaning that students learn about cities as historical, social, cultural, economic, and political phenomena. The major is real world, meaning that students take this learning with them and apply it to the world beyond the classroom. Finally, the major is career-oriented, meaning that students attempt to find a role for themselves in the urban environment. To accomplish all of these goals, the Urban Studies Program has designed a curriculum which integrates knowing with doing. The urban studies major combines courses offered by the program itself with courses offered through other social science departments. Students are encouraged to take URBNST 0080 Introduction to Urban Studies as early as possible, ideally in the fall or spring of the freshman year, and to develop a broad background in the social sciences among lower-level social science courses.

Required courses for the Urban Studies major

The urban studies major requires the completion of 33 credits distributed as follows.

Urban Studies courses

URBNST 0080 Introduction to Urban Studies
URBNST 1300 Urban Studies Skills Seminar
URBNST 1500 Urban Studies Research Seminar
URBNST 1900 Urban Studies Field Placement (six credits)

Concentration

Students are required to complete six courses, chosen in consultation with the major advisor, from one of the following concentrations.

- Community Organization
- Comparative International Urbanism
- Urban Policy and Administration
- Urban Planning

Some of the courses that fulfill this requirement are listed on the back of this sheet. Additional courses can be found on the Urban Studies Program [Concentration Web page](#).

Recommended courses

Students are encouraged, but not required, to take STAT 0200 or STAT 1000.

Honors requirements:

Honors in urban studies consists of fulfilling all requirements for the major, plus an additional four credits for a total of 37 credits. Honors students must take the following courses in sequence. Students may apply for the honors program upon completion of URBNST 1300. They must have an overall GPA of 3.25 and a GPA in Urban Studies of 3.5. As soon as a student is interested in doing an Honors Thesis, s/he must meet with the Urban Studies advisor. The meeting should be scheduled no later than the middle of the junior year.

URBNST 1901 Independent Study
URBNST 1903 Honors Thesis

Grade requirements: A minimum GPA of 2.0 in departmental and concentration courses is required for graduation.

Satisfactory/No Credit option: There is no limit to the number of courses in the major that can be taken on an S/NC basis.

Writing (W) requirement: Students must complete one W-course in the major. URBNST 1500 Urban Studies Research Seminar fulfills this requirement.

Related area: A minimum of 12 credits is required in any one Arts and Sciences department chosen in consultation with the major advisor or in a cluster of courses approved by your advisor. The completion of an official Arts and Sciences minor or an Arts and Sciences or UCIS certificate also satisfies this requirement.

Study abroad: It would be desirable for students to add an international dimension to their undergraduate education through their participation in a study abroad program.

Urban Students Association: The Urban Students Association (U.S.A.) is an official student organization formed by students in the Urban Studies Program. Through U.S.A., students have been actively involved in issues related to the major throughout the Pittsburgh region. U.S.A. has invited guest speakers to appear on campus, organized field trips, and participated in numerous community projects.

Advising note: Students considering the urban studies major are encouraged to speak with the major advisor as early in the decision making process as possible.

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Checklist for the Urban Studies major

Urban Studies courses

URBNST 0080 Introduction to Urban Studies
URBNST 1300 Urban Skills Seminar
URBNST 1500 Urban Research Seminar
URBNST 1900 Urban Studies Field Placement

All majors must complete 18 credits of electives in at least one of the four following concentrations. Elective courses must be chosen from at least three different disciplines.

Community Organization concentration

This concentration is designed for the student who is interested in social issues such as poverty, education, housing, or other social welfare programs. Students who want to work at the grass-roots or neighborhood level or who want to pursue a career in the non-profit sector often choose this area of study.

Required Fundamentals course

SOCWRK 1000 Introduction to Social Work

Core and elective courses; select two

AFRCNA 0311 Introduction to African American Family
ANTH 1755 Urban Anthropology
SOC 0460 Minority Groups
PUBSRV 1200 Practices of Non-Profit Management
PUBSRV 1400 Organizing Community Controlled Development
URBNST 1612 Social Justice and the City

Three elective courses

There are many courses from which to choose each semester (see the Urban Studies Program Courses listed under Course Descriptions each semester). Courses should be chosen with the advisor. The following are SOME of the courses that may be applicable.

