



<https://uwm.edu/urban-studies/undergraduate/accelerated-5-year-ba-mup/>

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Urban Studies BA Urban Planning MUP



Interested in This Major?

Contact the Urban Studies Programs:

Current Students: Visit us in Bolton Hall, Room 702 or email jmh@uwm.edu

Not a UWM Student yet? Contact our Admissions Counselor at let-sci@uwm.edu

web: uwm.edu/urban-studies

Overview

This accelerated program leads to both a bachelor of arts degree in urban studies and a master's degree in urban planning in five years instead of six. Normally, if taken separately, the bachelor's program would take four years and the master's program would take two years. Through early planning, students can take a curriculum where some upper-level coursework and some graduate coursework is counted towards both the bachelor's and master's degree, reducing the time to degree by one year.

At the undergraduate level, you will study urban challenges such as housing insecurity, racial segregation, transit systems, public policy and community development, sustainability and environmental justice, urban sprawl, crime, immigration, and economic development.

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, African and African diaspora studies, architecture, criminal justice, educational policy and community studies, public and nonprofit administration, public health, and urban planning.

The Urban Planning graduate program is based in the School of Architecture and Urban Planning. It is a professional program that prepares students for careers in public planning agencies, nonprofit organizations or in private practice. The program is fully accredited by the Planning Accreditation Board (PAB).

At the graduate level, you will take coursework in land use, public policy, planning theory and data analysis.

Is this accelerated program right for me?

Students will have an interest in unraveling the intricacies of the complex problems and challenges facing cities and metropolitan areas and will have a desire for a career in economic development, environmental sustainability, physical planning and urban design, transportation planning, and urban revitalization.

When can I join the accelerated program?

To participate in the accelerated timeline of this program, students will need to start planning early in freshman year. They should consult with their advisor and the faculty advisor in Urban Studies to begin taking an appropriate schedule of courses in anticipation of joining the master's program later.

Students will apply to the master's portion of the program by December 15th of their junior year and must have a minimum 3.0 GPA, all general education requirements completed, three letters of recommendation, and demonstrated academic achievement and progress. Admission to the master's of urban planning program is not guaranteed.

Students who are not admitted or who decide not to apply to the master's program can still continue on to just earn the bachelor's degree in Urban Studies.

Career Opportunities

Alumni armed with both a bachelor's degree in Urban Studies and master's degree in Urban Planning will find work in economic development, land-use planning, municipal planning departments, community organizations, and housing agencies. Much of this work will be in the public sector or the nonprofit sector though some private corporate work also exists.



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/404868347649/>

Academic Requirements

Students in the accelerated program will follow a program similar to the one shown on the five year plan on page 3.

Required courses are:

Course #	Course Title
UrbStd 150	Multicultural America
a lower-level social science elective	
UrbStd 250	Exploring the Urban Environment
an approved L&S statistics course	
UrbStd 377	Urbanism and Urbanization
UrbStd 600	Capstone Seminar
UrbPlan 701	Intro to Land Use Planning
UrbPlan 702	Intro to Planning Law
UrbPlan 711	Planning Theory and Practice
UrbPlan 720	Urban Development Theory for Planning
UrbPlan 721	Applied Planning Methods
UrbPlan 740	Data Analysis Methods
UrbPlan 810	Planning Policy Analysis
UrbPlan 811	Applied Planning Workshop

The remaining courses are chosen from a list of approved electives for the accelerated program. A minimum of 145 total credits is required to graduate with both degrees.

Service Learning

Service learning is a method of teaching and learning which is required in the urban studies program. 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 or public agency. Structured reflection is also part of the service learning experience.

Student Activities and Events

Students are encouraged to participate in various urban studies-sponsored events during their time at UWM.

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 *Urban Studies 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.

While in the master's portion of the program, students will have the opportunity to participate in hands-on projects with neighborhood groups, local agencies, non-profit companies, consultants, and other organizations. These projects often shape the long-term physical and social environment of communities in ways that enhance equity and democratic principles. Student projects can directly impact transportation, land use, water, and economic development systems.

Study Abroad

Many urban studies students participate in a study abroad experience. Students in the accelerated program, though, must plan very carefully and very early in order to stay on track in this more structured accelerated program. A semester-long exchange program in Dublin, Ireland and a winterim course in Havana, Cuba offer focused study abroad opportunities for urban studies students. Hundreds of other study abroad destinations can be found through the UWM Study Abroad office.



Urban Studies alum, Ben Schroeder, studied abroad at Goethe-Universität in Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

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UWM Urban Studies BA - Urban Planning MUP 5 Year Plan

This sample five-year plan shows just one possible pathway to earning the BA and MUP in five 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. UWM Oral and Written Communication (OWC) GER - English 102 (fulfills Part A) and one OWC-Part B course.
2. Quantitative Literacy (QL) GER, and Formal Reasoning – two courses can satisfy the requirements. Some courses have prerequisites, however, so a student may end up taking more than two classes depending on his/her placement. Students will usually take Math 105 and an approved Letters & Science statistics course.
3. World Language – 4 semesters of a single World Language (or 3 semesters of one language and 2 semesters of another language) (May be satisfied through 4 years of a single World 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
10. Complete the Urban Studies/Urban Planning requirements:
 - UrbStd 150, 250, 377, 600
 - UrbPlan 701, 702, 711, 720, 721, 740, 810, 811
 - a statistics course chosen from Geog 247, Hist 595, PolSci 390 or Sociol 261
 - a lower-level elective chosen from Afric 215, Geog 114 or 140, PolSci 213, or Sociol 224 or 235
 - nine credits to be forward-counted to MUP degree must be taken as graduate credit and chosen from Afric 300G or 319G; Geog 441G, 443G, 464G, 520G, 540G, 564G, or 826; Hist 450G or 463G; PolSci 450G or 452G; or UrbStd 450G
 - electives to reach the minimum number of credits required (145 total) at the undergraduate and graduate levels

Sample Five Year Plan:

Many courses can satisfy various requirements and courses can count towards more than one requirement. For example,

UrbStd 150 counts towards the major, and towards social science, and towards cultural diversity. (This sample assumes no high school World 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 105 (QL-A)	Arts GER
	1st semester World Language	2nd semester World Language
	UrbStd 150 (SS and CD)	L&S Natural Science
	L&S Natural Science	UrbStd lower-level elective (SS)
Summer	3 L&S credits to satisfy undergraduate requirements	
Year 2	OWC-B course	L&S Humanities
	3rd semester World Language (Int'l)	4th semester World Language (Int'l)
	UrbStd 250 (SS)	a Statistics course (formal reasoning and QL-B)
	L&S Natural Science with lab	L&S Natural Science
	L&S Humanities	L&S Humanities
Summer	3 L&S upper-level credits	
Year 3	Geog 443G, Geog 540G or UrbStd 450G (Int'l and SS)	UrbStd 377
	Urb Std upper-level elective	Urb Std 600
	L&S upper-level Humanities	Urb Std upper-level elective
	L&S upper-level elective	L&S upper-level elective
	L&S upper-level elective	L&S upper-level elective
Year 4	UrbPln 701	UrbPln 720
	UrbPln 702	UrbPln 740
	UrbPln 711	UrbPln elective
	UrbPln 721	UrbPln elective
	UrbPln elective	
Year 5	UrbPln 810	UrbPln 811
	UrbPln elective	UrbPln elective
	UrbPln elective	UrbPln elective
		UrbPln elective

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