



## Interested in This Major?

Contact the Urban Studies Programs:

**Current Students:** Visit us in Bolton Hall, Room 702, call us at 414-229-5942 or email [jmh@uwm.edu](mailto:jmh@uwm.edu)

**Not a UWM Student yet?** Call our Admissions Counselor at 414-229-7711 or email [let-sci@uwm.edu](mailto:let-sci@uwm.edu)

**web:** [uwm.edu/urban-studies](http://uwm.edu/urban-studies)

## Program Overview

The Urban Studies major is based in the College of Letters and Science and draws from classes across disciplines including sociology, geography, history, political science, urban studies, Africology, architecture, criminal justice, educational policy and community studies, public and nonprofit administration, public health, and urban planning. Urban issues touch every field of study and that is reflected in the diversity of course options!

---

You will study urban challenges such as poverty, segregation, public education systems, mass transportation, public policy and funding, urban sprawl, crime, immigration, and economic development.

---

Students in the program explore scholarly issues related to cities, suburban communities, and metropolitan regions with an interdisciplinary lens. Urban problems are examined from multiple perspectives and using multiple lines of inquiry.

The urban studies major has a service learning component that requires students to apply classroom knowledge in a real-world setting in the urban community. Semester-long internships are strongly encouraged.

The major is flexible to allow students to develop a strong foundation from the core coursework and to build a set of elective courses that address their particular urban interests and future goals.

## Is Urban Studies Right For Me?

Students in urban studies generally have an

interest in unraveling the intricacies of complex problems. They understand and appreciate “shades of gray” and the interconnected nature of societal problems.

Successful students possess a natural curiosity, enjoy extensive research and writing, and want a hands-on career working to solve urban problems.

Urban studies majors receive all of the benefits of a broad-based liberal arts degree. They are prepared for careers in any number of fields and industries because they are armed with the most transferable and flexible skills: problem analysis, research, communication and decision-making.

## Career Opportunities

Because of their interest in urban problem-solving, many graduates work in the areas of community development, land-use planning, public works, community organization, housing policy development and implementation, public education administration, social services, construction management, public health, journalism and fund-raising. Entry-level roles can include tasks ranging from research to planning to program implementation to customer service.

An urban studies major also provides excellent preparation for a number of graduate school programs including law, education, urban planning, public administration, public health, economics, history, political science and any number of other social science disciplines.

## Requirements For The Major

The major consists of 30 to 31 credits in Letters & Science courses from across at least two departments. No more than 9 credits in any one department outside of urban studies can count towards the total. At least 15 credits must be at the 300-level or higher and completed at UWM. A minimum GPA of 2.5 is required for all courses for the major. The curriculum is as follows:



Course #	Course Title
UrbStd 150	Multicultural America
UrbStd 250	Exploring the Urban Environment
OR	
UrbStd 360	Perspectives on the Urban Scene
UrbStd 377	Urbanism and Urbanization
UrbStd 600	Capstone seminar in Urban Studies
One of:	
Sociol 261	Intro to Statistical Thinking in Sociology
Geog 247	Quantitative Analysis in Geography
Pol Sci 390	Political Data Analysis
Hist 595	Quantitative Analysis of Historical Data
Electives chosen from a list to reach a total of 30 to 31 credits	

## Declaring The Major

To declare a major in Urban Studies, make an appointment with the Urban Studies Associate Director, Dr. Jamie Harris (jmh@uwm.edu) at 414-229-4629 to discuss and complete the declaration form and written statement or go to our web site for more information. [uwm.edu/urban-studies](http://uwm.edu/urban-studies)

## Urban Studies Certificate

A certificate is similar to a minor in terms of the credit requirements. Certificate programs are open to degree-seeking students from any major, non-degree seeking students and special students. Many working professionals who already have a degree seek certification in a specialized area to enhance their career options.

The certificate in urban studies consists of a coordinated core of courses that focus on urban issues and policy alternatives examined from a variety of humanistic, social scientific and professional perspectives. Particular emphasis is placed on the impact of gender, racial and ethnic diversity within the context of urban policy choices and delivery. See our flyer for the certificate for more information about the requirements.

## Service Learning

Service learning is a method of teaching and learning which is required in the urban studies program.

All Urban Studies Majors are required to complete 15-30 hours of service

Through service learning students connect their classroom studies to the vision and goals of the community organizations where they serve. Social and cultural issues are brought more sharply into focus through the service that the student provides to an area nonprofit. Structured reflection is also part of the service learning experience.

## Student Activities and Events

Students in the major are encouraged to participate in various urban studies-sponsored events.

The annual *Urban Studies Student Research Forum* provides a comfortable venue for students, alumni and faculty to come together to investigate and discuss the complexities of the urban milieu. Undergraduates have the opportunity to hear from a nationally-known keynote speaker and to learn professional conference presentation skills from the graduate students who present their research. Multiple panel discussions are planned in order to address the multidisciplinary and complex nature of urban issues. Students in the capstone seminar present their research projects during a poster session.

