



**SHAPE THE FUTURE OF THE CITY**

# **URBAN STUDIES** PROGRAMS

DOCTORAL

MASTER'S

BACHELOR'S

CERTIFICATE



*Jasmine Alinder with Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett and Aldermen.*

applications from students of all ages and a wide variety of intellectual backgrounds. If you are interested in learning more, please feel free to contact us.

Jasmine Alinder, Director, Urban Studies Programs

## Director's Welcome

Welcome to the Urban Studies Programs of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee! Founded in the 1960s as the Department of Urban Affairs, Urban Studies offers a top-ranked set of interdisciplinary graduate and undergraduate social science degree programs. Urban Studies Programs combine passion for social justice with hard-edged social science research in classes taught by faculty with urban expertise.

Beyond the classroom, we offer a wide array of extracurricular, urban-themed activities, designed to complement theoretical knowledge with hands-on experience. Our programming includes public lectures, film screenings, a graduate student-run conference, and the annual Henry W. Maier State of the City Summit. Recent programs include panel discussions on urban neighborhoods and the foreclosure crisis, and summits on transit, the Great Recession, and public education.

Students have opportunities for professional development and are encouraged to take part in graduate workshops and colloquia. We welcome graduate

### Our Faculty

The Urban Studies Programs at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee are an interdisciplinary set of undergraduate and graduate programs housed in the College of Letters and Science and led by social science faculty members from many departments and programs, including: Africology, Architecture, Criminal Justice, Educational Policy and Community Studies, Geography, History, Political Science, Public and Nonprofit Administration, Sociology, Urban Planning, and Urban Studies.

Our faculty members are distinguished by their research, commitment to undergraduate and graduate education, and their engagement with local and global urban issues. Many of our faculty are also affiliated with other campus units including the Center for Economic Development, the Center for 21st Century Studies, and the programs in Public and Nonprofit Administration. For a complete list of our affiliated faculty, please check our website:

<https://uwm.edu/urban-studies/our-people/>

### Faculty Highlight

Urban Studies faculty members Amanda Seligman and Margo Anderson were awarded a two-year, \$250,000 National Endowment for the Humanities grant to create the digital and print Encyclopedia of Milwaukee.





# Urban Studies at UWM

## **What is Urban Studies?**

Urban Studies embraces any scholarly approach to understanding the city. UWM's Urban Studies Programs (USP) focus on social science research methods including ethnographic, archival, quantitative, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and survey research. We take a metropolitan view of the "urban," studying neighborhoods, cities, suburbs, and regions. Much of the research conducted in Urban Studies is focused on the United States in general and the Milwaukee area in particular, and our faculty also includes international specialists.

The Master's program is one of the oldest graduate programs at UWM, created in the early 1960s with a Ford Foundation grant at a time when scholarship on cities and urban development was seen as critical in the context of the civil rights movement and urban crisis. The PhD program began in the mid-1970s with the assumption that in order to examine complex urban problems, students must be literate in a variety of urban-focused disciplines.

## **What can I do with an Urban Studies degree?**

Like other degree programs housed in UWM's College of Letters and Science, Urban Studies' curriculum nourishes students' broad analytical skills with an eye toward understanding and transforming cities. Urban Studies students learn to read and produce scholarship, conduct complex research, analyze the urban world from a social science perspective, and write scholarly papers.

Our alumni take their skills into many professional fields where an understanding of metropolitan areas is valued. They go on to distinguished careers in academia, research institutions, government, and nonprofit agencies, serving in positions as diverse as mayors, village managers, city council and county board officeholders, policy and program analysts, tenured faculty at leading institutions of higher education, directors and managers in public agencies at all levels of government, and in community, human service, and advocacy organizations. Our annual Scott Greer awards recognize alumni who have made a significant contribution to the field in their professional life. For more information, visit our alumni pages on our web site:

<https://uwm.edu/urban-studies/our-people/alumni/>

*USP students have opportunities to study and research abroad with support from UWM's Center for International Education.*

*USP faculty, students, and alumni come together at events throughout the academic year to network, collaborate and learn from one another.*



# Academic Programs:



***"The program was a life-changing experience in every respect. I not only earned a PhD degree, but gained life-long friendships and colleagues."***

**– Özgür Avcı, PhD Alumnus**

There are also opportunities to study abroad such as the faculty-led winter break course to Cuba, or the semester-long exchange program at University College Dublin in Ireland.