AFRCNA 1402 Learning Paradigms of African American Child Development
AFRCNA 1538 History of Black Pittsburgh
ECON 0330 Urban Economics
ENGCMP 1400 Grand and Proposal Writing
ENGLIT 0628 Working Class Literature
HIST 1668 History of Pittsburgh
PSY 1312 Child Development and Social Policy
SOC 0351 Social Change
SOC 0444 Urban Sociology
SOC 1277 Pittsburgh Area Study
PUBSRV 1230 Fundraising for Non-Profit Organizations
URBNST 1200 Urban Field Research Seminar

Comparative International Urbanism concentration

This concentration is designed for students interested in focusing on urban issues in a much broader context. Some students choose to have a geographic focus while others take a more thematic approach.

Required Fundamentals course

URBNST 1700 International Urbanism Seminar

Five elective courses

There are many courses from which to choose each semester (see the Urban Studies Program Courses listed under Course Descriptions each semester). Courses should be chosen with the advisor. The following are SOME of the courses that may be applicable.

ANTH 1530 Origins of Cities
ECON 0530 Introduction to Development Economics
GER 1528 Vienna
HAA 1880 World Cities
HIST 0756 Introduction to Islamic Civilization
HIST 1019 Cities in Historical Perspective
HIST 1123 Modern Britain
HIST 1772 Race, Caste, and Ethnicity in a Global Perspective
LING 1951 Languages of the World

PS 1315 Italian Government and Politics
PS 1383 Politics of Contemporary Middle East
SPAN 0082 Latin America Today

Urban Planning concentration

This concentration is designed for those who have an interest in the built environment, and who may be considering a career in urban planning. It is appropriate, more generally, for those interested in the use, design, and allocation of space in the urban environment.

Required Fundamentals course

PUBSRV 1130 Planning in the Public Sector

Core courses; select two

ECON 0330 Urban Economics
GEOL 1445 GIS, GPS and Computer Methods
HIST 1665 History of the American City
PS 1251 Urban Government
SOC 1476 Urban Policy and Planning
URBNST 1608 Urban Economic Geography

Three elective courses

There are many courses from which to choose each semester (see the Urban Studies Program Courses listed under Course Descriptions each semester). Courses should be chosen with the advisor. The following are SOME of the courses that may be applicable.

ANTH 1541 Cultural Resource Management
ECON 0230 Public Finance 1
GEOL 1055 Environmental Ethics, Science and Public Policy
HAA 0940 Approaches to the Built Environment
HAA 1510 Pittsburgh Architecture and Urbanism
HAA 1531 Modern American Architecture
HAA 1920 Introduction to Historic Preservation
HAA 1922 Preservation – Texts and Theory
HIST 1019 Cities in Historical Perspective
HIST 1695 Environmental Politics
URBNST 1200 Urban Field Research Seminar
URBNST 1700 International Urbanism

Urban Policy and Administration concentration

This concentration is designed for students interested in policy development as it pertains to a variety of urban issues. This concentration is also appropriate for those who want to pursue careers in politics or administration in the public sector.

Required Fundamentals course

PUBSRV 1100 Practices in Public Administration

Core courses; select two

ECON 0230 Public Finance 1
PS 1241 Public Administration and Political Systems
PS 1251 Urban Government
PS 1261 American Public Policy
PUBSRV 1110 Financial Management in the Public Sector
URBNST 1610 Urban Politics and Regional Governance

Three elective courses

There are many courses from which to choose each semester (see the Urban Studies Program Courses listed under Course Descriptions each semester). Courses should be chosen with the advisor. The following are SOME of the courses that may be applicable.

ECON 0330 Urban Economics
ECON 0280 Introduction to Money and Banking
HIST 1695 Environmental Politics
GEOL 1055 Environmental Ethics, Science and Public Policy
LEGLST 1152 Legal Issues in Public Service
LEGLST 1355 Emerging Issues in Legal and Social Policy
PS 1252 State Government
PSY 1312 Child Development and Social Policy
PUBSRV 0030 Public Policy Process
PUBSRV 0050 Ethics and Accountability
PUBSRV 1455 Law, Ethics, Public Policy and Mass Media
SOC 1476 Urban Policy and Planning