What Can I Do with an Urban Studies Degree?

Urban Studies’ curriculum nourishes students’ broad analytical skills with an eye toward understanding and transforming neighborhoods, cities, suburbs and metropolitan regions. 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 neighborhood and urban change and development are valued. They go on to distinguished careers in government, and the nonprofit and private sectors. 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 website.

Consider joining our community of urban scholars, and Shape the Future of the City.

Student fellowships and assistantships are available. Apply soon to secure funding.

Priority Deadlines:
Fall Semester - Jan. 5
Spring Semester - Oct. 1

For more information, contact Dr. Jamie Harris
jmh@uwm.edu
Urban Studies Programs
UW-Milwaukee
P.O. Box 413
Milwaukee, WI 53201
414-229-4751

uwm.edu/urban-studies
Urban Studies – Shape the Future of the City

Welcome to the Urban Studies Programs of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM)! 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, a 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 urban agriculture.

Our Top-ranked Faculty and University

The 20–plus faculty in the program are drawn from many departments and programs, including: Africology, Architecture, Criminal Justice, Educational Policy and Community Studies, Geography, History, Political Science, Public and Nonprofit Administration, Sociology, and Urban Planning.

Our faculty members are distinguished by their research, commitment to 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 program in Public and Nonprofit Administration. For a complete list of our affiliated faculty, please check our website.

UWM is Wisconsin’s premier R1 urban research university located near the shore of Lake Michigan. Along with other urban-focused centers and programs, the Urban Affairs Association (UAA), the international association of urban scholars, is located at UWM adjacent to our Urban Studies offices.

An Interdisciplinary Curriculum Grounded in Examining Urban Problems and Change

The Urban Studies Master of Science degree is a minimum of 30 credits and provides students with a broad understanding of urban society and trains them in research techniques appropriate to the study of metropolitan communities. All students take a research methods seminar (urb std 921) and a quantitative course, along with a 3 of 4 set of seminars that examine urban society through different disciplinary lenses, from geography and history to political science and sociology. The remaining 15 credits are electives that can be organized within a specialization or as a generalist plan of study. The capstone project involves developing a Master’s Paper or Thesis.

Urban Studies MS & Master of Library and Information Science

In cooperation with the School of Library and Information Science, Urban Studies Programs offers a MS/MLIS degree program to prepare students for positions as urban information specialists in major urban public libraries and in the information and research centers of universities and federal, state, and local governments, and research institutions.

More information about both MS programs as well as our PhD program can be found at: uwm.edu/urban-studies/graduate