Students admitted to the program are eligible to compete for a variety of financial aid packages and scholarships such as Graduate School fellowships, and project and teaching assistantships, as well as other types of aid. Students with a background in the Peace Corps, Americorps, or Public Allies, may apply to be a fellow in the Milwaukee Idea Economic Development Fellows Program. See our graduate program pages on our website for more details on student support: <https://uwm.edu/urban-studies/graduate/>

## Doctorate in Urban Studies

The Urban Studies PhD program is a unique interdisciplinary doctoral program principled on the idea that those who confront the complex issues of cities must be literate in a wide range of research methodologies, conversant with theories of urban development, and knowledgeable about the historical and social science foundations of urban life. The PhD program in Urban Studies emphasizes history, research methodology, and social science theory, and prepares students to conduct sophisticated research in the field of urban studies. Led by scholars from a variety of urban-related disciplines, the Urban Studies PhD program offers comprehensive training in urban research that is not possible in traditional PhD programs.

## Master of Science in Urban Studies

The Master of Science degree program in Urban Studies provides students with a broad understanding of urban society and trains them in research techniques appropriate to the study of metropolitan communities. The course of study stresses the understanding of social processes and the analysis of social and economic policies affecting cities. The Urban Studies Master's Degree is both academic and professional, offering students a liberal arts approach to the understanding of the operation of urban social processes and their implications, and a set of research and policy tools designed to equip the urban policymaker for success in his or her career.

## Graduate Student Life

Students who are interested in a career where they can help shape the future of the city choose UWM. Faculty and students in the USP program tackle the difficult and often chronic issues of metropolitan areas such as segregation, discrimination, affordable housing, unemployment, and education. Advanced degree holders leave UWM prepared to contribute to the betterment of society with original research and policy analysis skills.

In both the doctoral and the master's program, courses are generally offered after 4:00 pm, and most meet once a week in order to accommodate the demanding lives of adult students. In addition to variation in professional backgrounds and career goals, our graduate students are highly diverse in terms of age, sex, race, ethnicity, and nationality.

***"I especially enjoyed learning about multi-disciplinary perspectives and the research methods of geography and history, and I was fascinated by the synergy of bringing various disciplines together to study urban affairs."***

**– Liis Palumets, MS Alumna**







As an important and diverse urban area, Milwaukee serves as an excellent laboratory to study and engage issues such as the dynamics of deindustrialization and redevelopment, segregation, and economic disparities, as well as activism and advocacy around issues such as urban agriculture, public education, immigration, and transit.

## Undergraduate Programs in Urban Studies

The undergraduate major in Urban Studies allows students to explore and study cities, suburban communities, and metropolitan regions with an interdisciplinary approach. To complete the major, students take courses in Africology, architecture, criminal justice, educational policy and community studies, geography, history, political science, public and nonprofit administration, sociology, urban planning, and urban studies.

The major in Urban Studies is designed to allow the student to develop a strong foundation from the core course work and to build a set of interdisciplinary elective courses that address particular urban histories and problems from a variety of different disciplines, depending on the student's interests and future goals. Urban Studies prepares students for careers in nonprofit organizations, government, business, education, law, and social work. Students who major in Urban Studies are equipped for graduate study in many fields, including the social sciences and the professional fields of urban planning and law.

The undergraduate certificate in Urban Studies provides the undergraduate student with a broad array of courses from four schools and more than 18 departments 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 dynamics of gender, racial and ethnic diversity within the context of urban policy choices and delivery. This certificate will be of particular interest to those students considering careers or graduate work in urban areas and as a complement to majors in the arts and sciences or pre-professional studies.

Visit our website to learn more about our undergraduate programs, including 3+2 accelerated BA/MA program.  
<https://uwm.edu/urban-studies/undergrad/>





Urban Studies sponsors many public programs each year, including the reception and exhibition opening pictured here in Milwaukee's City Hall.

## About Milwaukee

Situated 90 miles north of Chicago, on the shores of Lake Michigan, Milwaukee is Wisconsin's largest and most diverse city. With a regional five-county population of 1.7 million people, Milwaukee is a major metropolitan area known for its extensive public parks, unusual history of socialist mayors, and an immigrant mix that included large influxes from Germany, Ireland, and Poland in the nineteenth century. Traces of those populations are evident in local architecture and businesses, as well as Milwaukee's tradition of summertime ethnic festivals. In the twentieth century, Milwaukee became home to new arrivals including African Americans from the U.S. South, Latinos, and Hmong.