The *Henry Maier State of Milwaukee Summit* focuses on one specific urban issue each year and brings together a panel of experts from southeastern Wisconsin. The Summit was conceived as a forum that brings together experts from government, nonprofits, and academia to discuss pressing issues that Milwaukee and the region face in the 21st century.

The *Fall Social and Lecture* welcomes urban studies students back to campus with a keynote address from a noted expert followed by networking and socializing.

At least one undergraduate article is included in every issue of *e.polis*.

*e.polis* is the electronic journal published by the Urban Studies Program. Undergraduates are encouraged to submit articles. The journal publishes article-length papers, book reviews, and produces an in-house profile feature that includes interviews with scholars in the field and speakers invited as part of the Urban Studies Lecture series.



Urban Studies major, Ben Schroeder, studied abroad at Goethe-Universität in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. He took a course on the history and development of the Frankfurt Rhine-Main metro region.



This sample four-year plan shows just one possible pathway to earning a degree with this major in four years. This plan **does not** replace the advice of your advisor, and students are cautioned to meet regularly with their advisor to create a personalized plan that matches their particular circumstances. This plan also follows the degree requirements for students who began their college education in Fall of 2013 or later. If you started college prior to Fall of 2013, your degree requirements may be different.

### Degree Requirements (brief summary):

1. English Proficiency and UWM Oral and Written Communication (OWC) GER - English 102 (fulfills Part A) and one OWC-Part B course.
2. Math Proficiency, UWM Quantitative Literacy (QL) GER, and Formal Reasoning – two courses can satisfy all three requirements. Some courses have prerequisites, however, so a student may end up taking more than two total classes depending on his/her placement test scores. Students will usually take Math 103 or 105 AND three credits in either a 200-level or above math course, Philosophy 211, or an approved Letters & Science statistics course.
3. Foreign Language – 4 semesters of a single Foreign Language (or 3 semesters of one language and 2 semesters of another language) (May be satisfied through 4 years of a single Foreign Language in high school.)
4. L&S Humanities (HU) – 12 credits
5. L&S Social Sciences (SS) – 12 credits
6. L&S Natural Science (NS) – 12 credits including one lab
7. L&S International (Int'l) – 9 credits usually accomplished in conjunction with Humanities and/or Social Science courses
8. UWM Arts GER – 3 credits
9. UWM Cultural Diversity GER (CD) – 3 credits usually accomplished in conjunction with a Humanities or Social Science course
10. 120 credits including 90 credits in L&S and with 36 of the 90 credits in L&S upper-level (numbered above 300) courses
11. Complete the Urban Studies major requirements:
  - 30 to 31 credits with at least 18 in L&S and at least 15 at the 300-level or above completed at UWM
  - Urb Std 150, 377, 600
  - Urb Std 250 or 360
  - One of Geog 247, Hist 595, Pol Sci 390, or Sociol 261
  - Electives to total to 30 credits minimum selected from Urb Std (any); UrbPlan (any); Africol 125, 300, 319, 417; Arch 190; Crm Jst 291, 295, 370, 372, 674; Ed Pol 111, 113, 114, 203, 501, 503, 630; Geog 140, 215, 440, 441, 443, 464, 520, 540, 564, 625; Hist 192, 404, 436, 440, 446, 450, 460, 463; PH 319; Pol Sci 213, 243,

387, 413, 444, 450, 452; Pub Adm 243, 331, 452, 462; Sociol 193, 224, 235, 307, 323, 324, 325, 330, 423, 450, 472, 640

### Sample Four Year Plan:

There are hundreds of courses that satisfy various requirements and courses can count towards more than one requirement. For example, Urb St 150 counts towards the major and as a social science course. (This sample assumes no high school Foreign Language was taken and that the student placed into college-level math and English.)

	Semester 1	Semester 2
Year 1	English 101	English 102 (OWC-A)
	Math 103 or 105 (QL-A)	Arts GER
	1st semester Foreign Language	2nd semester Foreign Language
	Sociol 101 (SS)	L&S Natural Science
	L&S Humanities	Urb St 150 (SS) (CD)
Year 2	OWC-B course	Elective
	3rd semester Foreign Language (Int'l)	4th semester Foreign Language (Int'l)
	Urb Std elective	Sociol 261 (formal reasoning) (QL-B)
	L&S Natural Science with lab	L&S Natural Science
	L&S Humanities	Urb St elective that is SS
Year 3	L&S Humanities	L&S Humanities
	L&S Natural Science	Urb St 377
	Urb St 360 (SS)	Urb St upper-level elective
	L&S upper-level elective	L&S upper-level
	Elective	Elective
Year 4	Urb St upper-level elective	Urb St 600
	Urb St elective that is Int'l	Urb St upper-level elective
	L&S upper-level	L&S upper-level
	L&S upper-level	L&S upper-level
	Elective	Elective

Revised 02/2017