



Pitt

Kenneth P. Dietrich  
School of Arts and Sciences

## Urban Studies Major

[www.urbanstudies.pitt.edu](http://www.urbanstudies.pitt.edu)

Revised: 05/2019

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 36 credits distributed as follows.

#### Urban Studies courses

URBNST 0080 Introduction to Urban Studies  
URBNST 1102 Introduction to GIS **or**  
URBNST 1104 Applied GIS  
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 Planning
- Urban Policy, Politics, and Administration

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.

**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.

**Advising:** Carolyn Carson, PhD  
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[cjlc@pitt.edu](mailto:cjlc@pitt.edu)

## **Checklist for the Urban Studies major**

### **Urban Studies courses**

- URBNST 0080 Introduction to Urban Studies
- URBNST 1102 Intro. to GIS or URBNST 1104 Applied GIS
- 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; select one**

- SOCWRK 1000 Introduction to Social Work
- URBNST 1612 Social Justice and the City

#### **Core and elective courses; select two**

- ENGCMP 1400 Grant and Proposal Writing
- SOC 0444 Urban Sociology
- SOC 0460 Minority Groups
- SOCWRK 1000 Introduction to Social Work
- URBNST 1612 Social Justice and the City
- URBNST 1616 Rent, Buy or Squat: Housing and Property in US Cities

#### **Three elective courses**

There are many courses from which to choose each semester (check for the Urban Studies attribute on the PeopleSoft Mobile site each semester; campus should be Pittsburgh). 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 Develop.
- ENGLIT 0628 Working Class Literature
- PSY 1312 Child Development and Social Policy
- PUBSRV 1200 Practices of Non-Profit Management
- PUBSRV 1230 Fundraising for Non-Profit Organizations
- SOC 0460 Minority Groups
- SOC 1277 Pittsburgh Area Study
- SOC 1286 Race and the City

### **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; select one**

- URBNST 1700 International Urbanism
- URBNST 1708 World Urban Patterns

#### **Core and elective courses; select two**

- ECON 0500 Introduction to International Economics
- ECON 0530 Introduction to Development Economics
- HIST 1019 Cities in Historical Perspective
- URBNST 1104 Applied GIS
- URBNST 1700 International Urbanism
- URBNST 1708 World Urban Patterns

#### **Three elective courses**

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- ANTH 1530 Origins of Cities
- GER 1528 Vienna
- HAA 1880 World Cities
- HIST 0756 Introduction to Islamic Civilization
- HIST 1135 Berlin: History of a European Metropolis
- HIST 1772 Race, Caste, and Ethnicity in a Global Perspective
- JS 1160 Jerusalem: History and Imagination
- 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; select one**

- HAA 0940 Approaches to the Built Environment
- PUBSRV 1130 Planning in the Public Sector

#### **Core courses; select two**

- HAA 0940 Approaches to the Built Environment
- PUBSRV 1130 Planning in the Public Sector
- URBNST 1104 Applied GIS
- URBNST 1608 Urban Economic Geography
- URBNST 1614 Sustainability
- URBNST 1616 Rent, Buy or Squat: Housing and Property in US Cities

#### **Three elective courses**

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- ANTH 1541 Cultural Resource Management
- GEOL 1055 Environmental Ethics
- HAA 1510 Pittsburgh Architecture and Urbanism
- HAA 1531 Modern American Architecture
- HAA 1920 Introduction to Historic Preservation
- HIST 1019 Cities in Historical Perspective
- HIST 1695 Environmental Politics
- URBNST 1700 International Urbanism

### **Urban Policy, Politics, 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; select one**

- PUBSRV 1100 Practices in Public Administration
- URBNST 1610 Urban Politics and Regional Government in Global Perspective

#### **Core courses; select two**

- GEOL 1055 Environmental Ethics
- PS 1261 American Public Policy
- PUBSRV 1100 Practices in Public Administration
- URBNST 1104 Applied GIS
- URBNST 1610 Urban Politics and Regional Government in Global Perspective
- URBNST 1616 Rent, Buy or Squat: Housing and Property in US Cities

#### **Three elective courses**

There are many courses from which to choose each semester (check for the Urban Studies attribute on the PeopleSoft Mobile site each semester; campus should be Pittsburgh). Courses should be chosen with the advisor. The following are SOME of the courses that may be applicable.

- HIST 1695 Environmental Politics
- 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 1455 Law, Ethics, Public Policy and Mass Media
- SOC 1476 Urban Policy and Planning

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