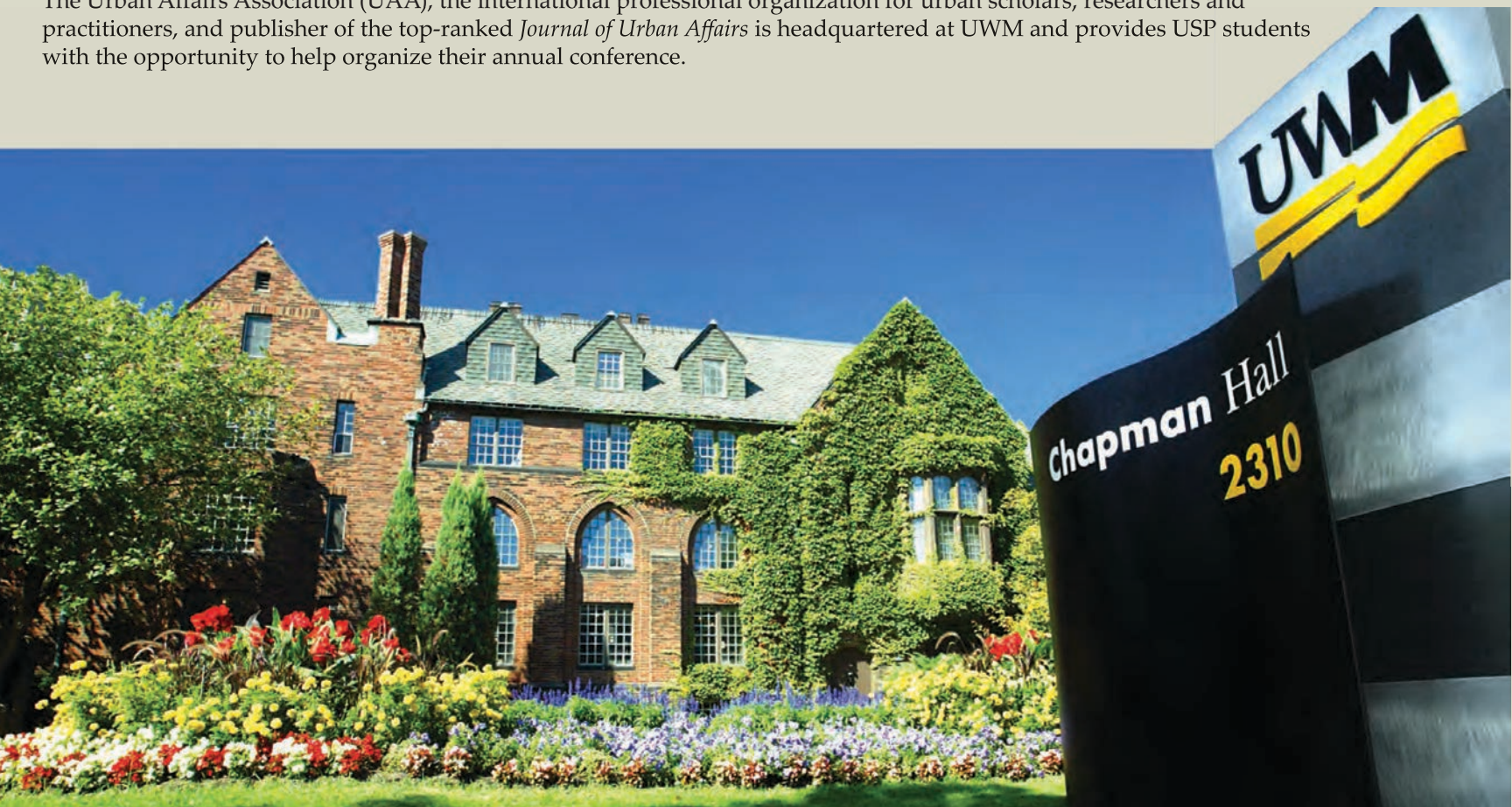
UWM students have many options when choosing a place to live. Some reside close to campus and commute by foot, bike, bus, or car. Closer to downtown, the University offers apartment-style housing for graduate students in Kenilworth Square. Many students also rent apartments in nearby neighborhoods including Riverwest, while others enjoy suburban living with most areas of the metropolis within a 30-minute drive of campus. Milwaukee boasts a vibrant downtown, and many neighborhoods with distinct local cultures and character.

## About the UWM Campus

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) is Wisconsin's premier R1 urban research university, offering 155 programs at the bachelor's, master's, and doctoral levels. Through its 14 schools and colleges, UWM serves the educational needs of over 27,000 students, including 4,700 graduate students and over 800 students from around the world. Located in the heart of Wisconsin's largest business, cultural and recreational center, UWM is situated in a beautiful neighborhood close to Lake Michigan and just a few minutes from the downtown area. The UWM campus is located 80 miles east of UW-Madison.

Two key research centers exist on the campus of UWM: the Center for Economic Development and the Center for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Studies. Faculty and students affiliated with these centers conduct research on critical local and regional issues such as unemployment, housing, segregation, and transit, or serve as fellows and present on new theoretical approaches or practices in urban society.

The Urban Affairs Association (UAA), the international professional organization for urban scholars, researchers and practitioners, and publisher of the top-ranked *Journal of Urban Affairs* is headquartered at UWM and provides USP students with the opportunity to help organize their annual conference.





# COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE

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