

Urban Affairs and Planning

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With over 70 percent of the nation's population classified as urban, urban studies offer students the opportunity to investigate intensively the forces shaping the institutions and quality of life in American metropolitan regions. Building on an understanding of relevant economic, social, and political trends, the field of urban studies concentrates on defining and addressing current urban policy and planning issues. To reinforce its strong theoretical foundation, the urban studies curriculum also includes the study and use of analytical skills and opportunities for fieldwork experience.

The department offers several options to students interested in examining the implications of urban life within a social science context. The most intensive is, of course, the major. Additional programs include elective courses that may constitute a minor for a nonmajor, and a program of education for public service that is open to selected students (see Special Programs, below). Of particular note for nonmajors is the specially designed introductory course, Urban Life: The Personal and Observational View.

The urban studies offerings are enriched by their inclusion in the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, which houses, in addition to the undergraduate program, graduate curricula in urban planning and urban affairs, and the Urban Research Center. The sharing of faculty and facilities, the interchange among advanced and beginning students, and the cooperation of other units in the social sciences create a synergy for comprehensive examination of urban-related concerns in a major city.

Because it integrates several social science perspectives, the urban studies major is uniquely fitted to train students for careers in either the public or private sector, depending upon the student's selection of electives. Among the types of employment chosen by recent graduates are urban planning, social work, municipal budgeting, public administration, real estate, community organization, law, business, and journalism.

General Education Requirement (GER) URBS 101, 102, and 201 may be used to fulfill Broad Exposure/Stage 2, Group B.

Distribution Requirement See Appendix A for the Distribution Requirement, which was replaced by the General Education Requirement in fall 2001 and which may be binding on students who matriculated prior to fall 2001.

Preparation for Graduate Training A substantial number of majors in urban studies pursue professional graduate study in urban planning, law, social work, public administration, architecture, and related fields. Students should discuss their professional goals with the advisor in their junior year in order to plan their programs accordingly.

Special Programs Urban studies majors may apply to participate in three programs sponsored by Hunter College: the Public Service Scholar Program, the City University Seminar/Internship Program in New York City Government, and the Blanche Davis Blank Urban Research Scholar Program.

The Public Service Scholar Program is a competitive program open to 24 juniors/seniors each year. All Hunter students are eligible for this program, which includes an internship in a public or nonprofit agency and two weekly seminars. Participants receive credit and a stipend. For further information, contact the program director.

The City University Seminar/Internship Program in New York City Government is a program in which Hunter College students may participate. For further information, contact the department.

The Blanche Davis Blank Urban Research Scholar Program provides awards to outstanding undergraduate students to work with professors on research projects. For further information, contact the department.

Urban Studies Major (24 cr)

The urban studies major provides a strong background in the study of urban issues, institutions, and policies. In addition, the major includes a methodology component, an internship experience, and appropriate courses selected from closely related social science disciplines. Completion of the major gives students a fuller understanding of contemporary cities from a variety of perspectives: social, physical, political, and economic.

The major consists of components A, B, C, and D as listed below. Courses not listed may be selected with special permission of the urban studies program advisor.

A. Urban Studies Core (12 cr)

URBS 101 Urban Life: Personal and Observational View (3 cr)
URBS 102 Structure of Urban Region (3 cr)
URBS 201 Plans and Policies for Contemporary Urban Community (3 cr)
URBS 310 Methods of Urban Research and Policy Analysis (3 cr)

B. Urban Studies Electives (3 cr) Select one from:

URBS 401 Managing Urban Physical Environment (3 cr)
URBS 402 Urban Social and Economic Development (3 cr)
URBS 404 Urban Budgeting and Fiscal Policy (3 cr)

Component B can also be met by another 400-level URBS course approved by advisor.

C. Fieldwork Component (3 cr) Select one from:

URBS 420 Urban Studies Internship (3 cr)
URBS 498 Internship (3 cr)
POLSC 411 Seminar/Internship in NYC Government (4 cr)

D. Basic Social Science Component (6 cr) Select two from:

ECO 335 Urban Economics (3 cr)
GEOG 341 Urban Geography (3 cr)
HIST 250.45 History of New York City (3 cr)
HIST 317 History of the American City (3 cr)
POLSC 212 Urban Politics (3 cr)
POLSC 330 The Politics of Urban Planning (3 cr)
SOC 211 Urban Sociology (3 cr)

Urban Studies Minor (12 cr)

Urban studies majors must complete a minor in one or more disciplines related to the major. For information concerning appropriate courses in the minor, students should consult with their advisor.



COURSE LISTINGS

URBS 101 Urban Life: Personal and Observational View 3 hrs, 3 cr; GER/2/B. Introduction to urban studies allowing students to translate personal knowledge and experience of New York City to more theoretical understanding of urbanism. Includes four projects dealing with mapping, immigration, census data analysis, and local development issues.

URBS 102 Structure of Urban Region 3 hrs, 3 cr. Prereq: URBS 101 or relevant intro course (e.g., ECO 100 or 201-202; GEOG 101, POLSC 111, SOC 101) or perm instr; GER/2/B. Introduction to forces shaping institutions and life of contemporary American urban regions. Focus on evolving metropolitan economic, social, demographic, spatial, and political systems, and their relevance to current policy.

URBS 201 Plans and Policies for Contemporary Urban Community 3 hrs, 3 cr. Prereq: URBS 102 or 6 cr of introductory social science courses or perm instr; GER/2/B. Exposure to human and institutional consequences of economic, social, and political forces confronting metropolitan America. Review of activities of public and private agencies dealing with urban problems.

URBS 202 Urban Futures 3 hrs, 3 cr. Prereq: URBS 102 or perm instr. Exploration of alternative scenarios that could guide development of cities and urban regions in next century. Includes review of contemporary urbanization trends in U.S. and abroad and utopian forecasts of future urban life.

URBS 310 Methods of Urban Research and Policy Analysis 3 hrs, 3 cr. Prereq: URBS 102 or perm instr. Survey of research skills necessary for analysis of contemporary urban issues. Includes review of data sources, methods of forecasting, use of computer, and methods of information presentation.

URBS 401 Managing Urban Physical Environment 3 hrs, 3 cr. Prereq: URBS 201 or perm instr. Examination of components of metropolitan land use. Focus on planning and management of physical environment by public and private agencies at local, state, and national levels.

URBS 402 Urban Social and Economic Development 3 hrs, 3 cr. Prereq: URBS 201 or perm instr. Detailed review of social and economic concerns confronting urban communities, focusing on major problem areas: poverty, health, crime, economic development, unemployment, and racial discrimination.

URBS 403 Selected Topics in Urban Affairs 3 hrs, 3 cr. Intensive examination or investigation of specialized topics or new developments in literature and research.

URBS 404 Urban Budgeting and Fiscal Policy 3 hrs, 3 cr. Prereq: URBS 201 or perm instr. Introduction of financial management of urban municipalities and authorities. Attention to process of fiscal decision-making as seen from perspective of local community, and analysis of role of intergovernmental aid.

URBS 420 Urban Studies Internship 3 hrs, 3 cr. Prereq: declared urban studies major within 45 cr of graduation. Internship experience in urban-related public or nonprofit agency providing firsthand involvement in urban planning or policy issues, under careful supervision, in professional field setting.

URBS 498 Internship 1-6 hrs, 1 cr per hr.

The following graduate courses (45 hrs including conference, 3 cr each) are open to senior urban studies majors:

URBP 701 History of Planned Urban Development

URBP 702 The Structure of the Urban Region

Other graduate-level courses may be taken by senior majors with special permission.